

School-based Nursery (SBN) Capital Grant 2027 – 2030

The SBN programme aims to help more families access early years provision, including those in disadvantaged areas, and give every child the best possible start in life. Please refer to the [SBN Capital Grant 2027 – 2030 Guidance](#) for more information.

Project eligibility criteria

The local authority will need to confirm the following eligibility criteria per proposed SBN project:

- **project aim** – the proposed project will result in a net increase in the number of childcare places, taking into account any existing provisions on site or nearby, including that delivered by external providers
- **project timeline** – the proposed project will be operational and offering new childcare places by September 2030 at the latest.
- **landowner permission** – there is written permission from the relevant freehold landowner (for example, the local authority, foundation / trust, or religious body) to use the land for nursery provision and carry out the proposed works
- **project classification**: the proposed project is either:
 - an SBN located on a state-funded primary-phase school site in England that already offer early education (e.g., reception classes);
 - part of a Best Start Family Hub (BSFH) site. This can include both existing BSFHs, or those in the process of being set-up. It can also include those co-located on a school site as well as those not on a school site.
- **previous SBN grant participation** – if the proposed school received funding through the SBN capital grant funding 2024-2025 or SBN capital grant funding 2025-2026, the proposed project adds new places beyond what was delivered in earlier phases and offers good value for money

The applicant understands that there is no guarantee of funding being granted.

Individual project information (to be completed for each proposed SBN project)

About the school or BSFH

Local Authority Question	School / BSFH Response
Name of Primary School or BSFH at which the project would be undertaken	Newlands Community Primary School
Estate Type	Academy converter
(If Primary School) Unique Reference Number (URN)	150436
(If Best Start Family Hub) Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN)	Not Applicable

Local Authority Question	School / BSFH Response
<i>(If Academy/Trust)</i> Name of academy trust or multi academy trust	OWLS – Oadby, Wigston & Leicestershire Schools Academy Trust
<i>(If Academy/Trust)</i> Companies House number	08537140
Project address and postcode	Newlands Community Primary School: Belle Vue Road, Earl Shilton, Leicester, LE9 7PA
Main Contact name	Mrs Jenny Cooling
Main Contact job role	Headteacher
Main Contact email address	JCooling@newlands-owlsmat.uk
Main Contact telephone number	01455 844369
Do you have landowners permission to apply for the project?	Yes
Are any of the following likely to be required?	PAN change ☐ Consultation with stakeholders ☐ Significant change/deed of variation ☐ Ofsted registration or update ☒ Planning Permission ☒
Please provide brief details where applicable	- Although the proposed provision will allow for 52+ new childcare spaces we do not believe that a significant change application is required under the published DFE guidance which now places SBN's outside of the requirement to apply for significant change if there is an amendment of places of 31 or more for academy trusts - The school will be undertaking a separate PAN change application (not specifically linked to this SBN grant application) during the academic year 26/27 due to longer term existing falling rolls. The required local consultation will take place for the PAN change as required during the autumn term 2026 in conjunction with the local authority. - Dependent on proposed housing

Local Authority Question	School / BSFH Response
	developments the school PAN may revert to its original or an increased PAN in subsequent years as and when required. • Planning permission will be required for the proposed modular building. A planning application will be lodged by the principal designer, YMD Boon, immediately at grant approval. • The school/trust will undertake a tender process to source an experienced PVI provider. This will take place in the early Autumn term 2026 and the successful award of tender will apply to both the interim former Oakfield site SBN provision and the standalone provision on which this application is predicated. • The selected PVI provider will be responsible for Ofsted registration. Ofsted registration will be updated once the Trust has appointed a PVI provider to run the interim childcare provision & the new standalone provision is ready to open.

Please outline your assessment of the local need for SBN project(s) in your local area and how SBN project(s) put forward support your local authority's childcare sufficiency duty. You may want to provide data at, for example, ward level.

