

Proposal Document

*Proposal to Make a Prescribed Alteration to Various
Community and Foundation Special Schools - namely the
Increase of Pupil Numbers*

**Baskerville School
Fox Hollies School
Hamilton School
Langley School
Mayfield School
Springfield House School**

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the local authority for Birmingham, is about to commence a consultation on a proposal to expand five community special schools and one foundation special school.

These changes are explained in the sections below. The formal consultation starts 23rd April 2015 and will run for four weeks until 21st May 2015. This document has been devised to inform parents, governors and staff at the schools named below of the proposed changes and the upcoming formal consultation period.

School Information

| School Name | Address | Category of school | Ward | Age range | SEN Designation |
|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Baskerville School 330 7016 | Fellows Lane, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9TS | Community Special School | Harborne | 11 -19 | Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) |
| Fox Hollies School 330 7050 | Queensbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8QB | Community Special School | Moseley &Kings Heath | 11 - 19 | Cognition & Learning (C&L) |
| Hamilton School 330 7006 | Hamilton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 8AH | Community Special School | Handsworth Wood | 3 - 11 | Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) |
| Langley School 330 7060 | Trinity Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B75 6TJ | Foundation Special School | Sutton Trinity | 3 - 11 | Cognition & Learning (C&L) |
| Mayfield School 330 7040 | Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B19 1HJ | Community Special School | Lozells & East Handsworth | 3 - 19 | Cognition & Learning (C&L) |
| Springfield House School 330 7047 | Kenilworth Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 OAJ | Community Special School | Knowle, Solihull | 4 - 11 | Social Emotional & Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH) |

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to increase number of places in the above schools as detailed in the following table. Some of the proposed numbers will be phased in line with the building programme at the school so that the pupil numbers increase in time and as appropriate for the school to manage.

| School Name (and DFE Number) | Current number of places | Proposed number of places | Date with Effect From |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Baskerville School 330 7016 | 105 | 118 | 1 st September 2016 |
| Fox Hollies School 330 7050 | 84 | 96 | Phased increase between 1 st September 2015 – 1 st April 2016 |
| Hamilton School 330 7006 | 80 | 108 | Phased increase between 1 st April 2016 – 1 st September 2017 |
| Langley School 330 7060 | 109 | 120 | Phased increase between 1 st September 2015 – 1 st April 2016 |
| Mayfield School 330 7040 | 260 | 274 | Phased increase between 1 st November 2015 to 1 st April 2016 |
| Springfield House School 330 7047 | 80 | 88 | 1 st September 2015 |

Why do we want to do this?

Birmingham City Council is proposing the above prescribed changes, in line with our Special Schools Additional Places (SAPP) Programme. To accommodate the growth in demand for special school places a planned programme of additional special places is being implemented as a priority.

Birmingham City Council as the local authority for Birmingham has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. The city of Birmingham has a growing population with one of the youngest populations in Europe and the number of births in the city has risen rapidly over the last decade. To compound this Birmingham is also experiencing high levels of in year growth due to net migration into the city. Certain areas of the city have experienced a larger increase, as a result, demand for places has grown and unless action is taken, there will not be sufficient places for each child in the ward. Pressure for places is at its most severe within some of our special schools and as part of these expansion programmes Birmingham City Council are seeking to address suitability issues as possible.

Why has my school been chosen?

Your school has either been approached to expand or has expressed an interest to do so.

The schools have been evaluated to ensure that they can:

- Meet our required need for additional places, without causing concern of overprovision
- Have an Ofsted ranking of Outstanding, Good or are on track to reach this target
- Have the capacity to provide suitable accommodation within existing internal or external space and within planning / buildability constraints

Your school meets our required need, it is popular and has enough space to accommodate an expansion and we have confidence in the leadership capacity of the school to accommodate the additional numbers.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Pupils will notice some changes but those are likely to be limited. The school will grow gradually. The increase will be phased so the change in pupil numbers will occur over a period of time. School places will be commissioned by Special Educational needs Assessment and Review Team (SENAR) in line with the SEN code of practice. The SEN designation for the school will not change. All necessary adaptations will be carried out as part of the planned expansion.

With the additional pupils, the school might decide to organise the school differently to ensure educational continuity but as always that will be the school's decision.

Please be reassured that the high standard of education and care for your child will remain. The alterations will enable existing and future pupils to access high quality learning spaces and facilities.

How will this affect staff?

Staff will generally be unaffected; however, a larger school might offer more opportunities for professional development.

Will there be changes to the school building?

The proposed increase in places means we will have to do some work at your school. The expansion will include remodelling of the existing accommodation and provision of additional classrooms. The internal refurbishment work will be completed in line with national standards.

Will this definitely happen?

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. We are sending this document to all parents, pupils, staff and Governors to advise you of the proposed changes and will publish full formal proposals on 23rd April 2015. There will be four weeks for people to formally comment on the full proposal - this is referred to as the 'representation period'. Within two months of the end of the representation period the Council's Cabinet Committee will make a

final decision. It is only at that point that we will be able to say with certainty that your school will be expanded.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If a decision is taken that your school should not be permanently expanded, the school will continue to operate at its current size. Further additional places will have to be provided at another school which is likely to mean that some parents will have to travel much further to take their child to school.

Please note that the proposals are not related and the outcome of each school does not depend on any other.

How can I make my views known?

During the formal consultation (representation) period, you have the opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposed enlargement of your school. You will shortly be provided with information about how you can make your views known. Although it will not be possible to respond to individual comments, all of the issues raised during the consultation will be considered when we decide whether or not to the next stage of this process.

In the meantime please address any queries to:

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Birmingham
B2 2RT

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What happens next?

The following timescale for the proposal to be implemented is for guidance only. At any point during the process, the proposal might be withdrawn or rejected by the City Council. The dates set out below meet the government requirements for us to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal and every effort will be made to keep to them.

Possible Timeline for Expansion for Consultation on Proposed Changes

| Action | Date |
|--|---------------------------------|
| School internal stakeholders informed about proposed changes | w/c 13 th April 2015 |
| Statutory notice published | 23 rd April 2015 |
| Beginning of 4 week representation period | 23 rd April 2015 |
| End of 4 week representation period | 21 st May 2015 |
| Final decision made | 29 th June 2015 |
| School is permanently expanded | As detailed above |