

Planning Statement:

Proposed Nursery Development at Unsworth Primary School, Blackley Cl, Unsworth, Bury BL9 8LY

1. Introduction

This planning statement supports the proposal to establish a new nursery at Unsworth Primary School in Unsworth, Bury. The initiative aligns with Bury Council's strategic objectives to enhance early years education and childcare provision, ensuring accessibility and quality for all families in the borough.

2. Background to the Development

Unsworth Primary School is part of Oak Learning Partnership, a growing and successful educational trust which has a strong record of improving outcomes for children across the region. The trust is committed to enhancing local education provision and responding to community needs. With the trust's expansion and increasing demand from families in the local area, the introduction of a nursery forms a natural progression for its pupils in providing a continuous educational pathway from early years through to primary education.

The proposed nursery aligns with the strategic goals of the trust and reflects an investment in the future of the local community by offering accessible and inclusive early childhood education within a trusted and familiar school environment.

3. Alignment with Bury Council Policies

- **Early Education Entitlements:** Bury Council provides 15 hours of free early education and childcare per week for all three and four-year-olds, with eligible working parents entitled to an additional 15 hours, totalling 30 hours per week. The proposed nursery will support the delivery of these entitlements, ensuring families in Unsworth have local access to their funded hours. - [Early education and childcare for three and four year olds - Bury Council](#)
- **Pupil Place Planning:** According to Bury Council's Pupil Place Planning Strategy 2023/24–2028/29, effective place planning is crucial to accommodate the educational needs of the borough's growing population. The new nursery will contribute to this strategy by providing additional early years places in a high-demand area. - [School place planning - summary final April 2024.pdf](#)

4. Identified Need in Unsworth and Bury

There is a clear and growing need for nursery provision in the Unsworth area and across Bury more broadly. Local demographic trends indicate an increase in young families residing in the area, leading to higher demand for early years places. This demand is not currently being met by existing providers, resulting in waiting lists and families having to travel further afield for nursery places.

Providing a nursery within Unsworth Primary School will help address this shortfall and provide much-needed capacity within a familiar and trusted setting. It will support local families by offering a convenient, high-quality, and community-focused childcare and education option. The nursery will also create new opportunities for early intervention and support for children with additional needs, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework.

5. Traffic Management, Community Impact Congestion and Neighbour Considerations

The school is mindful of its responsibility to the wider community and has developed a strategy to minimise traffic and disruption associated with nursery activities. Any day trips or off-site activities involving nursery children will be carefully planned and staggered to avoid peak traffic hours. This will reduce the impact on local roads and help minimise noise and congestion, ensuring minimal disruption to neighbouring residents

Sustainable Travel and Access

- The majority of families who will use the nursery live within walking distance, as the school serves a close-knit local catchment area. It is anticipated that most children will arrive on foot, accompanied by parents or carers, significantly reducing the need for car travel and on-site parking.
- To further encourage sustainable travel, the nursery will actively promote walking, cycling, and the use of public transport among staff and families. Car sharing will be encouraged where travel by car is necessary, and this will be supported through a Travel and Access Policy that outlines practical measures to reduce car dependency and promote environmentally conscious travel behaviours.

To minimise traffic congestion and disruption to neighbours summary:

- **Staggered Day Trips:** Any nursery outings will be scheduled outside peak traffic hours to reduce congestion and noise, ensuring minimal impact on local residents.
- **Local Catchment:** The majority of children are expected to live within walking distance of the nursery, promoting walking as the primary mode of transportation.
- **Sustainable Travel Encouragement:** The nursery will actively encourage car sharing and the use of public transport among staff and parents, supported by a comprehensive Travel and Access Policy.

6. Conclusion

The proposed nursery at Unsworth Primary School is a strategic development that aligns with Bury Council's educational policies and addresses the growing demand for early years provision in Unsworth. By facilitating access to funded early education entitlements and implementing measures to minimise community impact, the nursery will serve as a valuable asset to the local area.