Question	School / BFSH Response
What childcare sufficiency gaps have you identified in your local authority? Please ensure your response describes the following points: • sources of information you have used to assess local need, such as ○ sufficiency assessments ○ parent surveys ○ engagement with local childcare providers ○ new local housing	The School-Based Nursery (SBN) has been developed following a comprehensive assessment of childcare sufficiency within Earl Shilton and the Hinckley and Bosworth area. Evidence has been drawn from LCC's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, demographic and deprivation data, discussions with the LA EY Team, parental engagement, intelligence from existing childcare providers and analysis of

developments • what this information shows about gaps or shortfalls in your local authority, such as ○ lack of places for specific age groups ○ limited wraparound or holiday childcare ○ inaccessible childcare for disadvantaged families / children with SEND ○ specific need in a rural location	significant planned housing developments. These sources demonstrate an existing shortage of suitable provision and a substantial increase in future demand. The assessment identified a particular shortage of childcare places for children aged 9 months to under 2 years, together with limited availability of flexible, year-round provision that meets the needs of working families. Existing provision is fragmented and does not consistently offer the extended opening hours required by working parents. There is also increasing demand for childcare that supports the Government's expanded funded childcare entitlement and enables parents to return to work, increase working hours or access education and training. The LA's childcare capacity statistics highlight one available place in the Earl Shilton, whilst the CSA Expansion of Sufficiency Survey advises that there are two 0–4-year old's for each childcare place within Leicestershire. Data also shows a scarcity in both all year round and SEND provision. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Providers offering Year-Round Provision</td><td>47%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Providers offering 30+ h.p.w w</td><td>67%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Providers with waiting lists of 10+</td><td>44%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Provision for children aged 0-9 months/9 months to 2 years</td><td>38.6% / 42%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Providers who can support children with SEND</td><td>13%</td></tr> </table>	Providers offering Year-Round Provision	47%	Providers offering 30+ h.p.w w	67%	Providers with waiting lists of 10+	44%	Provision for children aged 0-9 months/9 months to 2 years	38.6% / 42%	Providers who can support children with SEND	13%
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Source: CSA 2024

Alongside the issues prevalent in the local area; of poverty and disadvantage, educational outcomes for children with SEND are further disadvantaged at a critical time in children's early growth. Earl Shilton, particularly the school catchment area, clearly represents a primary pocket of childhood disadvantage locally and regionally. Newlands SBN will offer **year-round provision, wraparound/holiday care, 30+ hours, prioritising children under 2 years of age, providing expertise and support for children with a diagnosis of SEND.**

Accessibility remains a significant challenge. Earl Shilton experiences higher levels of disadvantage than the Leicestershire average, **with 34% of children living in low-income families.** The SBN will serve a school community where **39.2% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals and 39.5% for Pupil Premium,** demonstrating that many local families experience financial disadvantage and would benefit from accessible, affordable, high-quality provision.

The school's profile highlights significant additional disadvantage, **32.5% of pupils identified as having SEND and 9% with an EHCP.** These figures reinforce the importance of inclusive nursery provision that enables children to access high-quality early education, supports early identification of emerging needs, providing timely intervention before children enter Reception.

	The need for additional provision will increase significantly because of planned housing growth across Earl Shilton and Barwell, where 6,000 new homes have been approved/ planned. Based on recognised pupil-yield assumptions, these developments are expected to generate substantial additional demand for early years and primary school places. Investment in childcare infrastructure is essential to address current sufficiency gaps and to ensure sufficient capacity to meet future demand.
How do proposed SBN project(s) in your funding proposal directly address the gaps identified? Please ensure your response describes the following points: • alignment to your Best Start Local Plan • how proposed SBN project(s) improve childcare sufficiency in your local authority, such as ○ increasing capacity ○ improving accessibility ○ enhance flexibility for working families	The proposed SBN has been designed specifically to address the childcare sufficiency gaps identified through Leicestershire County Council's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, discussions with the Local Authority Early Years Team, engagement with parents and childcare providers, and analysis of future housing growth. The project is fully aligned with the Leicestershire Best Start in Life Local Plan 2026–2029, which prioritises improving access to high-quality early education, increasing childcare sufficiency, reducing inequalities, strengthening school readiness and supporting earlier intervention for children with additional needs. The Local Plan specifically recognises the role of School-Based Nurseries in increasing childcare capacity across the county. The project will directly increase childcare sufficiency by creating a purpose-built 52+ place SBN, providing places for children aged 9 months to under 3 years, the age group identified locally as having the greatest shortage of provision. Designed as a permanent community asset, the nursery will increase the availability of high-quality childcare whilst providing additional capacity to meet the significant future

