



Final Proposal Document

Lindsworth School

Proposal to Alter the Lower Age Limit of a Community Special School and Increase the Number of Places

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to make changes to Lindsworth School. Lindsworth School is one of 27 Birmingham special schools.

School Information

Name: Lindsworth School **Type:** Community Special **DFE:** 3307062

Address: Monyhull Hall Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 3QA

Ward: Brandwood **District:** Selly Oak

Age range: 11 – 16 Years

Current number of places: 113

SEN Designation: Social Emotional Mental Health: (SEMH)

Last Ofsted inspection: 28th January 2016 **Overall Effectiveness:** Good

The school offers special educational needs provision for pupils, between the ages of 11 to 16, with a statement of need or Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH)¹. Currently the school is commissioned to offer up to 113 places.

The governing body of Lindsworth School is part of a federation with Springfield House School in Knowle, Solihull. Springfield House School is a primary aged special school for pupils with a statement of need or EHCP for SEMH needs. The schools share an Executive Head teacher and Governing Body. The success of the federation has been clearly evidenced through recent Ofsted inspections. Lindsworth School has been judged as Good in January 2016.

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing the following changes to Lindsworth School:

- To change the age lower age limit of the school from 11 – 16 years to 9 – 16 years. This will mean the school will be able to educate children across Year 5 to Year 11.
- To increase the number of pupils from 113 to 138.

We are proposing that the changes be implemented from 1st January 2018 if the decision is approved.

Why do we want to do this?

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. We are proposing the prescribed changes at Lindsworth School in line with our Special School Additional Places (SSAP) Programme.

Demand for places is highest in our special schools. There is currently a significant shortage of specialist provision for pupils with SEMH needs. This shortage of places is resulting in pupils travelling longer distances to attend an appropriate provision or being temporarily educated in a provision that may not fully meet their needs.

¹ SEMH designation was previously referred to as Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD)

Evidence of Demand

Birmingham has a young and growing population. Birmingham has the highest proportion of under 15 year olds of any major city in Europe. 30% of Birmingham's residents are under 20; the highest proportion of under 20 year olds of any major city in the UK.

Special school population is continuing to grow. There is an increased demand for specialist provision for pupils with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) or Social Emotional Mental Health needs (SEMH)².

Over the last 18 months the Local Authority has been working to increase capacity across our special school estate. We have commissioned additional places projects across 19 special schools.

How will the proposal increase educational standards and parental choice?

The Local Authority is keen to ensure that future places are provided in the areas that they are needed³; helping children to attend a school nearer to home and as part of their local community. The proposed changes at Lindsworth School will increase the number of places for pupils requiring SEMH provision at a 'Good' school and provide greater choice for parents.

Altering the age range is likely to improve the transition for the Year 5 and 6 pupils to secondary phase, as well as enabling pupils to have access to secondary phase facilities on site.

Why has this school been chosen?

All schools were invited to submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) to Education & Skills Infrastructure (EdSI), to take additional pupils.

The Executive Head of Springfield House School and Lindsworth School submitted an Expression of Interest to the Local Authority to accommodate Key Stage 2 pupils in a vacant teaching block on the Lindsworth site. It was planned that the teaching block would become an annex of Springfield House School, following full refurbishment.

The Expression of Interest was evaluated by Local Authority officers in conjunction with representatives from the Special Head Teacher Forum and Birmingham Education Partnership. It was agreed that Springfield House School would immediately take an additional number of primary children as they were without a school place. These pupils were accommodated in available space as a temporary annex on the Lindsworth School site.

Recently Lindsworth School has received an Ofsted judgement of Good. As a result of this outcome Education Infrastructure & SENAR Officers and the Leadership Team of Springfield House School and Lindsworth School federation have reassessed the proposal. It is considered that Lindsworth School permanently increases its pupil

² Please refer to the following document if you are interested in more detail behind these projections: [Birmingham SEN Requirements January 2016](#)

³ The Local Authority is obliged under Section 30 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to keep its Local Offer. See our latest consultation into [Birmingham's Strategy for SEND and Inclusion, June 2017](#) for more information.

numbers by changing the age range to take Year 5 and 6 pupils. Permanent space has been identified on the school site that would accommodate the proposed expansion following refurbishment.

