

## The Proposal

The Board of Trustees for the Talent Education Trust is proposing to lower the age range of the Anglo-Portuguese School in Wandsworth, from 4-11 years to 3-11 year olds. This document outlines the plan to open a nursery for 3–4 year old children within the existing bilingual primary school.

The initiative aims to provide early childhood education that fosters bilingual proficiency from a young age, ensuring a smooth transition to primary education and promoting cognitive, social, and emotional development. The Board of Trustees has followed DfE guidance by consulting with the local authority prior to making this proposal. The Anglo-Portuguese School is seeking to open a Nursery class for 3 year olds, opening in September 2025. This consultation sets out the proposal to implement this plan.

## Why are we proposing this change?

APSOL offers a specialism, providing all children with bilingual education and is ideally located for easy transport access, serving the local and wider school community as APSOL.

By lowering the age range to 3-11 years, we will be responding to parental demand and support our children from an earlier age, providing them with a good foundation before starting primary school.

The Board of Trustees believes lowering the age range will:

- Enhance Pupils' Language Skills: developing proficiency in both languages from an early age. This will support children with their communication and language needs.
- Smooth Transition from pre-school to school: facilitating a seamless progression from nursery to primary education within the same bilingual setting.
- Holistic Development: supporting cognitive, social, and emotional growth in a nurturing environment from a younger age, closing the gap in attainment between pupil premium grant eligible children and their peers.
- Community Integration: fostering a sense of community and cultural awareness among children, parents, and staff.
- Facilities: having a nursery will optimise the use of the school's facilities, capitalising on the school's expertise and knowledge of education and early years foundation stage provision.
- School capacity: children starting school at APSOL in nursery, rather than elsewhere, will support Reception admissions and continuity, due to children not having to transition from another setting to the APSOL Reception class.

[www.angloportugueseschool.org](http://www.angloportugueseschool.org)

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## **Facilities: Where will the Nursery class be?**

The proposed Nursery class will be located in the current Reception classroom, on the ground floor of the recently renovated area, providing a large teaching space that has been designed for the Early Years Foundation Stage. This space also consists of a cloakroom and its own secure outdoor area. The outdoor area is sufficient for a class of nursery children, providing opportunities through the provision of physical equipment and outdoor learning activities.

The current facilities offer suitable nursery provision, with no additional refurbishments needed. The capacity of the nursery will be 26 places, taking into account size of space and adult to pupil ratios for children aged 3 years old.

In addition, the Nursery children will have access to the school's resources and facilities, including hall, library, gymnasium and early years larger play areas (covered and uncovered).

Health and safety standards in the nursery class will comply with local and DfE regulations and standards for nursery facilities. All policies will be linked to the school's policies.

School leaders will follow the DfE guidance in respect of staffing, including recruitment and training, ensuring that a qualified Nursery teacher is appointed.

## **Responding to the Consultation & Next steps**

The Anglo-Portuguese School of London welcomes the support of the local and wider community it serves. This is an opportunity for parents, family members, staff and local community who have an interest in the school to respond to the proposal.

The consultation period starts on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024.

Consultation on Lowering the school age range, Anglo-Portuguese School of London, 25 Courthouse Way London SW18 4QG, or email: [info@angloportugueseschool.org](mailto:info@angloportugueseschool.org)

With the subject: FAO Anglo-Portuguese School of London on Lowering the age range. All responses must be received by 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024.

As the Anglo-Portuguese School is part of the Talent Education Multi Academy Trust. The decision to increase the age range will be taken by the Department for Education.