demand arising from approximately **6,000 planned new homes** across Earl Shilton and Barwell.

Investment now will ensure that childcare infrastructure grows alongside the local community.

Accessibility is central to the project. Located on the primary school site, the nursery will provide an inclusive and welcoming environment that is easily accessible to families, **particularly those experiencing disadvantage or requiring additional SEND support.** The nursery will work closely with the school's experienced staff and wider agencies to promote early identification of SEND, strengthen referral pathways and provide coordinated support for children before they reach statutory school age. This directly supports the Best Start in Life ambition of improving integrated services, reducing inequalities and ensuring children receive timely intervention to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The nursery will also enhance flexibility for families by providing **year-round childcare**, operating **Monday to Friday from 7.45 am until 6.00 pm**. This flexible offer will support parents returning to work, increasing working hours or accessing education and training, whilst complementing the school's existing wraparound childcare provision. Families with siblings will benefit from a single, trusted location for childcare and education, simplifying daily routines and strengthening engagement with the school community.

Importantly, the SBN will create a seamless pathway from early years into Reception, enabling children to develop the communication, language, social and emotional skills needed to thrive at school. This directly supports the Best Start in Life Local Plan's

	emphasis on improving school readiness, strengthening transitions and increasing the number of children achieving a Good Level of Development by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The proposed SBN is therefore far more than an increase in childcare capacity. It represents a long-term investment in children, families and the wider community by increasing childcare sufficiency, improving accessibility, enhancing flexibility for working families and giving more children the strongest possible start in life.
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Current nursery provision and capacity, if applicable

Question	School / BSFH Response
Does the project have existing nursery provision?	No
<i>(If applicable)</i> What is the current capacity of existing nursery provision? Indicate current 2025 to 2026 academic year nursery capacity. If there is no existing nursery, please enter 0 for each. This should reflect the maximum number of children at any given time in the nursery space, not necessarily the total capacity of the space, for example if the staff structure doesn't allow. Do not double-count places used in both morning and afternoon sessions – only include the highest number of children expected to be present at once.	- Under 2 years of age 2 years of age 3 – 4 years of age - Total capacity
<i>(If applicable)</i> What is the current opening hours of the existing nursery provision?	24-hour time for each: - Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday

Question	School / BSFH Response
	• Saturday • Sunday
<i>(If applicable)</i> Does the existing nursery provision offer holiday childcare?	Choose an item.
<i>(If applicable)</i> What is the current holiday opening hours of the existing nursery provision?	24-hour time for each: • Monday • Tuesday • Wednesday • Thursday • Friday • Saturday • Sunday

Delivery of new or extended nursery provision

Question	School / BSFH Response
Who will be delivering the nursery provision, will it be:	Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) provider-run (excluding childminders)
<i>(If PVI or childminder-run)</i> What is the name of the PVI or Childminder(s) who will be delivering the nursery provision?	The Trust/school will be undertaking a formal invitation/tender process to select the PVI provider. This will take place during September/October 2026 and will apply to the interim SBN provision based in the former Oakfield Short Stay facility and the longer term external standalone provision which this SBN application is predicated on. (see attached additional information & design plan – for existing vacated

Question	School / BSFH Response
	Oakfield space)
<i>(If applicable)</i> What is the provider's Ofsted EY unique reference number? (e.g., EY123456 or 0123456)	

