
6 May 2014 to 6 June 2014

A consultation about proposals to increase primary school places

- in Armley/Wortley - by expanding **Castleton Primary School** from 1 FE (30 places per year) to 2 FE (60 places per year)
- in Bramley - by expanding **Hollybush Primary School** from 2 FE (60 places per year) to 3FE (90 places per year) and
- by creating a **primary SLD (severe learning difficulties) partnership for the West SILC** (8 pupils) in one of the primary schools, either Hollybush Primary School or Castleton Primary School.

This consultation document tells you the reasons for our proposals and explains the decision making process.

For your views to be taken into account, please respond by Friday 6 June 2014



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1. Foreword

Our ambition is to be the best city in the country. As a vibrant and successful city we will attract new families to Leeds, and making sure that we have enough school places for the children is one of our top priorities. We are working very hard to plan for the impact of rising pupil numbers across the city which also stems from a rising birth rate. This means that the numbers entering reception classes in primary school each year is now much larger than the size of the year groups leaving the city's secondary schools.

We have an ongoing city-wide school expansion programme in place to meet the increased demand for primary-age places, and through this programme the council has already approved 1133 new reception places since 2009, including two new primary schools and two 'through' schools for 4-18 year olds. We have seen three new Free Schools open in Leeds and more are planned.

The context in which we continue to respond to the need for places is complex and challenging. The range of provision in Leeds is diverse; there are academies, Trust schools, Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools as well as community schools. There is an increasingly diverse range of school providers in Leeds with different powers to bring forward proposals of their own. Free Schools are proposed and decided upon outside of the local authority. There is a significant capital challenge to meet the need for places, along with a need to consider value for money.

All schools share our ambition to make Leeds the best city in the UK to grow up in, so we are working with all the schools in Leeds to ensure there are enough good quality, local school places. We are developing new ways to engage better with all local stakeholders to support and inform this programme of work.

We will continue to work together throughout this process to ensure that children in Leeds will have the best possible start to their learning, and so deliver our vision of a child friendly city.

Signed
Cllr Judith Blake, Lead Member for Children's Services
Nigel Richardson, Director of Children's Services

2. Background

The Education Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to ensure there are **sufficient school places** for all children living in its area. The local authority is also required to promote choice and diversity. This means that Leeds City Council must ensure there are sufficient school places for all children living in Leeds and that there is a range of options available to parents.

Subsequent legislation has not removed the sufficiency duty but it has changed the process of establishing new schools. Precedence is now given to new academies. If the local authority believes a new school is necessary, the local authority must fund the building of the school and must in the first instance look for an academy sponsor to run it. The local authority is the provider of last resort and new community maintained schools can only be opened where no new academy provider comes forward to run the new school.

Free Schools are proposed directly to the Secretary of State. They can be proposed by parents, groups of schools or other interested bodies and are agreed without reference to the local authority. Free schools are Academies and operate independently of the local authority.

In January 2014, new regulations on the way proposals can be brought forward came into force. These mean that:

- A governing body can be the proposer and decision maker of changes to schools. This includes the expansion of a school or changes to the age range to enable schools to deliver Early Years provision. This means that schools can expand without going through a statutory process. Schools will still however need to secure sufficient capital and need to secure planning permission in respect of any changes to the school building. There is a requirement for schools to consult on proposed changes but it is for them to determine how they do so.
 - Local authorities have limited powers to propose changes to Trust schools, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies, they cannot propose a change to the age range to deliver another phase of education.
 - Local authorities can still propose the expansion of community maintained, Voluntary Controlled, Voluntary Aided and Trust schools
 - Where the local authority brings forward a proposal e.g. to expand a school, add SEN (Special Educational Needs) provision, the consultation phase is no longer prescribed. It is for the local authority to determine how that consultation is carried out. Executive Board recently agreed an approach whereby stakeholder events are carried out to shape the initial options for an area.
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3. How has this proposal been developed?

A stakeholder consultation event was held in March 2014. Over 60 invitations were sent out. Invitees included the headteacher and a governor from each of the primary schools in the area, from the secondary schools and from the West SILC. Parent representatives from each school, ward members and council officers from Planning and Highways were also invited, as were representatives from the Church of England and Catholic diocesan education boards.

