



Growing and Blossoming
"Aspiration, Inclusion, Happiness"

Crossley Hall Primary School

04 November 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Pennine Academies Yorkshire and Crossley Hall Primary School wish to inform you of a statutory consultation on a proposed reduction to the Published Admission Number at Crossley Hall Primary School for the 2026/27 academic year

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) at Crossley Hall Primary School is 90. This means that the number of children admitted to the school in Reception each year is a maximum of 90.

When planning primary school places in Bradford, the district is split into 26 primary school planning areas. Crossley Hall Primary School sits in the North West 3 planning area, along with Lady Royd, Girlington, St Philip's CE, St William's Catholic and Whetley primary schools.

The latest data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) goes up to the end of 2022 and shows that the number of live births in the UK has fallen in six of the previous seven years, with the total number of live births in 2022 being the fewest since 2002. Data for the Bradford district confirms a similar local pattern. Consequently, there has been a significant reduction in the number of Reception places required, which has led to a high level of surplus places in some primary school planning areas, including North West 3. Bradford Council does not anticipate that there will be a significant reversal of this trend in the foreseeable future.

On the day offers were released to parents of children due to start Reception in 2024 (National Offer Day), 69 children held allocations to Crossley Hall Primary School. 72 were on roll at the point of the October school census.

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Across the North West 3 planning area, there were 356 places available to start Reception in 2024. However, the total number of places allocated on National Offer Day was only 252. This has since risen slightly to 260 on roll in October 2024 but is considerably below the number of available places.

Forecasts for the next four intake years include current residents and expected additions from approved new-build housing (i.e. developments under construction or with sufficient planning approval to begin construction). The forecasted number of Reception places required in North West 3 schools are:

2025-26:	269
2026-27:	253
2027-28:	266
2028-29:	263

After a statutory consultation last year, Whetley Academy will reduce its PAN from 90 to 60 in 2025, which will reduce the number of Reception places in this area to 326. On 21st October 2024, Lady Royd Primary School opened a consultation to reduce its PAN from 56 to 45 from 2026. If a reduction at Lady Royd is confirmed, a PAN reduction from 90 to 60 at Crossley Hall Primary School would reduce the number of Reception places in North West 3 to **285** from 2026, which is still much higher than the number required for the local population.

The School Admissions Code (2021) sets out the requirements for admission authorities to consult when they propose to reduce a PAN. As the admission authority for Crossley Hall Primary School, Pennine Academies Yorkshire is seeking the views of the following key stakeholders:

- parents/carers of current pupils and prospective parents of pupils
- the school's governing body and staff
- admission authorities of other primary schools in the district, including Bradford Council
- councillors and MPs
- Trade Unions
- anyone else who has an interest in the proposed change

This consultation will run from Monday 4th November 2024 until Sunday 15th December 2024. All views submitted during this time will be collated in a report for the Pennine Academies Trust Board, who will decide whether to reduce the PAN at Crossley Hall Primary School.

Specific Proposal

Pennine Academies Yorkshire proposes to reduce the PAN at Crossley Hall Primary School from 90 to 60 from 1 September 2026. This is the only proposed change to the school's admission arrangements.

If the proposal is agreed, the maximum number of pupils admitted to Reception in 2026, and all subsequent Reception cohorts, will be 60. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change.

Prior to consulting on this proposal, Pennine Academies Yorkshire has considered the following:

- the total number of pupils from Reception to Year 6, as recorded by the school at the May 2024 census, was 609, which is below the current capacity of 630
- a large portion of the funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Too many vacancies mean that schools do not receive the maximum possible revenue per class
- forecasts for future Reception intakes suggest the school is likely to have a significant number of vacancies each year if the PAN remains at 90; a reduction to 60 is therefore required to allow the school to continue to operate efficiently and cost-effectively
- due to declining birth rates, the number of Reception places offered by schools in the North West 3 planning area is significantly higher than that required by the surrounding population. When there is a high level of surplus places in an area, each school is at risk of rapid changes in parental preference having a significant impact on the number of pupils it admits each year. A PAN reduction to 60 at Crossley Hall could therefore have a positive, stabilising effect for all local schools
- the proposed PAN reduction will leave sufficient Reception places for local children in the future. If approved, and if a similar reduction at Lady Royd Primary School is also approved, the proposal would mean the overall PAN for the North West 3 planning area would be 285 from 2026, which is higher than the projected number of required places
- Pennine Academies Yorkshire will work with Bradford Council, all local schools and multi-academy trusts to look creatively at solutions in the future, should there be a rise in birth rates and a shortage of school places in the North West 3 planning area – eg a bulge intake

Pennine Academies Yorkshire believes that reducing the PAN at Crossley Hall Primary School will provide stability for the school's long-term planning and allow it to continue to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on roll. The reduction in PAN will ensure that a more appropriate number of places are provided for future pupils, in line with forecasts for the area.

If you would like to submit your opinion on this proposal, please visit <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/CrossleyHall> or scan this QR code to complete an online survey:



Alternatively, if you would prefer a paper copy of the response form, please contact the school office. Completed paper response forms can be returned to the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Pennine Academies Yorkshire