New or extended nursery capacity and opening times

Question	School / BSFH Response
Indicate the new nursery capacity for each age group. The total must be greater than the current capacity for 2025-2026 as detailed earlier in the proposal. This should reflect the maximum number of children at any given time in the nursery space, not necessarily the total capacity of the space, for example if the staff structure doesn't allow. Do not double-count places used in both morning and afternoon sessions – only include the highest number of children expected to be present at once.	- Under 2 years of age 12 2 years of age 16 3 – 4 years of age 24 - Total capacity 52
What will be the opening hours of the nursery provision? Term-time opening hours. If not applicable for a particular day, leave blank.	24-hour time for each: - Monday 7:45 – 6:00 - Tuesday 7:45 – 6:00 - Wednesday 7:45 – 6:00 - Thursday 7:45 – 6:00 - Friday 7:45 – 6:00 - Saturday - Sunday
Will the nursery offer holiday childcare?	Yes
<i>(If applicable)</i> What is the planned holiday opening hours of the nursery provision? If not applicable for a particular day, leave blank.	24-hour time for each: - Monday 7:45 – 6:00 - Tuesday 7:45 – 6:00

	• Wednesday 7:45 – 6:00 • Thursday • Friday • Saturday • Sunday
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Project timeline

Question	School / BSFH Response
What is the intended start date for the project? This is the date trade(s) intend to start on site doing the work.	November 2027
If the project started at the time stated above, when would the project be expected to finish?	Construction Phase complete October 2028
When will the new nursery places become operational? This is the date on which the new provision will become available and new pupils will be in attendance.	Occupation Timeframe; November 2028 – January 2029. Pupils will be in attendance at earliest opportunity available within this period
DfE may move successful projects to start in another year(s) to effectively manage the programme's affordability. If the project can begin in another financial year, please identify which other year(s) it could be undertaken in. To note, the proposed projects must be operational and offering new childcare places by September 2030.	Tick all that apply • Not flexible ☐ • FY 2027-28 (04/2027 – 03/2028) ☒ • FY 2028-29 (04/2028 – 03/2029) ☒ • FY 2029-30 (04/2029 – 03/2030) ☒

Project and additional funding costs

Question	School / BSFH Response
What type of project is it? If the project spans multiple types as listed in Annex B of the guidance document which defines different project types, please select the type that most aligns.	New build

Question	School / BSFH Response
What is the proposed location of the nursery provision, e.g. existing classroom, modular building, extension, repurposed space.	Modular build external construction located on unused (non-playing field) land to the west of the main staff car park. The construction may require a small area of existing hard standing at the outer edge of the area to be utilised for the nursery building – see attached plans
Is the space currently used for other purposes?	No
If yes, please describe and explain impact.	
What is the gross internal floor area (m ²) that will be created and / or refurbished as part of the project?	249m2
If works also include outdoor areas, what is the overall site area (m ²) that will be part of the works?	External area - 240m2 Total approx. provision – 489m2
How much DfE SBN capital funding is being requested for this project?	£1,255,055
Of this funding, how much is the contingency allowance?	£60,000
Is the contingency allowance more than 10% of the total SBN capital funding being requested?	No
(If Yes) Please provide justification of it being over 10%.	(Max 200 words):
How much of the SBN grant funding requested (including the contingency allowance) will the project require in each of the following Financial Years (FY)?	£Amount for each (if applicable) • FY 27-28 £941,290 • FY 28-29 £313,765 • FY 29-30 £
Will the project be supported by funding from other sources?	No
(If Yes) How much additional funding will be used?	Additional: This project will not be supported by funding from other sources, but the school/trust will use £134,000 of existing capital revenue to fully support the immediate refurbishment of the interim SBN provision, in the former Oakfield short stay facility, thereby ensuring quality local provision is available by January 2027. An additional informational paper is included with this application providing information about the interim nursery

Question	School / BSFH Response
	provision
(If Yes) What is the source or sources of the additional funding?	(Max 150 words):
What is the total project cost? This is the SBN grant funding plus any additional funding.	£1,255,055

