

September 2025

To: All prospective parents and carers of reception pupils, starting in September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for taking an interest in educating your child at Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE Primary School and/or Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School from September 2026. Both schools are part of the Synergy Schools Federation, a 6-school group that works collaboratively to achieve the best possible education for its 650 children on its roll.

As many of you will know, there are proposals to amalgamate these two schools from April 2026 and if this goes ahead, it will have a very positive and exciting impact for your child, next September. The purpose of this letter is to explain these proposals, so you have all the up-to-date information.

What has been proposed?

After a lot of consultation with parents of both schools, our governing body have asked North Yorkshire Council to amalgamate both schools. This involves an extensive democratic process which takes about 8 months and includes a 6-week public consultation – this started on Monday 22nd September 2025. The following bullet points outline what's being proposed.

- Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE Primary School and Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary Schools will amalgamate (join together to form 1 school).
- Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School will effectively close, whilst Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE Primary School will remain open and be renamed.
- The amalgamated school will retain its 'Church of England' (voluntary controlled) status.
- The school site at Leeming and Londonderry Community Primary School will be retained as part of the amalgamation. This will be reorganised to provide education for children aged 2-5 years. A nursery will open from September 2026, providing places for 2–4 year-olds and reception pupils will also be educated here.
- Pupils in academic years 1 to 6 will be educated at the Aiskew, Leeming Bar site. There will be 3 classes, organised as follows: Y1/2; Y3/4 and; Y5/6.

To learn more about these proposals, please visit the school website, browse to the 'Public Consultation' page and download the documentation. Alternatively, click [this link](#).

Anticipated Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Public Consultation	22 nd September until 7 th November 2025
North Yorkshire Council's Executive considers consultation responses	16 th December 2025
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	12 th January until 6 th February 2026
Final decision by North Yorkshire Council's Executive	17 th March 2026
Proposed Implementation date	13 th April 2026

What happens if the amalgamation doesn't go ahead?

There has already been a great deal of consultation with parents, staff, the Diocese and North Yorkshire Council and there is a great deal of support for these proposals. However, until the final decision is made, there is always a chance that the amalgamation doesn't go ahead.

If this is the case, then the status quo will be maintained. Children of reception age will be educated at both schools in September 2026, in the existing class structure. The schools will continue to work together collaboratively, sharing expertise and facilities, and always putting our pupils' education at the forefront of any decisions made.

What are the implications for applying for your child to start school in Reception?

We are aware that the timing of the amalgamation proposals aren't helpful to parents in your position. You will need to complete your application before the decision on the amalgamation has been finalised. (The closing date for September 2026 Reception applications is 15th January 2026.) However, as can be seen from the table above, the Council's Executive will have met on December 16th and we will know whether they are publishing the statutory notices. It would be unusual for the decision to be changed after this point.

Should the amalgamation go ahead, any admissions for September 2026 Reception places received by North Yorkshire Council for both schools by 15th January 2026 will be treated as applying to one school. The proposal is that the school would have a single catchment area, comprising an amalgamation of the existing two schools' current catchment areas with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 15.

Where the school is undersubscribed, meaning there are sufficient places for all children in Reception 2026 at the school, everyone will be allocated a place.

If there are more applications than places available, North Yorkshire Council will run the oversubscription criteria to determine who will be offered a place. Details can be found here: [School admission policies and statistics | North Yorkshire Council](#)



To be clear, making a first-choice application for Leeming and Londonderry will not be considered a lower priority than someone making a first-choice application for Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE or vice-versa.

All distance measurements for the purposes of school admissions and home to school travel are based on the nearest route recognised by the Council's electronic mapping system from a child's home address to school. The measurement is made from a fixed point within the dwelling, as identified by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school entrance using footpaths and roads. Both existing school sites will be treated as a single school for the purpose of measurements. The routes measured to determine the allocation of school places and home to school travel eligibility will be those recognised at the point of allocation by the electronic mapping system used by the Council's admissions team, and no other mapping system.

If the amalgamation doesn't go ahead, then all the admissions arrangements will continue as normal.

Please be reassured that neither school has been over-subscribed for a long time, so it would be unusual if applications exceeded our admissions number.

I'm sure that you'll have lots of questions and will want to see first-hand how this will work for your child. We have organised two open sessions during the autumn term. Senior staff will be in attendance to answer your questions and show you round both sites. These will take place as follows:

- 10.00am, Saturday 18th October
- 4.00pm, Tuesday 18th November

Please either ring or email to confirm your attendance, so we know to expect you. In addition, Mrs Stanley would be only too pleased to take you round individually so if you would like to arrange a 1:1 appointment with her, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We are very excited about the amalgamation, all the opportunities that it will afford pupils at our two schools and would love you to be a part of the journey with us.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M White
Executive Headteacher



Mrs B Stanley
Headteacher