

Full Proposal Document

Hunters Hill College

*Proposal to Remove the
Boarding Provision*

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to make changes to Hunters Hill College which is one of Birmingham's 27 special schools. The school is located outside of Birmingham, in the neighbouring area of Bromsgrove, and is maintained by Birmingham City Council. Hunters Hill College can offer up to 135 places for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, (SEMH).

The school has boarding provision on the Spirehouse Lane site.

School Information

Type:	Special School (Local Authority Maintained)		
Name:	Hunters Hill College	DFE:	3307037
Address:	Spirehouse Lane, Worcestershire B60 1QD		
Ward:	Linthurst	District:	Bromsgrove
Age Range:	11 -16 years	Capacity:	135
Last Ofsted:	18/19 September 2019. Both the college and the residential facility have been inspected.	Ofsted Rating	Overall Effectiveness: 4. (inadequate - special measures)

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to Hunters Hill College:

- Removal of boarding provision

Why do we want to do this?

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority, is consulting with stakeholders on a proposal to remove the boarding provision with effect from 1st April 2020.

- The School has not admitted any boarding pupils* for many years; For schools with boarding provision, operating with a large number of unfilled boarding places, there can be a risk that they become financially unviable. If a school has a financial deficit, this can impact on staffing, standards and attainment; and, ultimately, the future of the school.
- The provision has recently been used for short breaks/respite only. Due to safeguarding concerns that are currently being investigated, this service was suspended during the summer and did not open in September 2019. There are no immediate plans to reinstate short break/ respite care within the boarding provision at the school.
- The residential buildings are beyond economical repair and no-longer fit for their original purpose.
- Both the College and the residential facility were inspected by OFSTED on 18th/19th September 2019. Both received an OFSTED rating of "inadequate" The reports can be found via the following links;

[Hunters Hill Inspection report for residential special school](#)

[Hunters Hill College Inspection report for School](#)

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers (following full consultation) it is intended that the proposal to remove the boarding provision will be implemented on **1st April 2020**.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

The Local Authority recognises that there were a number of pupils who had the opportunity for short break/respice care. This was available only because the residential unit was not being used by boarding pupils (Boarding pupil: a pupil who has an EHCP that specifies they need a boarding school place). The short break/respice care was suspended in July 2019 due to concerns about the provision. The Local Authority will be giving all parents of the pupils who previously received short break/respice care an opportunity to apply for a referral to request continuing support if they are eligible.

As there are have not been boarding pupils on roll at Hunters Hill College for many years, there is no evidence that the removal will impact on the level of demand for this type of provision in the city.

How will this affect staff?

Any changes to existing terms and conditions or staff reductions resulting from the removal of boarding provision will be with full consultation with the trade unions and teaching associations.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There will be no changes to the school building other than the closure of the residential unit which will no longer be accessible to pupils and staff. The long-term future of the residential building will be decided by the Local Authority.

What are the project costs for this proposal and how is it funded?

There are no project costs relating to this proposal.

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools.

This document is the full proposal for statutory public consultation, referred to as the "representation period". All comments received during the representation period will be forwarded to the decision makers for consideration.

Within two months of the end of the representation period the Council's Cabinet Member for Education Skills and Culture jointly with the Director for Education & Skills will make a final decision.

It is only at that point that we will be able to say with certainty that the school will close the boarding provision.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected, Hunters Hill College will remain a special school offering boarding provision.

Hunters Hill College will still have to maintain and resource the residential unit even if it continues to operate with unfilled boarding places. This could cause the school to go into financial deficit and could eventually impact on staffing, standards and attainment, and ultimately, the future of the school for all staff and pupils.

How can I make my views known?

We welcome comments in writing, by email or via the BeHeard webpage within the four-week consultation period between

21st November 2019 to 19th December 2019 (Midnight).

Anyone wishing to make comments, support or objections to this proposal may do so through the BeHeard consultation website:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/huntershill>

Or in writing to;

Birmingham City Council's School Organisation Team through:

Education and Infrastructure

PO Box 15843

Birmingham B2 2RT

Or by emailing: eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

Please include **Hunters Hill** in the email subject

A consultation response form can be found at the end of this document and can be used if anyone would like to send their comments in writing or by email.

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for us to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal.

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	21 st November 2019
Beginning of 4 week consultation period	21 st November 2019
End of 4 week consultation period	19 th December 2019
Final decision to be made no later than	19 th February 2020
Changes implemented	30th April 2020

**Hunters Hill College:
Proposal to Remove the Boarding Provision**

Thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts on these proposals.

Consultation Response Form

Please help us to analyse your response by completing the following:

Your name (optional): _____

Your contact details (optional, if you would like a reply)

Are you in favour of the proposal (please circle)? **Yes / No / Don't know**

Your interest in the proposal (please indicate one of the below):

Pupil	
Parent	
School Governor	
School Staff	
Local Resident	
Local Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please specify)	

Please provide your comments to the proposal.