



## Consultation on Establishing a Combined Nursery and Reception Class

### Ankermoor Primary Academy

In accordance with the Department for Education guidance *Making significant changes to an academy – Non-statutory guidance on collaborative school place planning and making organisational changes to academies* (February 2026), the Fierté Trust is consulting on a proposal to amend the age range at Ankermoor Primary Academy from **four to eleven to three to eleven**, with effect from **September 2027**.

The consultation period will run from **Monday 27 April 2026 to Tuesday 19 May 2026**.

### The Proposal

The Nursery provision at Ankermoor is currently operated by **Our Pride, Our Joy (OPOJ)**, a subsidiary company of the Fierté Trust. The proposal is to establish a **combined Nursery (three- to four-year-olds) and Reception class** within Ankermoor Primary Academy.

Under this proposal:

- OPOJ would continue to deliver provision for **two-year-olds and younger three-year-olds**.
- Children would then transfer into the academy's combined Nursery and Reception class.
- Ankermoor Primary Academy would offer **up to 30 Early Years places** within this combined class, 15 places for nursery aged children and 15 for Reception aged children (the academy's published admission number for Reception is already 15).

An arrangement of this nature has previously operated successfully at the academy, and the required space, experience, and expertise are already in place to support this model.

### Potential Benefits

We believe the proposal would bring the following benefits to Ankermoor Primary Academy:

- **Greater continuity and symmetry** across the school, reflecting the existing mixed-age class structure from Years 1 and 2 onwards.
- **An enhanced Early Years curriculum**, supporting stronger foundations for learning.
- **Improved staff understanding of pupils' strengths and needs**, including those with special educational needs, as children would be taught by the same team over a longer period.
- **Improved long-term sustainability** for the academy, providing a firmer financial footing during a period of declining pupil numbers locally.

## **Impact on Our Pride, Our Joy**

There would be **no detriment** to Our Pride, Our Joy as a result of this proposal. Instead, OPOJ would be able to **increase its intake of two-year-olds**, reducing the risk of parents being refused a place due to limited capacity. No change to Ofsted registration would be required, as OPOJ is already registered to provide places for this age group.

## **Responding to the Consultation**

We welcome the views of all those who may be affected by the proposal, either directly or indirectly. This includes, but is not limited to:

- The local authority.
- Parents and carers of children attending Ankermoor Primary Academy and Our Pride, Our Joy.
- Parents and carers in the local area.
- Local schools and early years providers within the Tamworth Borough.
- Staff employed by the academy and the nursery.

Please submit your views or any questions **by Tuesday 19 May 2026**:

- **Email:** Mr Tony Hand, Vice-CEO – [viceceo@fierte.org](mailto:viceceo@fierte.org)
- **Telephone:** 01827 214623

*For below-threshold changes to add or expand a school-based nursery, academy trusts are expected to consult with relevant stakeholders, including local authorities and religious bodies (where applicable), before making such changes. This ensures alignment with the local authority's statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare places.*