The event was organised to allow for discussion amongst small groups of stakeholders. Data about birth rates, housing with planning permission, parental preference for schools was made available for participants. Stakeholders were invited to discuss and debate the options to increase primary school places in the area. Although the focus was on primary provision, the event also provided the opportunity to discuss the need for Free Early Education places for eligible 2 and 3-4 year olds as well as specialist places for children with special educational needs.

The general consensus was that additional forms of entry were required across Bramley and Armley to manage the increase in births and to also provide local school places for local children.

A number of options were identified through discussion for further consideration. These included:

1. Develop a through school from age 3 to 18 at Swallow Hill (2 FE primary provision)
2. Develop a through school from age 3 to 18 at Leeds West Academy (2 FE primary provision)
3. Investigate creating a new 1FE primary school on the former West Leeds Family Learning Centre Site
4. Leave all the schools as they currently are and look to develop a new 4FE Primary school on another site
5. Increase Castleton and/or Armley Primary Schools to 2 FE
6. Increase St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School to 3FE
7. Increase Bramley Primary School to 2FE
8. Increase Hollybush Primary School to 3FE
9. A primary SLD (severe learning difficulties) partnership for the West SILC (Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre) for 8 pupils in a primary school or as part of a through school in either Bramley or Armley/ Wortley

Additional 2 year old provision will be created across Armley/Worley and Bramley areas to meet the rising demand for places for eligible 2 year olds but this does not form part of this consultation process as it can be established without a statutory process.

For four weeks during March/April, an online forum was set up seeking views from any interested parties on the options that emerged from the stakeholder event. Many people viewed the forum, although only 3 people posted comments.

Following the closure of the Forum, the options were considered and have been refined to establish preferred options for the whole area. In doing so local demographics, the preference

patterns of families, the physical deliverability of build solutions and the location of new housing under construction have all been taken into account.

4. What is proposed?

The proposal we are consulting on in Armley is to:

- Expand **Castleton Primary School** from a one form entry primary school (30 places) to a two form entry (60 places) primary school.

This would create 30 additional primary school places.

The proposal we are consulting on in Bramley is to:

- Expand **Hollybush Primary School** from a two form entry (60 places) primary school to a three form entry (90 places) primary school.

These would create 30 additional primary school places in Bramley.

When would these additional places be available?

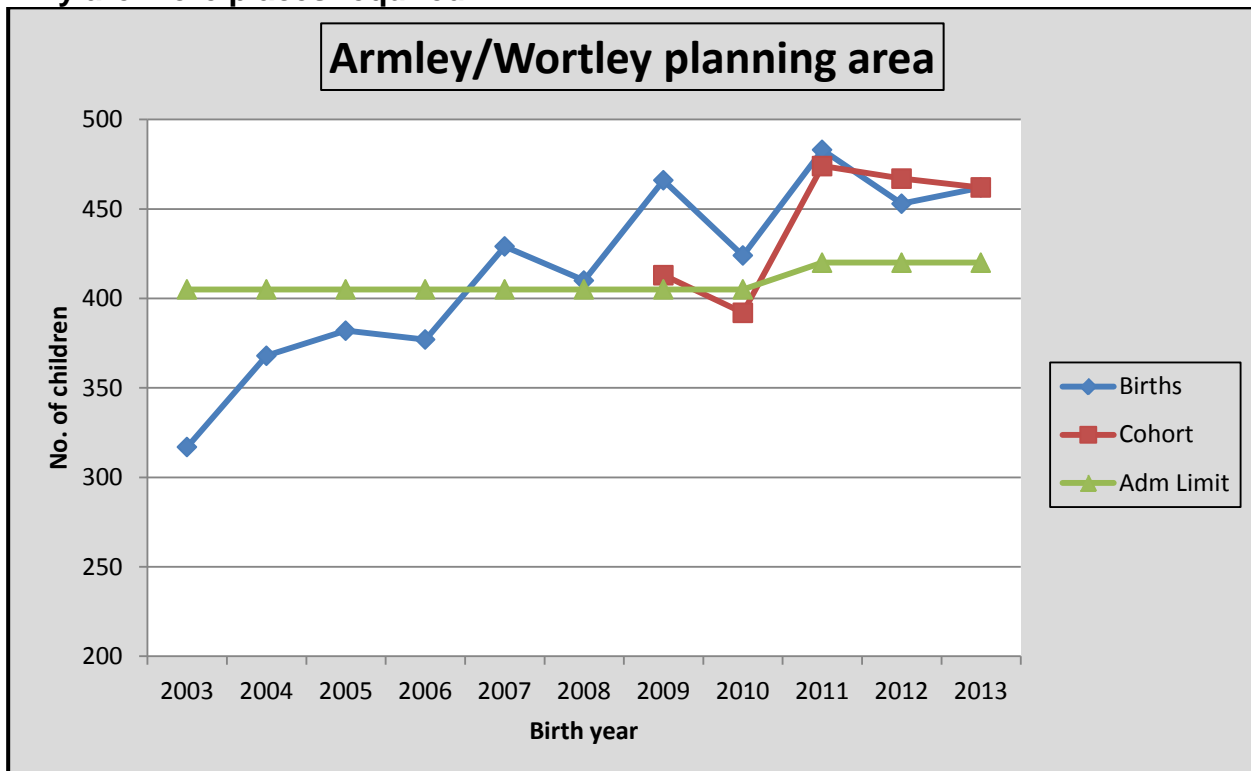
The additional places would be available from September 2016. The increase would however only apply to reception classes from September 2016 as the schools would grow incrementally, from the lower years. It would therefore take seven years for the schools to reach their full capacity.

