

**Parents / Carers of pupils of
Margaret McMillan Primary School**

Monday 2nd October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

**Statutory consultation on the proposed reduction in Published Admission Number for
Margaret McMillan Primary School for the 2025/26 academic year**

Background

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) at Margaret McMillan 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. Margaret McMillan Primary School sits in the North West 5 planning area.

In recent years across the Bradford District, there has been a significant reduction in the number of younger children registered with the NHS. This has led to a high level of surplus places in some of the primary school planning areas, including North West 5.

According to data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), the number of live births nationally has fallen in five of the last six years, with the total number of live births in 2022 being the fewest since 2002. Given the falling number of births nationally and across the District, there has been a significant reduction in the number of Reception places required across this planning area; the Council does not anticipate that there will be a significant increase in the number of places required in the near future.

The number of Reception pupils at Margaret McMillan Primary School, as recorded in the January Census, has not reached 90 pupils for any of the cohorts currently at the school, i.e. not since before 2016/17. On average over this span, there have been 10 surplus Reception places at that point in the school year. 67 Reception children were on roll in January 2023.

Across the North West 5 planning area, there were 510 places available to start Reception in 2023. However, the total number of places allocated on National Offer Day was only 421. This has since fallen slightly to 416 on roll in September 2023 and is considerably below the number of available places.

On National Offer Day, 75 children were allocated to start Reception at the school. 74 were on roll at the school in September.



The proposed PAN reduction will provide 480 places in the planning area. Current published forecasts indicate that the numbers of places required in Reception for the next four intake years across North West 5 are:

2024/25:	399
2025/26:	413
2026/27:	382
2027/28:	374

The Local Authority's forecast information has been used to model the school's budget over the next five years. This process showed that, if the PAN remains at 90, the school is likely to face financial difficulty. The proposed PAN reduction will help to ensure the school maintains a financially stable position.

The School Admissions Code requires that all admission authorities consult where they propose to reduce a PAN. As the Admission Authority, Priestley Academy Trust is seeking representations on the proposed change to the PAN for Margaret McMillan Primary School.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021), Margaret McMillan Primary School is consulting with key stakeholders, including:

- Parents/carers of current pupils and prospective parents of pupils
- Bradford Council (the Local Authority in which the school is situated)
- All other Admission Authorities within the District
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Councillors and MPs
- Trade Unions
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposed change

A copy has been sent to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator and the proposal will be published on the school's website.

This consultation will run from Monday 2nd October 2023 until Sunday 19th November 2023, after which time any representations received will be considered and a report taken to the Academy Trust for a decision to be made on the PAN for Margaret McMillan Primary School.

Specific Proposal

Margaret McMillan Primary School proposes to reduce the PAN from 90 to 60 from 1 September 2025.

This means that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Reception in 2025, 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.

Factors that have been considered by the Trust when deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- A large portion of funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Too many vacancies mean that schools will not receive the maximum possible revenue. Therefore, the school is proposing to reduce the number of available places to enable the school to operate more efficiently and cost effectively.
- The school is located in North West 5 planning area, where there continues to be a falling demand for primary school places, resulting in a significant surplus across the area.
- The total number of pupils from Reception to Year 6 recorded by the school on the May 2023 census was 569, which is below the current capacity of 630.
- Due to the lower numbers of younger children registered with the NHS who will require a school place in the coming years, the Council expects that there will be sufficient school places available for local children if the PAN is reduced. If agreed, the overall PAN for the North West 5 planning area will be 480 from 2025.
- Margaret McMillan Primary School, Priestley Academy Trust and the Council will 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 5 planning area – eg a bulge intake.

Priestley Academy Trust believe that reducing the PAN at Margaret McMillan 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 an appropriate number of places are provided for future pupils, in line with forecasts.

Any representations should be made via an online survey. Please visit <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/MMPS> or scan this QR code to complete the survey:



Alternatively, if you would prefer a paper copy of the response form, please contact the school office or email MMPS@Priestley.academy. Completed paper response forms can be returned to the address on the form or handed in to the school office.

Yours faithfully,

The Priestley Academy Trust