Planning permission, significant change and childcare registration

Question	School / BSFH Response
Is planning permission and / or listed building consent (LBC) required for the proposed use and / or building works?	Yes
(If yes) What stage has the planning and / or LBC Permission application reached?	An application for planning permission and / or LBC needs to be submitted
(Academies only) Does the following statement apply to the project? “The project will result in a reduction in capacity of physical teaching space i.e. classroom space by over 30 (i.e. 31 or more) places.”	No To confirm: The project will not directly result in the school formally applying/needing to reduce PAN in 2026 for 9.2027, planned PAN reduction was already in hand due to falling rolls. The school will apply to reduce PAN to 1.5 FE. This grant application is for long term external standalone provision. The school will utilise existing space to open interim nursery provision within capacity space during academic year 2026/2027: the nursery will then move into the new space during academic year 2028/2029 freeing up the internal school accommodation to re-increase PAN as new housing developments come online. The school will be investing £134,000 into the interim SBN nursery provision. Should it be required the interim provision could form part of the long term SBN provision increasing total capacity places to 76 (interim provision 24, standalone provision 52)
If Yes, the project requires a Significant Change Approval. Upload a summary of the consultation (maximum 500 words), including:	Uploaded document (max 500 words). We do not believe that this project requires significant change under the wording of the DFE’s allowance for

Question	School / BSFH Response
• who was consulted (e.g. parents, staff, local community, diocese) • the dates of the consultation • a brief overview of the consultation process • key outcomes and feedback	SBN's. The Trust is happy to undertake consultation if required.
Childcare registration - will the nursery require any of the following?	A new Ofsted early years registration or registration with a Childminding Agency

Project overview

Question	School / BSFH Response
Please outline an overview of the proposed project. Please ensure your response describes all these points: • a summary of the project, outlining the works required to deliver the proposed new nursery places • justification of project costs including any abnormal costs. For example: ○ listed building site constraints ○ planning restrictions ○ infrastructure challenges ○ projects with high cost per place because of small cohorts ○ projects spanning multiple types of works (e.g. where a project aligns most with medium refurbishment as per the project costs section above, but also includes an extension which drives cost per place higher) ○ requirements relating to local development plans such as enhanced Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and environmental factors such as flood mitigation, contaminated land, poor ground condition	The proposed project comprises the construction of a permanent modular School-Based Nursery) designed to the same standards as traditional construction, using high-quality external materials and landscaping. Off-site manufacture will reduce disruption to the operational primary school, improve programme certainty and enhance construction quality. The nursery will be located adjacent to the existing school car park, providing efficient construction access whilst creating safe and convenient access for staff, parents and deliveries once operational. The new accommodation will provide 249m² of internal accommodation supported by approximately 240m² of external provision for sole use of the SBN, supported by access to the schools' own substantial additional green spaces, including a forest school and significant areas of hard play. The proposal has been designed in accordance with the DFE's SBN principles, utilising the skills and experience of a local design and build practice. The purpose-built nursery will provide 52 registered places across three dedicated learning

Question	School / BSFH Response
	environments: a baby room (9 months–2 years), a room for children aged 2–3 years and a pre-school room for children aged 3–4 years. The building will include age-appropriate toilet and changing facilities, reception and welcome area, staff office and meeting space, storage and dedicated kitchen, food preparation and laundry facilities to support year-round nursery provision, wraparound childcare and holiday provision. The design provides a safe, inclusive and flexible learning environment that supports children's development from infancy to Reception. The proposed capital investment represents excellent long-term value for money. Modern permanent modular education buildings, designed to the same standards as traditionally constructed school buildings, with the DFE expecting key structural elements to have a design life of at least 50 years. On this basis, the proposed nursery represents a prudent long-term investment in community infrastructure, equating to an average capital investment of approximately £490 per week over the anticipated life of the building. Whilst providing 52+ registered nursery places, the facility will operate throughout the year and will also support wraparound childcare before and after the school day together with holiday provision, significantly increasing the number of children and families who will benefit from the investment. These flexible attendance patterns mean the nursery alone will support in the region of 85 children per week and over its anticipated lifespan several thousand more children are expected to access the holiday/wraparound provision. Consequently, the