Specialist primary provision

We are also consulting on the establishment of a **primary SLD (severe learning difficulties) partnership for the West SILC** (8 pupils) in one of the primary schools, either Hollybush Primary School or Castleton Primary School. This would also open in September 2016.

5. Further information on the Armley/Wortley proposal

Why are more places required?



The graph shows how the birth rate across Armley/Wortley (blue line) has increased significantly over the last ten years, from a low of 317 in 2003 to a high of 483 in 2011. The red dashed line shows the change in the same cohort of children as they get older. For example there were 466 children born in 2009, but as this cohort of children has become older (now aged 4-5 years), the numbers have reduced to 413. The red line shows a drop in numbers as children get older compared to the year they were born (with the exception of children born in 2012). This would indicate that more families move out of Armley/Wortley as their children get older, than families moving in to the area. This is also a key factor when planning future school places, to ensure that more places are not put in than are actually needed.

In terms of current school places, the green line indicates the total number of reception places available across all schools in Armley/Wortley is 420. Although this figure is lower than the past 3 years births, we know that families move out of the area and therefore numbers decline as children get older (red line) and at the point they are due to start school. For academic year 2013/14, there were approx. 413 Armley/Wortley children applying for a school place. The total number of places allocated for that year across all schools was 429, with 351 of these children being resident across Armley/Wortley.

Although some children living across Armley/Wortley choose schools in other areas (mainly Bramley, Farnley and Pudsey), there are more children from other areas choosing schools across Armley/Wortley. This trend along with the increase in the birth rate means there is now a real need to ensure that there are enough school places for the children living in Armley/Wortley by the time they reach reception age.

To address the additional need across the area, we have already created some additional places. St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School expanded from 60 to 75 places in September 2011 and on a temporary basis, 15 additional places for admission into reception were created in September 2013 and September 2014.

A further form of entry is now required in the area on a permanent basis to manage the increase in the birth rate.

Why is the expansion of Castleton Primary School the preferred solution?

The expansion of Castleton Primary School is proposed for a number of reasons. It is sited in an area of high demographic need. It is also a popular school and has a good Ofsted judgement. More families preference the school than can be offered a place in reception. It is possible to physically expand the school although it is acknowledged there are land issues need to be resolved to create an additional form of entry at the school.

There are limited other physical options in the area. Whilst it is possible to expand Armley Primary School using land adjacent to the school and it would also be possible to create a though school on the Swallow Hill site, these schools are not in the area of greatest demographic need.

Are there any other vacant council owned sites in Armley/Wortley on which a new school could be built?

