

Formal Consultation

Proposal to change the age range in 2026 at Crabbs Cross Academy.

This is 5 week consultation from 5th December 2024 to 9th January 2025 to gather feedback on a proposal for Crabbs Cross Academy to change the school age range from ages 4 – 9 to 4 – 11, thus changing from a First school to a Primary school.

What is the current position?

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. 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. However, parental choice linked to middle and secondary schools has been restricted for our families. Crabbs Cross Academy does not have a direct link to a Secondary School, resulting in less choice for our families after Year 4.

Pupil numbers and background information

The school currently has a pupil admission number (PAN) of 45. This means that the number of pupils admitted into the school Reception class each year is limited to 45. Currently normal admissions are well below 45 pupils each year. The admission number for September 2024 into the reception classes was 34.

The Directors of the Trust propose that the published admission number at the school is to be reduced from 45 to 30 for the September 2026 Reception class, and for all Reception intakes after this point.

This reduction in PAN means that the school will have the physical space needed to accommodate classes in Yr 5 and Yr 6.

What is the proposal?

The directors of the Trust propose to change the age range of Crabbs Cross Academy from 4 to 9 years old, to 4 to 11 years old. There will be a phased approach to becoming a Primary school. From September 2026, children having just completed Year 4 will have the option to move into Year 5, and then in 2027 the school will have a full Primary age range, with the first cohort of Year 6 children. We know that some families will choose for children to progress from Crabbs Cross into the middle school system, and some will prefer their children to stay on as Primary age into years 5 and 6. This fact, combined with the physical space we have within the school, means that year 5 would only be for 1 class of up to 30 pupils with the same applying to Yr 6 the following year.

By September 2027 the school will have 7 year groups from Year R to Year 6, age 4 to 11.

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

Date	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Sep 2025	45	45	45	45	45			225
Sep 2026	30	45	45	45	45	30		240
Sep 2027	30	30	45	45	45	30	30	255
Sep 2028	30	30	30	45	45	30	30	240
Sep 2029	30	30	30	30	45	30	30	225
Sep 2030	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210

September 2026 PAN reduced to 30 pupils; First year of Year 5 Group – capped at 30 (current Year 3)

September 2027 First year of Year 6 Group; Year 5 capped at 30 (current Year 2)

What are the benefits?

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, and because of the location of Crabbs Cross and the historic links with Ridgeway School those year 6 pupils would have a local secondary school to access for their 11-16 provision. 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.

There is a clear educational destination for Year 6 leavers, as Ridgeway Secondary school is little more than 1 mile away from CCA. We understand that, through further consultation, CCA would be a named school on Ridgeway admissions policy, thereby restoring the historic routes families once had through schools and strengthening the children's likelihood of getting a place. Closer links with Ridgeway in terms of curriculum planning and transition would be advantageous to learners, creating greater cohesion from one stage of their education, to the next.

Parents would still have choice, as Walkwood Middle school would still provide a three-tier option for movement at the end of Year 4.

Crabbs Cross Academy converting to a Primary School offers families greater choice once again and supports routes through both the local middle and secondary schools for any family wishing to express a preference. This can only be a good thing for our local community and restores the relationship with Ridgeway that had been in place for decades prior to the recent changes where Ridgeway stopped taking year 5 pupils.

Who has been asked to contribute to the consultation?

Current parents of Crabbs Cross Academy pupils

Crabbs Cross Academy Staff

Future parents of pupils via local Pre-schools and Nurseries

Worcestershire local authority

Primary, secondary, AP and special schools (as relevant)

Other interested parties via the school website

How do you contribute to the consultation?

Please use the following link to send any comments you wish to make in respect of the consultation.

<https://forms.office.com/e/d1pVxLqvqg>

Please ensure any feedback is with the school by 9th January 2025