Question	School / BSFH Response
	effective capital cost per child will reduce substantially over time. The proposed nursery will essentially replace the additional site usage of the former Oakfield Short Stay Facility, representing the redevelopment of an established community use within the existing school site. Consequently, the proposal is not expected to generate a significant increase in vehicle movements or noise beyond those historically associated with the site. Outdoor play areas are located adjacent to the existing school recreation space, minimising any additional impact on neighbours. The project has been developed with sustainability and environmental stewardship at its core. The nursery will be designed to deliver a positive Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) through sustainable design, native landscaping and wildlife-friendly habitats, incorporating the existing Forest School area wherever practicable.
How will the project support disadvantaged children and families?	The proposed SBN will support disadvantaged children and families by increasing access to high-quality, affordable early education in an area where levels of disadvantage are significantly above local averages. The school's own cohort includes 39.2% of pupils eligible for Free School Meals, 39.5% receiving Pupil Premium funding and 39.2% identified as disadvantaged, demonstrating a clear need for earlier support amongst the local community. The nursery will provide places from 9 months of

Question	School / BSFH Response
	age, enabling disadvantaged children to benefit from high-quality early education at the earliest opportunity. A language-rich, play-based curriculum will support communication, literacy, numeracy and personal, social and emotional development, helping to address gaps before children enter Reception. This is particularly important given the school's current entry data, where 47.2% of Year 1 pupils are below expected in reading, 69.4% in writing and 44.4% in mathematics. Year-round opening from 7.45 am to 6.00 pm will enable parents and carers to work, increase their hours, undertake training or return to education. Locating the nursery on the school site will also reduce practical barriers for families with older children and provide a trusted, accessible point of contact for advice, funded entitlement support and signposting to wider services. The project directly supports Leicestershire's Best Start in Life priorities to reduce inequalities, improve access to funded places and high-quality childcare, and strengthen school readiness for vulnerable children. Children will benefit from earlier engagement, stronger transitions and greater continuity between nursery and school, improving their long-term educational and social outcomes.
How will the project support children with SEND?	Children will enter from 9 months of age, creating opportunities for developmental concerns to be identified earlier with coordinated support through observation, assessment and regular engagement with families. Skilled Early Years practitioners, supported by the school's SENCO and wider

Question	School / BSFH Response
	specialist services, will establish clear support plans, adapt provision and make timely referrals where further intervention is required. The nursery is designed to be inclusive and responsive, with appropriate space, resources and routines to support children with communication, sensory, physical, developmental and SEMH needs. Staff development will focus on inclusive practice, speech and language, early identification and effective partnership between parents and professionals. Locating the nursery on the school site will strengthen continuity between early years and statutory education. Information will transfer more effectively, relationships with children and families will already be established, and personalised transition arrangements can begin well before Reception, reducing disruption enabling the receiving school to plan for each child's needs. The project reflects Leicestershire's Best Start in Life commitment to earlier identification, clear referral pathways, integrated support and improved transitions between early years settings and schools. It will help children with SEND access support earlier, improve family confidence and give each child the strongest possible foundation for learning.
Is the school participating in the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme (SRP)?	No
(If Yes) Provide an overview of discussions with	Max 200 words:

Question	School / BSFH Response
your assigned DfE delivery team and its potential impact on SRP delivery	
<i>(If Best Start Family Hubs)</i> Is the Best Start Family Hub co-located with a school? <i>To note, Best Start Family Hubs are not required to be co-located with a school to be eligible for this grant.</i>	No
<i>(If Best Start Family Hubs)</i> Nurseries proposed in Best Start Family Hubs should have links to local schools. Please describe how the Best Start Family Hub works with or plans to work with primary school(s)? Please include information on: • name of schools • type of links e.g. to support transition into school, identifying and supporting families with specific needs such as SEND, co-ordinating parental engagement activities, information sharing and referral pathways	Max 250 words:

Section 5 – Project Sustainability and Quality

Question	School / BSFH Response
How will the nursery be financially sustainable once opened?	The SBN i to provide a financially sustainable model that responds to both current and future demand. Evidence from Leicestershire County Council confirms an existing shortage of childcare places for children aged 9 months to under 2 years, while significant housing growth of approximately 6,000 new homes across Earl Shilton and Barwell will generate substantial additional demand over the coming years. By the anticipated opening date, approximately 18 months after funding approval, further housing occupation is expected to have increased demand for early years provision, strengthening occupancy levels from the outset. The nursery will operate on a year-round model, offering childcare from 7.45 am to 6.00 pm, providing flexibility for working families whilst maximising occupancy and income generation for the nursery provider. Revenue will be derived from a balanced mix of government-funded childcare entitlements, fee-paying places and additional services where appropriate. The integration of nursery provision with the school's existing wraparound and holiday childcare will create operational efficiencies, shared resources and a seamless offer for families. In partnership with OWLS Academy Trust, the nursery will benefit from established financial management, procurement, HR, estates and governance arrangements, reducing overhead costs and ensuring robust financial oversight. Working closely with a highly experienced PVI provider, the Trust will supportively monitor occupancy, staffing and expenditure to ensure the nursery remains financially sustainable whilst maintaining high-quality provision. The project represents a long-term investment in the community, creating a sustainable early year's provision that supports children, families and the future viability of the school.
	Quality will be underpinned by strong leadership, experienced governance and OWLS proven commitment to delivering high-quality education across its family of schools working in close partnership with an experienced and skilled PVI provider. The trust and nursery will form an integral strategic partnership,

Section 6 – Risks and Mitigation

Question	School / BSFH Response
What are the key delivery risks and key mitigations, for example, planning, construction, recruitment, registration.	The principal delivery risk is securing planning approval and completing construction within the anticipated 18–24-month programme. This will be mitigated through early engagement with the Local Planning Authority, appointment of a highly experienced professional, local design team, provision of regular project governance to monitor programme, cost and quality. The Trust also recognises that construction cost inflation and market pressures remain potential risks. These will be managed through detailed cost planning, appropriate contingency allowances, competitive, professional procurement and ongoing value engineering where appropriate, whilst maintaining the educational objectives of the project. To further mitigate construction costs the proposal allows for a modular building/ off site construction. This reduces the disruption on site and enables enhanced quality control of the building process. Construction costs have also been benchmarked against recently completed similar projects undertaken by YMD Boon. The enclosed detailed cost estimate has been provided by YMD Boon who will take the project to formal tender at grant approval, securing a minimum of three like for like quotes. Recruitment of suitably qualified early years practitioners is a recognised national challenge. OWLS Academy Trust has established recruitment processes and strong local partnerships which will support workforce planning well in advance of opening, whilst working closely with the PVI provider. Demand risk is considered low. The Local Authority has identified a current shortage of provision for children aged 9 months to under 2 years, and planned housing growth across

Section 7 – Supporting documents (if available)

Please attach where possible:

- indicative layout plans or sketches
- evidence of demand
- cost estimates
- consultation summary, if required

Section 8 – Declaration

As part of the process for DfE's SBN capital grant 2027-2030, the local authority will need to sign a declaration that confirms the local authority supports the proposed nursery projects submitted and that the provisions will adhere to the quality standards and statutory requirements outlined below.

Quality declaration

The local authority agrees that:

- the proposed project(s) demonstrate a commitment to delivering high-quality early education that aligns with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, including inclusive practice, effective safeguarding, and support for children from disadvantaged backgrounds (such as children eligible for free school meals or early years pupil premium) and any other specific groups of children, such as those with SEND or English as an Additional Language (EAL).
- they will support the school and / or Best Start Family Hub (BSFH) nursery in meeting any necessary Ofsted registration requirements.
- they are satisfied that the nurseries proposed will be appropriately staffed during the time they are open.
- they are satisfied that any projects proposed by settings meet quality requirements, even if their most recent Ofsted inspection shows:
 - for inspections before September 2024: an overall effectiveness judgement below 'Good'
 - for inspections between September 2024 and November 2025: one or more key judgements rated below 'Good'
 - for inspections since November 2025: one or more evaluated areas assessed as below the 'Expected standard'
- they are satisfied that due care and diligence will be undertaken in executing the works, including health and safety and regulatory compliance, and that the [Establishing SBN provision](#) guidance has been considered and adhered to where appropriate.