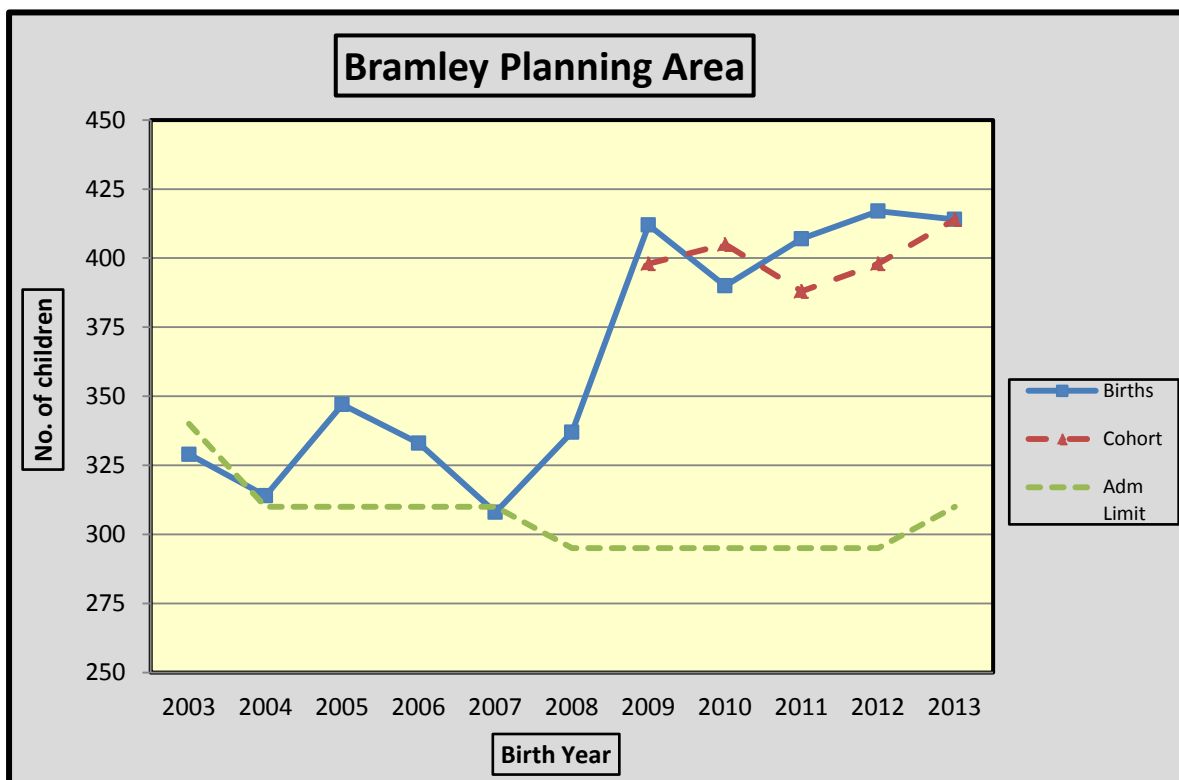
There is only one site that has been identified in the area as potentially able to accommodate a new school. This is the former West Leeds Learning Centre. The land is opposite an existing school, Whingate Primary School. At this point there are other options which can be progressed to increase school places which present better value for money than the building of a new one form entry primary school.

6. Further information on the Bramley proposal

Why are more places required?

The graph shows the change in births since 2003 across Bramley (blue line), with nearly every year since 2008 showing over 400 children born across the area. The red dashed line shows the change in the same cohort of children as they get older. For example there were 412 children born in 2009, but as this cohort of children has become older (now aged 4-5 years), the numbers have reduced to 398. The red line shows a drop in numbers as children get older compared to the year they were born (with the exception of children born in 2010). This would indicate that more families move out of Bramley as their children get older, than families moving into the area.

In terms of current school places, the green line indicates the total number of reception places available across all schools in Bramley is 310. Although this figure is much less than the children born, many children access school provision by choice in other areas. For the



academic year 2013/14, there were approximately 400 Bramley children applying for a school place. The total number of places allocated across all Bramley schools was 301, with only 265 of those children being Bramley residents.

This is not an unusual picture, each year a large proportion of children who live in Bramley do

not attend a primary school in Bramley as they access schools in other parts of the city. Many children living in Bramley access school places in Stanningley, in Armley, in Kirkstall and in Pudsey. The pressure for school places in these areas is however increasing and therefore it will be less likely that children from Bramley will be able to access school places in these areas.

