

Consultation on the closure of Nursery at Hill Top C of E Primary School

We are carrying out a consultation on the closure of the Nursery at Hill Top C of E Primary School, which will result in a change to the age range from 3 to 11, to 4 to 11.

Reasons for closure

Hill Top C of E Primary has an established nursery with places for up to 52 children.

Over recent years the number of children taking up a place in the nursery has reduced. Historically, at Hill Top and at other settings across the district, the number of children taking up a nursery place increase each term throughout the academic year – numbers on roll each term from 2022 to 2026 are shown in the table below. There are currently only 27 children attending which is only just over half of the available places.

We have therefore taken the decision to consult on the closure of the nursery at Hill Top C of E Primary School.

The planned change will come into effect from September 2026 meaning that all current nursery pupils will leave in July 2026.

Considerations

Most of the funding that schools receive is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school, including the nursery. Too many vacancies mean that schools will not receive the maximum possible revenue. Staff have already been employed by the school to accommodate up to 52 children in nursery; however, no funding is received for the unfilled places. This is causing financial pressure on the whole school and has resulted in a deficit budget for the 2025/26 financial year. Closure of the nursery would ensure the school funding received for the children on roll from reception to Year 6 can be spent on those pupils, not to make up any shortfall in nursery funding received.

Data to support the proposal

The number of children in the nursery since summer 2022 is shown in the table below, clearly showing the decline in numbers since the autumn 2024 term. The numbers provided are as of the school census dates each term (October, January, May).

Financial Year	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term
2022/23	51	32	47
2023/24	52	44	52
2024/25	52	30	33
2025/26	41	17	27
2026/27	27		

This nursery take-up data, along with data on the capacity for and the number of 3-4-year-olds held by Bradford Council indicate that there will be sufficient places in this and surrounding wards if we close the nursery.

Common Road, Low Moor, Bradford BD12 0TL

Tel: 01274 678386 Email: office@hilltop.bradford.sch.uk

Bradford Council is in support of the proposal to close the nursery.

Other requirements

As a Foundation Status, Church of England Primary School, we have been granted permission by the Diocese to consult to change the age range from 3 to 11, to 4 to 11.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the Governing Body will decide whether to close the nursery and change the age range.

If the nursery closure is agreed, the GIAS record for the school will then be updated.

Consultation period and comments

The consultation will run from **Thursday 12 February 2026 to 4th March 2026**.

Those who do not have access to the internet can request a paper copy of this document by contacting the school directly:

E-mail: office@hilltop.bradford.sch.uk

Telephone: 01274 678386

Comments on the proposed admissions arrangements should be made **before Wednesday 4 March 2026**.

You can submit comments via the online survey: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/HillTopNursery>

If you wish to submit comments by e-mail or post, please include the name of the school they relate to and send them to:

e-mail: office@hilltop.bradford.sch.uk

post: 'Nursery consultation' **Hill Top C of E Primary School**, Common Road, Bradford, BD12 0TL