



8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Proposal for Park Grove Primary Academy to lower the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 from September 2026 to explore the development of nursery provision in conjunction with Phoenix Under 5s Pre-school.**

Ebor Academy Trust (the "Academy Trust") and the Trustees of Phoenix Under 5s Preschool **are jointly** proposing a significant enhancement to the educational landscape at Park Grove Primary Academy. This proposal seeks to:

- **Expand the Academy's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 years, commencing September 2026.**
- **Integrate Phoenix Under 5s Preschool into Park Grove Primary Academy, ensuring the seamless continuation of vital nursery provision on the existing site.**

This consultation aims to provide comprehensive information about this transformative proposal and to solicit valuable feedback from parents, caregivers, and the broader community.

**Objectives of the proposal**

Park Grove Primary Academy and Phoenix Under 5s Preschool have cultivated a strong collaborative partnership, delivering high-quality, play-based learning aligned with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds.

However, as a small charity, Phoenix Under Fives Preschool faces significant financial challenges in the current climate, including maintaining financial stability and recruiting adequate trustees to run the preschool. Recognising the critical importance of early years education, Park Grove Primary Academy part of Ebor Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and enhancing this provision for the local community.

This proposal represents a proactive and strategic response to:

- Prevent the loss of essential nursery services within the community.
  - Ensure the continued employment of the skilled and experienced staff of Phoenix Under 5s Preschool, preserving continuity of care and education.
  - Strengthen the early years educational pathway for children in the Guildhall area.
- This integration of early years provision offers numerous benefits, including:

- Providing a seamless transition from nursery to primary education within a familiar and supportive environment.
- Fostering early development of essential skills, particularly speech and language, leading to higher levels of preparedness for Reception.

- Building robust relationships with families from the earliest stages of their child's educational journey.
- Responding to the Local Authority's identified need for continued 3-year-old places in the Guildhall area.
- Creating a sustainable and thriving early years environment within Park Grove Primary Academy.
- Responding to the Department for Education driver to increase high quality childcare within this age range.
- Enable the early identification of needs which enable ALL children to flourish.
- Utilising the existing site and skilled staff to provide the best possible education for the children.

The proposal involves:

- The formal expansion of Park Grove Primary Academy's age range to include 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds to secure the current provision offered by Phoenix which offers from 2 year olds.
- The integration of Phoenix Under 5s Preschool's operations, staff, and resources into Park Grove Primary Academy.
- The creation of a dedicated nursery provision within the school's existing site, ensuring a nurturing and stimulating learning environment.
- A plan to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible for all children and parents involved.

The Trustees of Phoenix Under 5s Preschool are confident that this collaboration with Park Grove Primary Academy will safeguard and enhance nursery provision on this site and voted unanimously for this proposal at a recent Extraordinary General Meeting. This proactive integration is designed to create a robust and continuous educational pathway, empowering children with the strongest possible foundation for future success. We encourage your participation in this consultation to help us build a brighter future for early years education in our locality.

### **Additional Information**

Through Park Grove Primary Academy, parents will continue to access up to a minimum of 24 places in the morning with a number of children staying all day for pupils aged 3 and 4 years old. This consultation covers the proposed change in age range to include the pre-school provision arrangements within Park Grove Primary Academy.

- Nursery provision will continue to be available 190 days per year, i.e. on each day that the school is open;
- A morning session will continue to be from 8.30am to 11:30am, and a full day session is from 8:30am until 3.30pm.
- Parents will continue to be able use government funded hours to 'purchase' these sessions, and may also purchase additional sessions at the agreed hourly rate;

## Have your say

This is an opportunity for parents, carers, staff, the local community and other people who have an interest in the pre-school and the school to express their views, respond to the proposal and ask questions on the proposal to expand the Academy's age range and to explore the development of nursery provision in conjunction with Phoenix Under 5s Preschool.

The consultation period starts on **Monday 8th June 2026**. You can state whether you support the proposal or not by writing or emailing to the Academy Trust; please send your response to Park Grove Primary Academy, marked for the attention of the Head teacher, Jo Sawyer or use our consultation email address to respond to [consultation.parkgrove@ebor.academy](mailto:consultation.parkgrove@ebor.academy)

All views and responses to the proposal will be considered after the consultation ends on **Sunday 28th June 2026**

If the Trustees of Phoenix Under 5s Preschool and Ebor Academy Trust decide to proceed with the Proposal, it will submit an application to the Department for Education, requesting that the change in age range takes effect from **Tuesday 1st September 2026** to enable the integration during the 26/27 academic year.

We will inform you of the outcome of the consultation and the decision whether or not to proceed with the application to extend the age range of the Academy at the end of the consultation period.

Jo Sawyer  
Headteacher Park Grove Academy



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