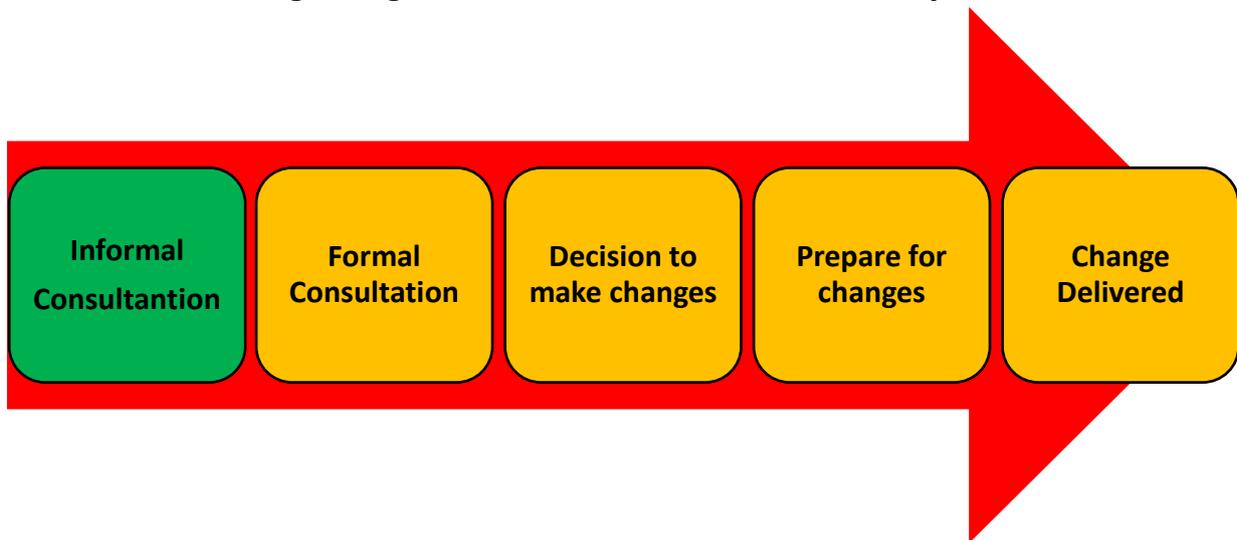


Informal Consultation

Proposal to reduce pupil admission numbers (PAN) in 2021 and change the age range in 2022 at Crabbs Cross Academy.



This six week informal consultation from 10th June 2019 to 21st July 2019 is to gather opinions on a proposal for Crabbs Cross Academy to reduce the number of pupil places available in Reception to 30, and change the school age range from 4 – 9 to 3 – 11, thus changing from a First school to a Primary school with a Nursery.

What is the current position?

Crabbs Cross Academy has a pupil admission number (PAN) of 60. This means that the number of pupils admitted into the school Reception class each year is limited to 60. Currently normal admissions are around 44 pupils each year. Reception pupil admission numbers for Crabbs Cross Academy are forecast to decrease significantly in the future and are predicted to be only 29 by 2021. (Based on the information supplied by Worcestershire County Council).

Currently Crabbs Cross Academy is a First school with an age range from 4 to 9 years old in classes from Reception to Year 4 of up to 30 children. With other schools within the Redditch Community already having changed their age range, Redditch no longer has one education system in place, there is a mix of two and three tier schools. Parents can now choose between a First or a Primary school for their child.

What is the proposal?

The directors of the trust propose that the published admission number at Crabbs Cross Academy be reduced from 60 to 30 for the September 2021 Reception class.

The proposal to reduce the school's PAN will mean that the number of places available for children in Reception in September 2021 will be 30. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change at this point.

Our projections show that there will be sufficient places available for local children if the PAN for the school is reduced.

The directors also propose to change the age range of Crabbs Cross Academy from 4 to 9 years old, to 4 to 11 years with a nursery education offer. There will be a phased approach to becoming a Primary school linked to the PAN changes. From 2022, children in Year 4 will move into Year 5, and then in 2023 the school will have a full Primary age range, with the first cohort of Year 6 children. However, because of physical space, only one class of up to 30 children will be available and so current Year 1 and Reception parents would need to apply for one of the 30 available places in Year 5. (Current Year 1 in 2022; current Reception in 2023)

By September 2023 the school will have 7 year groups from Year R to Year 6, age 4 to 11 plus a nursery provision.

The diagram below shows the phased changes to the school and pupil places available:

Date	Nursery	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Sep 2020		60	60	60	60	60			300
Sep 2021	15	30	60	60	60	60			285
Sep 2022	15	30	30	60	60	60	30		285
Sep 2023	15	30	30	30	60	60	30	30	285
Sep 2024	15	30	30	30	30	60	30	30	255
Sep 2025	15	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	225

September 2021 PAN reduced to 30 pupils; nursery provision

September 2022 First year of Year 5 Group – capped at 30 (current Year 1)

September 2023 First year of Year 6 Group; Year 5 capped at 30 (current Rec)

What are the benefits?

Reduced PAN

A large portion of funding received by the school is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. If there are too many vacancies in the school, they will not receive the maximum funding possible. Therefore, by reducing the number of available places and consequently reducing vacancies, the school will receive its maximum funding amount. There will be more money to spend on the pupils' education.

Primary

Children will be able to continue their education in one school until the end of Key Stage 2. A Primary school is in a strong position to plan continuity and progression in learning, delivering the curriculum in a coherent way from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 2. Primary school provides an environment where children can work and play together over a longer period of time, developing a greater understanding and appreciation of one another's diverse strengths, skills and personalities. This has been shown to have a positive impact on social skills, problem solving and relationship development between all members of the community.

Nursery provision

High quality Nursery provision can get children off to a flying start in their educational journey. For children in Nursery who then join the main school, issues of transition are lessened and their progress is potentially seamless. The introduction of a school-based Nursery would enable us to provide greater provision for our children from an earlier point.

How can I contribute to this consultation?

This consultation seeks views from parents and staff directly involved with Crabbs Cross Academy and any other interested parties. We are keen to hear as many views as possible about the proposals.

You can contribute by completing the Informal Consultation Feedback Form

This Informal Consultation will end on 21st July 2019

Who has been asked to contribute to the consultation?

Current parents of Crabbs Cross Academy pupils

Future parents of pupils via local Pre-schools and Nurseries

Other interested parties via the school website

This informal consultation is the first stage in a five stage process which will include:

- 1. This informal consultation for 6 weeks during the summer term 2019**
- 2. Consideration in September 2019 by the trust's directors of the outcome of the consultation and whether to proceed with a formal consultation**
- 3. Formal consultation lasting 6 weeks in the autumn term 2019**
- 4. Decision based on the formal consultation whether to proceed with the proposed changes**
- 5. If the proposal is agreed, move to delivering the changes**