



**SOUTHOVER PRESCHOOL**  
OLD FINCHLEIANS, SOUTHOVER, N12 7JE



Planning Statement

1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

For the attention of: Barnet Planning Dept

Reference: Extension of existing planning application (19/3635/FUL) Date: 29/04/2021

For the attention of Barnet Planning Dept;

Southover Preschool, a venerable institution founded in 1968, proudly stands as one of the longest-standing preschools in Barnet.

As the headmistress since 2001, I Huma Sayed, take great pride in steering the nursery towards unparalleled excellence. Through close collaboration with Barnet Council, we continue to expand and uphold the highest standards, ensuring the best childcare for our community.

In 2018 the school was flooded and subjected to operate out of emergency classrooms until the main hall was refurbished, repaired and fit for occupancy.

In 2020 we successfully operated throughout the Covid-19 challenges offering the best childcare to all local key workers.

Our team of dedicated childcare professionals have really been tested over the past few years with a variety of challenges outlined above and we request Barnet Council to work with us in union to extend our planning permission by a further 3 years to be able to provide wraparound childcare from a portable classroom.

In April 2021 we were given permission by Barnet Council for the use of temporary modular portable cabins in order to provide additional childcare for up to 20 children. This has proven to be very successful with positive feedback from parents and the local community at large.



It has successfully achieved the following.

1. Supporting working families by offering much needed 'wraparound' childcare by offering extended hours until 6.30pm as per guidance of the Dept of Education and the NATIONAL WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE PROGRAMME.
2. Prevent one of the oldest established nurseries in Barnet from closing down. Southover Pre-School has traditionally operated as a sessional nursery offering childcare until 3.30pm only. However, as trends and demographics change, more and more parents require childcare until 6.30pm as they are 'working' parents. This is evident from the number of newer established nurseries in the area all offering childcare until 6.30pm. A list of nurseries is attached at the end of this document for your reference. Southover Preschool cannot financially survive and compete with all the newer nurseries in the area if childcare can only be provided until 3.30pm, as there is little to no demand for 'sessional' childcare anymore.

We are in discussions with The Old Finchleians Club to offer extended hours within the main hall, however this has proven challenging as it is a social club that has historically offered various evening activities to the local community with classes operating for the past 25 years. Therefore, it is in the long-term plan to offer a solution for our childcare provision but more time is required to action the plan accordingly.

Southover Preschool will continue to provide childcare and development by following EYFS. In addition, we will be supporting working parents by continuing to provide longer hours for children in line with all the other childcare operators in the local area.

Current hours: 08.00 – 18.30

Existing Child Capacity: 20

Existing number of staff: 10

To conclude, we humbly request Barnet Council to extend the planning permission for our portable cabin classroom by a further 3 years in order to support our nursery and to assist us in implementing wraparound childcare for working parents.

If you would like to discuss the extension of this planning application or require any further details. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us on 07966 560561.

Thank you.

Principal Sayed

This is an updated table (2024) illustrating all the local nurseries within a 3 mile radius to Southover Preschool operating for the full school day (wraparound childcare) 51 weeks a year.

Sessional day care is being phased out due to the growing demand for wraparound childcare (07.30am – 6.30pm) for working parents as can be seen by the operating times of the nurseries in Barnet.

Nursery	Opening Times
Lavendale Montessori The Woodside Park Club Southover, Woodside Park N12 7JG	8am – 6pm
Moss Hall Nursery 189 Nether Street West Finchley N3 1NR	8am - 6pm
Little Angels Day Nursery The Church Hall. Anthenauem Road. Whetstone. N20 9AE	8am – 6pm
Academy 4 Kids Day Nursery 209 Friern Barnet Lane Whetstone. N20 ONG	07.30am – 6.30pm
Mace Montessori 150 Woodside Lane Finchley. N12 8TP	8am – 6pm
Magic Nursery 4 Shakespeare Road Finchley. N3 1XE	07.30am – 6.30pm
Active Learning / Bright Horizons 10 Moss Hall Crescent Finchley. N12 8NY	07.30am – 6.30pm
The Rocking Horse Nursery 5 Victoria Avenue Finchley. N3 1BD	07.45am – 6.15pm