To address the additional need across the area, Bramley St Peter's C of E Primary School from 45 to 60 places in September 2013 and on a temporary basis, 15 additional places for admission into reception have been created for September 2014 at Bramley Primary School.

Why is the expansion of Hollybush Primary School the preferred option?

The proposal at Hollybush is being brought forward because there is a need to create a further form of entry in the area. The school is becoming increasingly popular, has a good Ofsted judgement and is in an area of demographic need. It is also possible to expand the school on its existing site. Whilst other local schools, Whitecote and Raynville Primary Schools are also in areas where there is a demographic pressure, it would be significantly more challenging to physically expand these schools. Although a through school at Leeds West Academy would create additional reception places, it is not in area where additional reception places are currently required.

Whilst it is possible to expand Bramley Primary School, it would only create a further 20 reception places. There is some new housing adjacent to the school and it is acknowledged that this will create additional pressure for school places in the area. It is likely that the expansion of Bramley Primary will need to be considered further in the future.

7. Further information on Specialist provision.

Why are additional specialist places proposed?

A partnership base in the area is being proposed because there is a growing demand for specialist provision for pupils of this age group. A provision in the Armley or Bramley area would provide an opportunity for children living in the west of Leeds to access provision in the area in which they live rather than have to travel across the city to access specialist provision.

What is a partnership provision?

Partnership provision provides an opportunity for children on the roll of a SILC (Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre) to access learning and/or inclusion opportunities alongside their mainstream peers for some or all of the school day. The specialist teaching and learning support would be provided by the SILC.

8. Frequently asked questions

When creating more school places, what information is taken into account?

When developing proposals, the following are considered:

- local birth and housing data, to identify whereabouts in the city the extra places are needed;
- which schools have the physical capacity to be expanded;

- the availability of other council owned land and whether any of this land could contribute to the provision of places; and
- the impact that expanding one school might have on other schools in the area
- any proposals for Free School that we are aware of.

Where does the birth and 0-5's data come from?

This data comes from the NHS and is supplied annually from hospital and GP records. This information allows us to map the location of all children aged between 0 and 5 years, living in Leeds. This data is monitored against previous years' data. It is used to highlight areas of the city where birth rates are increasing and better understand the pattern of demand for school places.

How is the impact of new housing taken into account?

We liaise with colleagues in Planning to establish if new housing is proposed in an area. Developers are asked to make a financial contribution or provide land for education provision when they build new family houses. It is assumed that 100 family houses would generate 25 primary aged children, 3-4 per year group. A small number of family houses are under construction in the area. It is felt that the demand for school places will be managed by these proposed increases in school places.

How do we decide how many places to create?

When deciding how many places to create we plan for the number for children who we believe will be living in the area. We also take account of parental preference, new housing as well trying to build some surplus into the admissions system.

Why are some spare or surplus places required?

Additional places are required to ensure that the admissions system can operate effectively and meet some degree of parental preference and also so that school places are readily available locally for children moving into the area.

Does an increase in school places mean that this mean class sizes would be bigger?

Primary schools are organised around classes of 30 children per teacher, and these proposals would not change that. Current Infant Class Size Regulations state that infant classes (reception, year 1 and year 2) must have no more than 30 pupils in a class with one qualified teacher. Therefore, extra accommodation would have to be provided and more staff would be recruited to manage the additional pupils.

Will stakeholders be able to see the plans for the additional accommodation?

Yes, we will hold some drop in sessions where initial design work will be available. These are however very much an outline of what could be delivered, to demonstrate that it is possible to create the additional accommodation on site. They are not final design solution. The design of any additional school build would be subject to the normal planning process.

Would the building work cause disruption to the school and pupils?

It is not always possible to do all building work during school holidays, although we would as

far as possible make sure any works that are likely to be very noisy or disruptive are carried out whilst pupils and staff are away. Any building work carried out while the school is open would be completely segregated from the pupils and staff to ensure safety, and disruption to teaching and learning would be minimised. The contractors we would be using are very experienced in working around existing and operational schools.

9. How do stakeholders put their views forward?

Stakeholders may choose to attend one of the drop-in sessions. Notes are not taken of such sessions; they provide an opportunity to ask questions of officers on an informal basis.

