

Frequently asked questions about reductions in Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN)

I'm worried about being able to obtain a school place for my child in Reception?

Across Lymm in 2024 there are currently 125 children attending Reception classes with 150 places. Hence a spare capacity of approximately 17%, even after Ravenbank's reduction in PAN from 60 to 30. The number of Reception children in Lymm continues to be low year on year.

After the proposed PAN change at Oughtrington in September 2026, current data shows that there will be 108 pupils for 120 places within Lymm. With numbers falling to 93 in 2027 and 94 in 2028.

There will be sufficient school places for children in Lymm.

I'm worried about a sibling being able to get a place at Oughtrington

After *Looked After Children*, siblings continue to be given the highest priority in the oversubscription criteria for Oughtrington:

Siblings (pupils with elder brothers or sisters already attending the preferred school and expected to continue at the school in the following school year. This includes full, half or step brothers and sisters and foster brothers and sisters who are living at the same address as part of the same family unit)

The oversubscription criteria are not being changed for Oughtrington – only the Published Admission Number.

Will the change affect the quality of education at Oughtrington?

The quality of education at Oughtrington will not be affected by the reduction in PAN. By reducing the PAN from 60 to 30 it avoids the need to have mixed year group classes. Therefore children will be taught in single age classes as they are now.

What if demand for places in Lymm increase again?

The situation will be reviewed annually. The PAN can be increased, when necessary, without consultation.

Why does Oughtrington need to reduce its PAN?

Due to the falling national birth rate the demand for Reception spaces across Lymm has reduced.

Is the school financially secure?

There are no concerns about the financial security at Oughtrington. However, running two classes that are under capacity would create a financial concern. The PAN change should further increase the financial security of the school.

Will the school need to change the way that it delivers the curriculum? Will class sizes be changed?

The school intends to continue to deliver a high-quality curriculum to classes of up to 30 children. There are no plans for year groups to mix.

What is the council's position?

Beam Trust have worked closely with Warrington council officers who support the proposal to reduce the PAN at Oughtrington.

