



SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS

Prescribed Alteration to a Community Special School

The Bridge School
Date of Proposal: 17th September 2015

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION
PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal.
Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006

In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

Not applicable

In respect of an LA Proposal: School and local authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Birmingham City Council, Education & Skills Infrastructure, PO BOX 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT

School Name: The Bridge School

School Address: The Bridge School, Coppice View Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6UE

Category: A community special school

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

Phased between 1st September 2015 and 1st April 2016

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local authority; and
 - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on any or all of the proposals by visiting

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/thebridgealteration or, by writing to School Organisation Team, Education and Skills Infrastructure, PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT. The last date for comments is 15th October 2015. Full documentation on these proposals can be found on this webpage.

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is to make a prescribed alteration to The Bridge School to increase the number of pupil places.

The Bridge School SEN Designation: ASD Autistic Spectrum Disorder, SLD Severe Learning Difficulty, PMLD Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty

Age range: 2 – 11 years

Current number of places: 79

Proposed number of places: 90

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Current number of places :79

Proposed number of places : 90

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Special schools do not have an admission number per year group. The pupils attending the school will have a statement of special education needs or an Education Health and Care Plan that will name the school. The pupils are not admitted solely in a specific year group.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

The growth of the intake will be gradual over the phased dates as detailed within the public notice and in line with requirements between 1st September 2015 and 1st April 2016.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not applicable – there is no indicated admission number for special schools.

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

At the time of publication, the total number of students on roll is: 83

Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable

Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

Not applicable – remodelling work is proposed at the existing accommodation and school land has been identified for the building of the extensions to the schools.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not applicable

Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

Not applicable

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

Not applicable

(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

Not applicable

(d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

Not applicable

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

Not applicable

(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

Not applicable

Transfer to new site

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

(a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

Not applicable

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

Not applicable

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

Not applicable

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

Not applicable

(d) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

Not applicable

(e) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

Not applicable

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

Birmingham City Council as the local authority for Birmingham has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and In order to accommodate the growth in demand for special school places a planned programme of additional special places is being implemented as a priority.

The proposal is to increase the pupil numbers at the Bridge School from 79 to 90.

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. 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 within the schools.

The Bridge School has undergone two previous school organisation changes that came into effect from 31st December 2014. The school was previously located on two sites, Reservoir Road Erdington campus and the Longmoor campus. The Longmoor campus had a residential unit however the facility had not been used for that purpose for some time. In December 2014 the Reservoir Road campus was closed and all pupils transferred to the Longmoor campus. The residential unit was officially closed and alterations were carried out for the residential unit to be used to accommodate additional pupils. This proposal enables further work to be carried out to accommodate up to 90 pupils.

Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

All statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with. Due regard and careful consideration was given to the guidance contained within 'School Organisation - Maintained Schools, Guidance for Proposers and Decision-Makers'

document, Jan 2014. All individuals or bodies suggested in the guidance are being consulted and their views considered.

The Head teacher was contacted to advise that it was a requirement for the parents of every child registered at the school to be notified of the proposed expansion. A letter was sent to all parents/carers of pupils registered at the school in early September 2015.

Officers will be holding parent and staff meetings at the school on 24th September 2015.

A copy of the public notice can be found at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/thebridgealteration

An email has been sent to all relevant Local Councillors, MP, neighbouring authorities, the Diocesan (Both Anglican and Roman Catholic) and trade unions with information on how to obtain consultation packs. An online response BeHeard survey is in place for consultees to respond during the representation period.

Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local authority, and any other party.

The total project cost for The Bridge School including original relocation to one site and the closure of the residential unit, the refurbishment and the modifications for the further additional places is £1.22 million.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) those funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Birmingham City Council will fund all projects fully from Basic Need funding allocation.

Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Not applicable

Early year's provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

(a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

Not applicable

(b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

Not applicable

(c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

Not applicable

(d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

Not applicable

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

Not applicable

Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

Not applicable

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

Not applicable

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

Not applicable

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

Not applicable

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

Not applicable

Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

The school special educational needs designation is for complex and multiple needs which include severe learning difficulties SLD, profound and multiple learning difficulties PMLD and autistic spectrum disorder ASD.

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

Not applicable – this is an enlargement by expansion to provide additional places.

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

The Bridge School will increase the number of places they offer to 90

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

The project will be fully funded by Local Authority Basic Need Allocation.

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

The schools will continue to accommodate their current pupils and will provide additional places for pupils to access their provision.

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

The expenses will not be met from the school's delegated budget. All costs will be met by Basic Need funding.

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

Not applicable - The expansion of all schools will be by remodelling existing school buildings.

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

Not applicable – this is an enlargement by expansion to provide additional places and will not reduce the current level of provision on offer.

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

Current number of places : 79

Proposed number of places: 90

19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

Not applicable

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

Not applicable

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

Not applicable

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

Not applicable

20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

Pressure for places is at its most severe in special schools; reactive measures have been implemented over a number of years to accommodate growth and a planned programme of Special Additional Places (SAP) is being implemented as a priority.

The expansion of this successful special school will provide improved accommodation solutions which will enable more pupils with special educational needs to be offered a suitable place to meet their needs, and access to specialist staff.

Sex of pupils

21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

Not applicable

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

Not applicable

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

Not applicable

22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

Not applicable

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

Not applicable

Extended services

23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

Not applicable

Need or demand for additional places

24. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Birmingham City Council is proposing the above prescribed changes, in line with our Special Additional Places (SAP) Programme.

Please find here a link to the Education Development Plan www.birmingham.gov.uk/edp and Education Sufficiency Requirements document published in February 2015: www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/esr . The headlines are as follows:

- 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 few years.
- To compound this Birmingham is also experiencing high levels of in year growth due to net migration into the city.
- On the basis of current demand for special school places, without factoring in trends in complex needs, our model indicates the need for an additional 554 places from 2012–20 based purely on growth and assuming that the proportion of young people with complex needs remains constant and the proportion of those young people educated in special schools remains constant.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

Not applicable

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not applicable

25. If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

Not applicable

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Not applicable

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

- (a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;
- (b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Not applicable