



Hallwood Park Primary School and Nursery

01928 716336 
admin@hallwood.set.org 
www.hallwoodpark.co.uk/ 

6th June 2025

Dear Stakeholders,

Re: Stakeholder Consultation on the Reopening of Hallwood Park's 2-Year-Old Provision

We are writing to inform you of an exciting and significant development at Hallwood Park Primary and Nursery School, part of the Shaw Education Trust. In response to the growing need for early years education in the local community and to support the long-term sustainability of the school, we are proposing to reopen our previously successful 2-year-old provision, with the full support of Halton Borough Council.

This proposal forms part of a broader strategic approach to address both falling pupil numbers and increasing early years demand within the area. It also aligns with the local authority's commitment to improving outcomes for children in areas of high deprivation and need.

Why is this provision required?

- Hallwood Park serves one of Halton's most deprived communities, with 71% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium and many starting school below age-related expectations, especially in communication, language, and personal, social, and emotional development.
- There is currently no provision for 2-year-olds in the area. This means that many children in the community are unable to access any educational setting until the age of three. Research shows that access to early intervention leads to improved academic outcomes and social equality.
- Reinstating this provision will lead to improved school readiness for the existing Nursery and Reception provision at the school, and in turn improve academic outcomes for years to come.
- The school has experienced declining roll numbers, with only 76 pupils now on roll. As a small school, fluctuations in numbers significantly impact financial viability. By opening a 2 year old provision on site, we would stabilise the schools future and ensure that the children in the community can continue to attend the provision.
- Reinstating this early years setting will support long-term school growth, in line with Halton's Early Years strategy, and prevent children from being lost to other providers.

Proposal Overview

- Provision type: Mornings-only 2-year-old provision, with flexibility to expand to full-day or split sessions based on demand.
- Capacity: Up to 12 children (with 6 eligible siblings already identified for the next academic year).
- Resourcing: Existing EYFS setting and materials will be utilised; the only notable cost is the development of a currently unused outdoor space. The Right to Success Project has indicated that they would be able to support with funding this renovation, as it aligns with their key objectives for the development of the Halton Lea community.
- Launch: September 2025 (subject to consultation outcome).
- Staffing and infrastructure: No structural changes needed; the school is fully prepared operationally and pedagogically. 2 additional staff members would be needed to staff the provision. This is fully costed and budgeted for.



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Strategic Benefits

- Directly supports the school's strategic goals of increasing pupil numbers and stabilising its budget.
- Provides high-impact, low-cost early intervention that improves long-term educational outcomes.
- Enhances the attractiveness of the school to working families, complementing the soon to be introduced wraparound care and full-day 3-year-old provision (which has already increased nursery intake).
- Reinforces Hallwood Park's role as a vital early years hub in the community.

Risks of Inaction

- Children in the community will miss out on crucial early education, arriving at school behind in key areas of development.
- Despite the government's recent decision to make funding for 2 year old provision universal (in recognition of the vital importance of early education) children in our community will not benefit from this as there is no provision for them to attend.
- The school risks permanently losing potential pupils to other settings, further destabilising roll numbers and finances.
- More cohorts of children joining the school below age related expectations, and not school ready.

Next Steps

We are now consulting with all stakeholders (parents, carers, staff, governors, and community partners) on the proposed reopening. This is a formal part of our process and your feedback is crucial.

How to Respond:

Please share your views by 20th June 2025 by either:

- Completing the online [response form](#)
- Emailing us directly at: admin@hallwood.set.org
- Returning the attached response form to:
 - Hallwood Park Primary and Nursery School,
 - Hallwood Park Avenue, Runcorn WA7 2FL

Conclusion

Reopening our 2-year-old provision represents a high-impact, low-risk initiative that supports children, families, and the wider community. It offers a sustainable route to increasing our school roll, improving outcomes for the most disadvantaged, and strengthening our role as a hub for early education in Halton.

We warmly invite your feedback and thank you for your ongoing support of Hallwood Park Primary and Nursery School.

Yours sincerely,

Flora Graham
Headteacher
Hallwood Park Primary and Nursery School