



The Catholic Primary Schools of The Waveney Valley



Part of the St. John the Baptist Multi-Academy Trust

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St Mary's Street
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21st October 2025

Formal Consultation on plans to establish nursery provision at St Benet's Catholic Primary School, Beccles, and St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Bungay

St Edmund's and St Benet's are small, friendly schools and proud members of St John the Baptist Catholic Multi Academy Trust. They are also part of the wider Diocesan family of 28 schools. Both schools take great pride in ensuring our pupils receive a great education. Our schools are happy, inclusive and positive places for children to learn and grow. Places where diversity is celebrated and enjoyed. Places where children feel safe and supported.

In this proposal we set out our plans to open a nursery on each school site. We will identify why we feel this is right for the children, our schools and the wider community.

WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING?

On each site we will open a nursery for children of pre-school age. Each nursery will take up to 13 children at a time with an offer that sees parents and carers able to access nursery care for children aged 3 – 4 years old for half day or full day sessions.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

- **For the children:**

The main reason is that this is the right thing for children. With many parents and carers needing access to child care, it is more important than ever that this care provides a place where the children thrive. Through the fantastic resources we are able to offer thanks to the facilities on both sites, children accessing this new provision will have an experience that not only provides great care, but helps them to grow in readiness for transition to Reception

- **For parents and carers:**

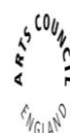
We anticipate many of those who use the Nursery will have siblings in the school. Time with our children is precious, and the last thing parents and carers need is the challenge of multiple drop-off times and points at the beginning and end of the day. One stop, loving care and more family time. That is our goal.

- **For our school community:**

Where schools have nursery provisions it is very clear that children who progress into the Reception class make a flying start to their schooling. While a place at nursery cannot guarantee a place in Reception, we would reasonably expect a significant majority to do so. This preparation for transition to the main school is invaluable.



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What do our partners say?

The Local Authority has identified there is a need for nursery places in both Beccles and Bungay. The Diocese of East Anglia have also indicated their support. We are working with both organisations to ensure that our proposals meet the needs of our Catholic community and wider local community.

This letter marks the beginning of the consultation period, and we would greatly appreciate your thoughts on our plans. The consultation begins today, Tuesday 21st October, and will run for four weeks. The final day of the consultation is Tuesday 18th November 2025. During this period, you are invited to respond to our proposal, and we would love to hear your views.

If you are reading this electronically, please send your responses to this proposal through this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/es3Q1WskGT>

Alternatively, please scan the QR code with your mobile and complete the form:



In the meantime, if you are a new or existing parent and interested in learning more about our plans for a nursery, including expressing an interest for a place, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PWKennedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Kennedy
Executive Headteacher
St. Benet's and St. Edmund's RCP Schools