

Consultation Document

*Proposal to Enlarge by Expansion a Community
Mainstream School*

Yenton Primary School

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the local authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to expand Yenton Primary School by enlargement of the premises to increase the net capacity (pupil numbers) from 420 to 630. Remodelling work is proposed at the existing accommodation and additional land has been identified for the building of the extension to the school where necessary for additional classrooms and ancillary space required to implement the proposal.

These changes are explained in the sections below. This representation starts week 17th September 2015 and will run for four weeks until 15th October 2015.

School Information

Yenton Primary School is a community school located in the Erdington ward. The school caters for pupils aged 4 to 11. The school has operated as a two form entry school for a number of years. The school can accommodate 420 pupils and in May 2015 there were 397 pupils on roll.

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to expand Yenton Primary School so that the school will be able to admit 90 pupils each year rather than the current 60. The growth of the school will be gradual as larger numbers of children will be admitted into Reception each year and work their way through the school. The school have agreed to admit an additional 30 pupils in Reception in September 2015. Additional accommodation will be provided for this class.

Why do we want to do this?

Birmingham City Council is proposing the above prescribed changes, in line with our Additional Primary Places (APP).

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. Our projected pupil numbers show that we needed to provide an additional 705 Reception places in the city in September 2015, 30 of these being required in Erdington with a further 30 required in Erdington by 2016.

Certain areas of the city have experienced a larger increase in the birth rate than others and the Erdington ward is one of those areas. 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. Forecasts confirm the need to increase the number of places locally to support the needs of local families.

Why has this school been chosen?

Following the publication of our Education Sufficiency Requirements in February 2015, all schools were invited to submit a proposal if they were interested in expansion. The Governing Body of Yenton Primary School submitted an expression of interest for an expansion by an additional form of entry.

The EOIs were evaluated against the Basic Need criteria as follows:

- i) Location in relation to Basic Need (school within an identified 'hotspot')
- ii) Standards in the school: it is expected that schools that expand will be Outstanding or Good
- iii) The capacity of the school to provide suitable accommodation on the site, within existing space and within planning / buildability constraints. Schools that have already been expanded under Additional Primary Places Programme (APPP) and have spare capacity in particular class groups due to the nature of the phased growth
- iv) Popularity of the school
- v) Potential of any expansion to create overprovision or reduce diversity of provision in an area

Yenton Primary School has received a judgement of "good" in their last Ofsted inspection and we believe the school will be able to sustain the planned growth. The school is central to the area that has seen an increase in the birth rate, it is popular with local families, has enough space to accommodate additional classrooms and we believe will be able to cope well with the additional pupils. Given the level of need locally we do not believe that this expansion is likely to create overprovision in the area.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Pupils will notice some changes but those are likely to be limited. The school will grow by 30 pupils in the Reception year group. This increase will feed through into subsequent year groups each year for 7 years so the change in pupil numbers will occur gradually. The school might decide to organise the school differently to ensure educational continuity as the school grows, this will, as always, be the school's decision. It is intended that class sizes will remain at 30.

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 with special provision 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 Yenton Primary School. The expansion will include remodelling of the existing accommodation and provision of additional classrooms. Additional classrooms will be provided to accommodate the additional pupils in time for September 2015 intake and all internal refurbishment work will be completed in time for the permanent expansion in Reception in September 2016 if this proposal goes ahead. Please note that changes to the school building may be subject to planning permission.

Will this definitely happen?

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. At the moment we are entering the consultation stage and want to hear your views on the proposal. We are sending this document to all parents, pupils, staff and governors and we will publish full proposals on 17th September 2015. From this date there will be four weeks for people to formally comment on the proposal. Within two months of the end of that four week 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 the school will be expanded.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If a decision is taken that Yenton Primary School should not be permanently expanded, apart from the "bulge" year for Reception 2015, the school will continue to operate at its current size. Further additional places will need 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; this will possibly leave this school open to an increase in admission appeals, which can result in larger class sizes.

How can I make my views known?

We will be issuing formal proposals on 17th September 2015. The consultation period will be for four weeks. During this representation period, you have the opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposed enlargement at Yenton Primary School. You can make your views known by visiting www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/yenton (live on 17th September 2015) or by writing to:

School Organisation Team
Education and Skills Infrastructure
Directorate of People
PO Box 15843
Birmingham
B2 2RT

Email: lucy.dumbleton@birmingham.gov.uk
mary.lowe@birmingham.gov.uk

Please note the closing date for comments is **Thursday 15th October 2015**. All of the issues raised during the consultation will be forwarded to Birmingham City Council Cabinet Committee in December for a decision.

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

Action	Date
Consultation begins	Week commencing 7 th September 2015
Statutory notice published	17 th September 2015
Beginning of 4 week representation period	17 th September 2015
End of 4 week representation period	15 th October 2015
Final decision made	7 th December 2015
School is permanently expanded from	1st September 2016