

24 April 2025

**Conkers Day Nursery,  
Dewhurst Road,  
Langho,  
Blackburn,  
Lancashire BB6 8AF**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This statement is provided in response to the planning authority's request for additional detail regarding our application to vary the existing planning permission at Conkers Day Nursery. The current permission relates to the use of the premises as a children's day nursery with a maximum capacity of 74 children. This application seeks to extend the age range of children that can be accommodated on site to include children up to 16 years of age and to clarify that formal education may also be provided alongside early years childcare.

Importantly, we are not seeking to alter any of the operational aspects of the approved use, such as occupancy levels, hours of operation, or the nature of the care and education already permitted.

## **2.0 Existing Permission**

The site currently benefits from planning permission for use as a day nursery, operating under conditions that allow for:

- Care and early years education for children aged 0 to 4 years;
- A maximum occupancy of 74 children;
- Operational hours of 7:30am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday, year-round.

These conditions are in alignment with the setting's Ofsted registration, which also confirms the same occupancy number and schedule.

## **3.0 Proposed Variation**

We are seeking to broaden the scope of the existing permission in two specific ways:

### **1. Age Range Extension:**

To allow the education and care of children aged 0 to 16 years, in response to local educational needs, including those stemming from COVID-related disruption in primary and early secondary education.

### **2. Inclusion of Formal Education:**

To allow the delivery of formal, school-age educational sessions on site, should the need arise. This would be provided in line with regulatory requirements and appropriate staff qualifications.

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No changes are proposed to the physical layout of the building, external spaces, or site accessor parking arrangements. This application relates solely to use class flexibility within the existing educational remit.

#### 4.0 **Operational Details**

##### **Occupancy:**

The maximum number of children on site at any time will **remain at 74**, consistent with current planning permission and Ofsted registration. This figure will not increase.

##### **Operating Hours:**

The site will continue to operate within the existing approved hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. No variation is sought in relation to these hours. This applies both to nursery use and to any additional educational provision for older children.

##### **Session Types:**

Children may attend for full-day or half-day sessions, in line with existing arrangements. This includes a mix of structured education and care throughout the day.

#### 5.0 **Use of Space**

There are no physical changes proposed to the building layout. The interior may be flexibly used to accommodate children of varying age groups within the approved occupancy limit.

The proportion of use between nursery-age and older children will be determined by demand at any given time. However, all use will remain within the educational and childcare use already established.

#### 6.0 **Ofsted Context and Educational Quality**

The most recent Ofsted inspection (December 2023) confirms that Conkers Day Nursery provides a 'Good' level of provision across all categories, including quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, and leadership. Inspectors noted:

- A strong, sequenced curriculum;
- A positive learning atmosphere with enthusiastic children;
- Effective support for independence, emotional development, and communication skills;
- A well-resourced and inclusive environment, with access to outdoor learning and a newly created family room for wider community support.

These qualities provide a strong foundation for expanding the offer to older children while maintaining high standards of care and educational delivery.

#### 7.0 **Conclusion**

Summary, this application seeks to expand the scope of the existing permission to include formal education and a wider age range, without altering the operational intensity of the site. There will be:

- No increase in maximum child numbers;
- No change to operating hours;
- No physical alterations to the building;

## Supporting Information

- No increased traffic or amenity impact as a result.

The proposal represents a modest and practical adjustment to allow the setting to respond to educational needs while operating entirely within the framework of the existing site and permissions.

prepared by

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