**Consultation Document: Proposal to Extend Provision to Include 2-Year-Olds**

**Introduction**

We are seeking the views of our school community and wider stakeholders on a proposal to extend our early years provision to include care and education for children aged 2 years. This development aims to support local families, enhance early childhood outcomes, and strengthen our school’s role in the community.

**Background**

Currently, our school offers early years education for children aged 3 and above. However, there is increasing demand from families for high-quality provision for younger children within the local community.

**Proposal**

We propose to:

* Establish a dedicated 2-year-old provision within our existing early years setting.
* Offer both funded places (for eligible families under the government’s 30-hour entitlement) and paid places.
* Create a nurturing, play-based environment tailored to the developmental needs of 2-year-olds.
* Employ qualified staff with experience in working with toddlers.
* Ensure the provision meets all statutory requirements under the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

**Benefits**

* **For children**: Earlier access to high-quality education and care, supporting development and transition into nursery and school.
* **For families**: Greater flexibility and support for working parents and those eligible for funded places.
* **For the school**: Strengthened relationships with families from an earlier stage, and a more cohesive early years pathway.

**Considerations**

* **Space and resources**: We will adapt existing facilities and create additional spaces to ensure a safe and stimulating environment.
* **Staffing**: Recruitment of appropriately qualified staff will be a priority.
* **Safeguarding and quality**: The provision will be subject to Ofsted inspection and will follow all safeguarding and EYFS standards.

**Consultation Questions**

We would welcome any feedback as part of this formal consultation on the proposal outlined above.

**How to Respond**

Please submit your feedback by 17th October 2025 via:

* Email: info.elwick@nllt.co.uk
* Post: Mrs V Wilson, St Peter’s Elwick CofE Primary School, North Lane, Elwick Village, Hartlepool TS27 3EG

**Next Steps**

Following the consultation period, responses will be reviewed and a decision will be made by the governing body.  If approved, we aim to open the 2-year-old provision in April 2026.

