

Proposal Document

Moor Hall Primary School

*Proposal to Enlarge a
Foundation Mainstream
School*

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the local authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to expand Moor Hall Primary School, by enlargement of the premises, to increase the net capacity (pupil numbers) from 210 (240 from September 2016) to 420 September 2017. Remodelling work is proposed at the existing accommodation and additional land has been identified for the building of the extension to the school for additional classrooms and ancillary space that may be required to implement the proposal.

These changes are explained in the sections below. Following this consultation we propose to issue a public notice in November 2016 and this will be followed by a representation period that will run for 4 weeks. Proposed timescales are detailed at the end of this document.

School Information

Moor Hall Primary School is a foundation school located in the Sutton Trinity ward of the Sutton district. The school caters for pupils aged 4 to 11. The school is oversubscribed and has a waiting list in all year groups. Moor Hall has been graded "outstanding" by OFSTED. The school is part of the Learning Trust for Excellence and works closely with 6 other partner schools in the locality. The school is currently a one form entry school, offering 30 places in each year. From September 2016 the school has been able to accommodate up to 240 pupils, as they agreed to take up to an additional 30 pupils in year 3. These 30 places are accommodated following the installation of a learning cabin on the premises.

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to expand Moor Hall Primary School so that the school will be able to admit 60 pupils each year rather than the current 30. The growth of the school will be gradual as larger numbers of children will be admitted into Reception each year from 2017 and work their way through the school. The school have agreed to admit up to an additional 30 pupils in Year 3 in September 2016. The modelling of the increased numbers can be shown below. There may be opportunity for the school to admit pupils earlier than intended if accommodation is available and the Local Authority requirements indicate there is a need. This would be through collaboration with the school.

Year Group	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
2016	30	30	30	60	30	30	30
2017	60	30	30	30	60	30	30
2018	60	60	30	30	30	60	30
2019	60	60	60	30	30	30	60
2020	60	60	60	60	30	30	30
2021	60	60	60	60	60	30	30
2022	60	60	60	60	60	60	30
2023	60	60	60	60	60	60	60

Why do we want to do this?

Birmingham City Council is proposing the above prescribed changes, in line with our need for 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 need to provide an additional 600 Reception places in the city by September 2017.

The schools within Sutton Trinity ward are popular and its school places in high demand. Forecasts project the need to increase the number of places locally to support the needs of local families and those choosing these schools.

The School's objectives for the expansion are:

- To give opportunity to more children to access an outstanding education in the locality.
- To widen opportunity for children through the development of their Cooperative Trust values.
- To increase the school's capacity to improve provision further with additional staff and expertise.
- To increase the school's capacity to engage in Learning Trust for Excellence activities including professional development.

Why has this school been chosen?

Following the publication of our Education Sufficiency Requirements in November 2015*, all schools were invited to submit a proposal if they were interested in expansion. The Governing Body of Moor Hall Primary School submitted an expression of interest (EOI) for an expansion by an additional form of entry (30 pupils).

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

- i) The schools' location relating to areas requiring additional places.
- 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 / build-ability 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

Moor Hall Primary School has received a judgement of “outstanding” 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 of demand, 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 the effects of which are likely to be limited. The school will grow by 30 pupils in Year 3 in 2016. If the school is permanently expanded, future Reception intakes from 2017 will be for 60 places. It is anticipated that the school will be operating at 60 pupils in each year group by September 2024. The school may decide to organise the school differently to ensure educational continuity as the school grows, this will, as always, be the school's decision.

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 will offer more opportunities for professional development. The school feel that this would especially be the case through the Learning trust for Excellence, and feel that there will be a wider distribution of workload across the school.

Will there be changes to the school building?

The proposed increase in places means we will have to do some work at Moor Hall Primary School. The expansion will initially include temporary accommodation for September 2016. Remodelling of the existing accommodation and provision of additional classrooms will be required and any internal refurbishment work will be completed in time for the permanent expansion in Reception to commence in September 2017, 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. We are sending this document to all parents, pupils, staff and Governors to advise you of the changes and will publish full proposals in November 2016. There will then be four weeks for people to formally comment on the full proposal - this is referred to as the ‘representation period’. Within two months of the end of the representation 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 Moor Hall Primary School should not be permanently expanded, apart from the additional places planned for September 2016, 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 further to take their child to school and 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 full proposals in November 2016. The representation 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. You can make your views known by visiting www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/moorhall or by writing to:

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

Email: eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

Tel: 0121 303 8847

*Link to Birmingham Education Sufficiency Requirements:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/esr

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 or Governing Body. 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.

Action	Date
Proposal document distributed	Week commencing 26th September 2016
Statutory notice published	3 rd November 2016
Beginning of 4 week representation period	3 rd November 2016
End of 4 week representation period	1 st December 2016
Final decision required by	1 st February 2017
School is permanently expanded	1 st September 2017