School Name	Date	Time
Hollybush Primary School	12 May	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Castleton Primary School	19 May	8.00 to 10.00 a.m.
Castleton Primary School	19 May	2.15 to 4.00 p.m.
Hollybush Primary School	21 May	8.45 to 10.00 a.m.

Stakeholders may post comments on the WordPress site. <http://leedsschoolplaceplanning.wordpress.com/> This is very much a discussion forum and it is possible that during the consultation process, stakeholders may refine their views. To ensure that their final views are heard, it is recommended that they respond to the consultation in writing, either by email, on the paper form provided in this consultation booklet.

Responses can be anonymous, but if stakeholders would like an acknowledgement please include your name and address.

Responses will be summarised and presented to the Executive Board, who will take all your views into consideration. Your opinion is therefore important to us so please take the opportunity to respond to the proposal.

10. What are the next steps of this process?

All the views raised in consultation will be considered and presented to the Executive Board. They will have the option to proceed to the next step of the process, the publication of a statutory notice, a further period of representation. They may also choose to pause or withdraw the proposal. There may also be additional work identified that is needed to help inform that decision. The following table describes a potential timetable for the next steps:

Date	Key event
6 May 2014	Five week consultation begins (taking in to account the half term break) with an opportunity to submit views/responses and attend meetings
6 June 2014	Consultation ends
July 2014	The earliest the Executive Board can make a decision on whether the proposals can proceed to statutory notice period
September 2014	The earliest that statutory notices can be published (if approval is given) followed by a four weeks representation period
November 2014	This is the earliest the Executive Board can make their final decision

Public consultation response form

Please read the consultation booklet on this proposal and tell us your views. The questions on this form are there to help you, but you do not have to respond to them all.

Responses can also be sent by email to educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk or by letter to: PO Box 837, Capacity Planning and Sufficiency, Leeds, LS1 9PZ. Please return completed forms to this address.

Responses must be received by 4pm on Friday 6 June 2014.

This booklet, along with information on the progress of the proposal, is available at www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Consultations-and-reviews.aspx

Questions

Please answer the questions below which apply to you:

1. Do you agree with the proposed increase in admission number from 30 to 60 at Castleton Primary School

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

2. Do you agree with the proposed increase in admission number from 60 to 90 at Hollybush Primary School

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

3. Do you agree with the proposed establishment of an SLD partnership for the West SILC.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

3a.

Do you have a preference of which school this partnership is established.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Castleton Primary School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hollybush Primary School

Please tell us more about your views and your reasons for them.

Please use a separate sheet if needed

2. How did you find out about this consultation?

3. Have you found the consultation process and information provided useful?

Yes/No

4. How could we improve the consultation process and/or information provided?

All responses will be taken into account when the decision on whether to proceed is made, but we unfortunately cannot address specific queries. However, if you would like your response to be acknowledged, please provide your contact details:

About you: (please tick and complete all those that apply to you)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent/carer	Your child's/children's school/s:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Governor	Your school:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of staff	Your school:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil	Your school:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elected member	Ward:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local resident	Area:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Please tell us:

Data Protection Act 1998

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following. Leeds City Council is seeking your views to help inform the decision on this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge your response personally.

Please send your reply to:

PO Box 837, Capacity Planning and Sufficiency, Leeds, LS1 9PZ

Glossary

Admissions limit (Adm Limit)	The maximum number of children a school plans to accept into each year group.
Executive Board	The decision making body of Leeds City Council, formed by the Leader of the Council and nine other executive Members. Representatives of all political parties attend the Executive Board.
Form of entry	Primary schools are organised around classes of 30 pupils. A one form of entry school has seven year groups of 30 pupils; a two form of entry school has seven year groups of 60 pupils each.
Infant Class Size Regulations	The Infant Class Size Regulations state that a class with one qualified teacher can contain no more than 30 pupils. Infant classes are reception, year 1 and year 2, when pupils are aged between 4 and 7.
Through school	A school that provides both primary and secondary provision.
Reception class	This is the first year group for children starting primary school in the year they will reach 5 years old.
Statutory notice period or statutory notice	A period of time required by law to inform the public that the local authority is proposing to do or change something. The statutory notice is published with the proposal details, and invites comments. It follows a period of consultation like this one, allowing the local authority to adapt the proposals based on the views raised in the initial consultation.