

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Lindsworth School – Proposal to Remove Boarding Provision

This FAQ has been prepared following comments received from Part 1- Pre-publication Stage and to inform the Statutory consultation proposal. It is intended to answer the main questions being asked about the proposal to remove boarding provision at Lindsworth School.

1. What is being proposed?

Birmingham City Council is consulting on a proposal to remove the boarding provision at Lindsworth School. If approved, the intended implementation date is 1 April 2027.

2. Is Lindsworth School closing?

No. The proposal is only to remove the boarding provision. Lindsworth School will remain open as a maintained special school.

3. Why is boarding provision proposed for removal?

As outlined in the proposal, the school has not admitted pupils with an EHCP requiring boarding provision for several years, and there are currently no pupils on roll who require boarding as part of their EHCP. The Council also states that it continues to fund unfilled boarding places through the High Needs Funding Block.

4. Is the residential accommodation currently being used?

Yes, the accommodation is currently being used for extended-day activities, extra-curricular provision and support but not overnight boarding.

5. Will the current after-school or extended-day support stop?

The proposal says that the facility will remain available for use by the school to support pupils as appropriate. The feedback received in Part 1 of this process raised concerns about the loss of the current extended-day provision and the support it provides for pupils and families. This will therefore be an important issue for the decision maker to consider.

6. Why are families and staff concerned about the proposal?

The feedback shows repeated concern that the provision gives pupils stability, routine, social development, behaviour support and additional care after the school day. Parents and staff also described it as an important source of respite and support for families, particularly where pupils have SEMH needs. However, this is not boarding provision.

8. Is this proposal mainly about saving money?

The proposal is not just about saving money but will provide opportunities for resources to be redirected to benefit the wider school population.

9. What would happen to the building if boarding provision is removed?

There are no changes required to the building to enable boarding provision to be removed from the school offer. However, if the proposal to remove boarding provision is approved the local authority will work with the school to establish an alternative use for the building to ensure that the building does not become unused and fall into disrepair.

10. Will this affect pupils who currently benefit from the provision?

Although no pupils currently have boarding provision specified in their EHCP, feedback confirms that some pupils do benefit from the extended-day use of the residential accommodation. This means the proposal may still affect pupils and families who rely on this support, even if it is not formal overnight boarding and this will need to be considered should the decision to remove the boarding provision be agreed.

11. What alternatives have been suggested in the feedback?

Consultation responses suggest that, instead of removing the provision entirely, the Council could consider alternative models such as continued extended day use, flexible support, respite-style arrangements, or a broader review of future SEMH needs before any permanent decision is taken.

12. How would staff be affected?

The proposal says that, if the change is approved, affected staff, trade unions and professional associations would be consulted. The Council and school would explore options to minimise adverse impact, including redeployment opportunities and use of natural turnover where possible.

13. Has a decision already been made?

No. A final decision has not yet been made. This is part of the statutory consultation process, and comments received during the representation period must be considered before a final decision is taken.

14. Who will make the final decision and when will it be made?

The final decision will be made by the Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families. The decision must be made within two months of the end of the representation period. As outlined in the proposal document, the final date for a decision will be 21st July 2026.

16. What happens if the proposal is rejected?

If the proposal is rejected, Linsworth School will remain a special school with boarding provision, and the Council will continue to maintain and resource the residential element accordingly.

17. How can I comment on the proposal?

Comments can be submitted during the statutory consultation period before the deadline stated in the proposal. Responses can be made online, by email to:

ediproperty@birmingham.gov.uk , or by post to the School Organisation Team.