



Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Important Information: Proposed Merger of High Street Primary Academy and Millbay Academy (Primary Phase)

We are writing to inform you about a proposed change that will affect both High Street Primary Academy and the primary phase of Millbay Academy. Reach South Academy Trust is planning to merge these two schools, effective from September 2025.

- What Will Change?

Currently, both schools have separate admission processes. High Street Primary admits 30 children each year into Reception, while Millbay Academy admits 60 children into Reception and 60 into Year 7 (secondary school). Under the new proposal, High Street will continue as a primary school with 30 places for Reception, and Millbay will become a secondary school, admitting 120 students in Year 7.

These changes are being made due to a decline in pupil numbers across Plymouth. Merging Millbay Primary and High Street Primary will help ensure that the high standards of education your children deserve can continue, while also making better use of the available school places.

- What Does This Mean for My Child?

- No child will lose their place. The proposal will not result in any pupils being displaced from either school.
- If your child is already attending High Street or Millbay Primary, they will continue their education at the same site.
- If you enrolled your child at Millbay Primary because you wanted them to move up automatically to Millbay Secondary, this will not change—they will still have automatic admission to Year 7 at Millbay Academy.
- Children at Reach South primary schools in Plymouth already receive priority access to UTC Plymouth and Millbay Academy for secondary school, and this will continue.

- Why Is This Happening?

The number of primary school-aged children in Plymouth has been falling due to a declining birth rate. By combining the primary classes of both High Street and Millbay, we can maintain a high-quality curriculum while ensuring that both schools remain viable for the future.

- Continued Collaboration

High Street Primary Academy, High Street, Stonehouse, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 3SJ

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DfE number: 8792007



Although the two schools will be located on separate sites, they will continue to work very closely together as part of Reach South Academy Trust. This ensures that both schools, as well as other Trust schools in Plymouth, will remain united in their commitment to providing the best education and support for families across the city.

- Future Plans

We also plan to designate the Millbay Academy site for secondary students only, meaning all primary-aged children from both High Street and Millbay will be educated at the High Street site. This will allow us to make the best use of our facilities and continue to offer excellent education to both primary and secondary students.

- How Can I Share My Views?

As part of this process, we are keen to hear your thoughts and any concerns you may have. The key points for consultation are:

- Merging High Street and Millbay Primary into a single school
- Moving all secondary education to the Millbay site

If you have any questions or would like to share your views, we have produced an online form. The consultation period will be open until Friday 8th November 2024, and we welcome your feedback. We have also planned two face-to-face sessions on site (one at Millbay Academy and one at High Street) if you wish to visit the school sites and speak to staff personally about the proposed merger. These are Tuesday 12th November at 3.30pm (The Red House, Millbay Road) and Friday 15th November at 3.30pm (High Street Primary Academy). If you wish to visit on these dates, please contact either school office to arrange an appointment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Steph Macdonald
Headteacher, Millbay & High Street Primary Academy

Jo Ware
Executive Headteacher, Millbay Academy