

## School Organisation Proposal Hunters Hill College

### Frequently Asked Questions

Issue 1: 16 November 2020

*This document may be updated and reissued as required.*

#### The Process

- What is the proposal?  
Birmingham City Council is proposing to close Hunters Hill College due to the financial unviability of the school and with no forthcoming academy sponsor. This is following the outcome of the Ofsted inspection carried out in 2019 and the subsequent Directive Academy Order issued by the Secretary of State. A copy of the full proposal can be found via the following link:  
<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/huntershill-part2/>
- What are the main issues and can they be resolved?
  - The school is financially unviable and is unable to set a balanced budget based on prospective pupil numbers and depleted building stock.
  - An Academy Order is in place following the Ofsted judgment of “inadequate”.
  - As at September 2020, the deficit for 2020/21 is predicted to be £1.1 million.
  - No academy trust has been identified and academy trusts must set a balanced budget for their schools.
- Will the school definitely close?
  - The closure will **only** happen if the decision maker (Birmingham City Council's Cabinet) gives their approval. Their decision is expected by February 2021.

#### The Pupils

- Will the Local Authority continue to place pupils at Hunters Hill College?
  - Parents of children and young people with EHCPs will continue to have the right to request that Hunters Hill College is named in the EHCP in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014 (and associated Regulations) and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice. We will of course make sure that parents of any prospective pupils are informed of the current proposal and consultation process as potential stakeholders.

- I have a query regarding my child's current placement at Hunters Hill College. Who should I contact?
  - You can contact the school directly or the Parent Link Service on 0121 303 8461 or email at [ParentLinkService@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:ParentLinkService@birmingham.gov.uk) or School Link service at [Schoollinkservice@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Schoollinkservice@birmingham.gov.uk) – 07760551220
- Can I move my child from Hunters Hill College now?
  - The Local Authority and Hunters Hill College are working together to ensure that your child's needs will continue to be met in accordance with their EHCP until a decision is reached in respect of this proposal. If the proposal to close the school is approved, the Local Authority will work closely with pupils and their families to agree appropriate alternative placements and to make suitable transition arrangements. In some cases where the Local Authority proposes to amend an EHCP following an Annual Review, parents may as part of their representations request an alternative school or institution to be named in the EHCP.
- If the school closes, where would my child be placed?
  - An alternative place will be found that meets the needs of the child, as specified in their EHCP.
- Would my child be placed in a school further away?
  - There will be discussions with families to ensure that a suitable alternative place will be found that is as close as possible to where the child lives. It is hoped that in many cases, the alternative placement will be nearer to home, however, this cannot be guaranteed in all circumstances.
- How would you support the wellbeing and transition of children into new placements/schools?
  - Transition support would be provided by the school and the Birmingham City Council's Educational Psychology Service.

## **Staff**

- Will staff be made redundant?
  - At this stage there cannot be any presumed outcome for the school or staff members. If the outcome of the school organisation decision is to close the school, the HR process related to staffing will follow with a full consultation process involving both staff and trade unions. This will be done in accordance with the schools' relevant policies and procedures and staff will be supported throughout the process.

- When will consultation with trade unions start for staff?
  - Formal HR processes linked to the closure can only start if the decision is made to close the school (Decision period: December 2020 – February 2021) Staff and unions will be kept updated throughout the school organisation process and informed of the outcome of the final decision.

## **Land & Property**

- What will happen to the school site and buildings if the school closes?
  - The future use of Hunters Hill site (The Cropwood Estate) will be determined by the landowner, The Cropwood Trust, and does not form part of this consultation. There are no proposals or active planning applications from Birmingham City Council in relation to the future use of Hunters Hill site.

## **How to contribute**

- How do I submit my comments?
  - During part 2 of the consultation process you can submit your comments via the online survey on the BeHeard webpage:  
<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/huntershill-part2/>

Emailing: [eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk)

Mailing: **School Organisation Team PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT.**

For additional advice and information on Birmingham's Local Offer, please refer to:  
[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50034/special\\_educational\\_needs\\_or\\_disabilities](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50034/special_educational_needs_or_disabilities)