Policy declaration

The local authority agrees that:

- there has been due consideration of the local market with the project enhancing the overall local offer without negatively impacting provision in close proximity, including that delivered by external providers.
- the quality and capacity of current childcare providers have been evaluated, and the proposed projects address genuine gaps in provision based on clear evidence of unmet

demand. Future demand has also been considered, including housing developments and demographic changes.

- the proposed project(s) meet the indoor space and outdoor access requirements as outlined in the EYFS framework.
- they have considered how the proposed settings can provide early years provision to meet the needs of all families, including working parents, low-income households, vulnerable children, children with SEND.
- they have engaged with the school and / or BSFH nursery to ensure that the proposal reflects local market conditions and supports parental choice and flexibility (e.g., the ability to offer childcare from 8am to 6pm and during school holidays).
- they have ensured the childcare places created by the new nursery provision will support the delivery of the government's [early education and childcare entitlements](#)
- they have ensured the delivery of all proposed projects will not hinder their capacity to fulfil other statutory and non-statutory duties, including but not limited to [free breakfast clubs](#)
- they have discussed and agreed with the school or BSFH how project delivery should be managed (for example if the local authority retains responsibility of project delivery, or if the school / MAT / BSFH will manage delivery). Whether the local authority delivers the project directly or delegates responsibilities to the school / MAT / BSFH, local authorities remain accountable for project assurance and compliance with funding terms and conditions.

Quality assurance declaration

The local authority agrees that:

- to the best of their knowledge, the information provided is complete and accurate, demonstrating that the relevant criteria have been met. Any applicable supporting documents have been included, and no information submitted is false or misleading.
- they have engaged with ALL interested and eligible schools and MATs in the local area to support the development of the funding proposal and can provide evidence to demonstrate this if required
- they have explored alternative options and confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, the selected projects represent the most suitable, effective and value for money approach to meet the intended objectives and would be able to provide evidence of this if requested by DfE.
- the financial sustainability of all proposed projects has been considered.
- if planning permission and / or listed building consent is required, they have discussed the proposals in principle with the LPA, including to identify any site constraints and planning issues which could represent a significant risk in terms of delay in securing the necessary permissions and that they have identified any such risks as part of the funding application.
- potential projects have been encouraged to take a sustainable business approach to planning, supported by [the business sustainability tool kit](#)
- if the use of AI tools has been used to support the generation of the proposal, content has been checked and verified for accuracy.

Legal and compliance declaration

The local authority agrees that:

- due regard has been given to duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty
- the projects proposed will comply with all relevant statutory obligations, including public procurement regulations and guidance.

- the governing body, relevant freehold landowner, and, where applicable, the religious authority support each proposal being put forward
- funding will be used solely for the eligible costs of the specified works
- grant funding will only be used for eligible costs incurred after the grant is awarded. Retrospective claims will not be accepted. A contingency has been considered and included in the cost planning to account for unexpected costs.
- any conflicts of interest (such as relationships with technical advisors or contractors) have been declared, recorded, and appropriate action taken
- no prior DfE funding has been received that would result in double funding. For example, if funding was received through the 2023–24 Childcare Expansion Capital Grant, or phase 1 or 2 of the SBN grant this project must deliver additional places
- Regardless of project completion date, all allocated funding must be spent by 30 September 2030
- DfE will not be liable for additional costs above the grant awarded and you will provide regular updates to DfE as required
- should this project be successful, the procurement of this contract will be in accordance with the Local Authority's Standing Orders and the lowest tender that meets your requirements should be accepted, unless clear evidence and rationale supports otherwise and unless prior agreement is given by DfE