Will there be any effect on other schools and educational institutions within the area?

There should be no negative effects on other mainstream schools (non-SEN), as Lindsworth School offers specialist city wide provision. There is currently a shortage of SEMH places, so there should be no negative impact on other SEMH schools. Any impact on other schools should be positive as this proposal creates places for pupils with SEMH needs and so releases places at other schools that may better meet the needs of other pupils.

Will there be any effect on pupils at the school?

The changes are considered appropriate to provide improved facilities at the school to eventually admit up to 138 pupils across ages 9 – 16 years (Year 5 to Year 11) with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This alteration will support the transition process of pupils from primary to secondary education. Refurbishment work will enable more pupils to access the learning spaces and facilities available at the school. It is not expected that pupils' learning will be disrupted by the refurbishment works.

New pupils will be admitted gradually as referrals come through the Local Authority's Special Educational Needs & Assessment Review (SENAR) team, therefore current pupils should notice little change. New pupils will have the opportunity to view the facilities at the school prior to moving in.

Any amendments to the statements or EHCP for Year 5 and 6 pupils to transfer from the roll of Springfield House School to Lindsworth School will be completed by SENAR team, the school and in consultation with the parents and pupils concerned.

Will there be any effect on staff members at the school?

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

Will there be changes to the school building?

The building work at the school will be to fully refurbish rooms in line with government standards. The Head Teacher and governors have participated in the design process, as strategic partners of Birmingham City Council and as representatives of the pupils. The Local Authority's Education and Infrastructure team will manage the project with the contractors to ensure there is minimum disruption at the school for the pupils. We expect the refurbishment of existing schools to be completed prior to 1st January 2018 which would enable the school to accommodate up to 138 pupils from this point when required.

Travel and Transport:

The impact on transport and travel will be minimal as the places will be allocated on a phased basis through the Local Authority's Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review (SENAR) team.

The school consider that they have a sensible approach in dealing with transport at the school site and this approach will continue. The school will continue to update their travel plan, as and when required.

The Local Education Authority transport arrangements for children with special needs will apply (Travel Assist).

What are the project costs for this proposal and how will these be met?

The project cost for the refurbishment work funded by the Local Authority is £700,000 through the Basic Need programme. Approval to spend this money was granted by Cabinet Committee on 29th March 2017.

To achieve long term value for money, design and build solutions for the majority of rooms are built to building bulletin guidelines / specifications and generic specification. This will enable us to adapt physical buildings to meet the basic needs requirements. The larger spaces will be designed and have been constructed to allow for increase the in numbers should the demand change.

Will this definitely happen?

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

We consulted on the draft proposal document from 19th June 2017 to 25th July 2017. This document is the final proposal for statutory public consultation, referred to as the "representation period". The representation period lasts for four weeks and will end on 12th October 2017. 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 Children Families and Schools jointly with the Interim Corporate Director for Children and Young People will make a final decision.

It is only at that point that we will be able to say with certainty that the school will change their age range and increase the number of places offered above the current number.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected, the school will remain an (age) 11-16 school at its current capacity. We will need to seek alternative sites or schools to provide additional SEMH places meaning that pupils may have to travel further to school. There is the possibility that pupils may be educated in a provision that does not meet their specific need, at least as an interim measure whilst other options are explored.

How can I comment on this proposal?

We welcome comments within the four weeks consultation period from 14th September 2017 to 12th October 2017. Anyone wishing to make comments, support or objections to this proposal may do so through the BeHeard consultation website:

www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/lindsworth

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 **Lindsworth SOT10114** in the email subject

What happens next?

The following timescale is for guidance only. At any point during the process, the proposal might be withdrawn or rejected by the City Council. The proposed dates 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 these dates.

Proposed Timeline for Expansion*

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	14 th September 2017
Beginning of 4 week representation period	
End of 4 week representation period	12 th October 2017
Final decision to be made no later than	12 th December 2017
School changes the age range to 9-16 and increases the number of places to 138	1 st January 2018

*subject to change

Groups consulted:

Parents, pupils and staff week commencing 3rd July 2017. The Member of Parliament, Local Councillors, neighbouring authorities, trade unions, and professional associations, the Diocese for both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church along with Birmingham City Council Officers