



Full Proposal Document

Oscott Manor School

Proposal to:

Transfer to new Site

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is about to commence a consultation on changes to Oscott Manor School (a community special school).

School Information

Type:	Community Special School		
Name:	Oscott Manor School	DFE:	3307053
Address:	Old Oscott Hill, Birmingham B44 9SP		
Ward:	Oscott	District:	Perry Barr
Age Range:	11 - 19	Capacity:	116
Last Ofsted:	8th May 2014	Ofsted Rating	Good

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to Oscott Manor School:

- Transfer from Old Oscott Hill, Birmingham B44 9SP to Reservoir Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6DE.

It is proposed that there will be a new purpose built school created on the Reservoir Road site.

Why do we want to do this?

The current school building is beyond repair and the only option is to replace the building in its entirety. Over the years, the school's intake has changed from pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) to pupils with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). Although we have carried out a number of adaptations over the years and the numbers have grown from 96 to 116, we can no longer maintain the building to a reasonable standard. To do nothing would mean that the school building will eventually have to close as we can no longer repair it.

The building replacement is part of the Department for Education's (DfE) Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) and the new building will be constructed by the DfE's capital team.

Why is the school moving to a new site?

As part of their feasibility study, the DfE explored the option of building on the current site but there is not sufficient space on the current site for the school to remain operational whilst the new building is being constructed. It will also be very noisy and disruptive for the pupils.

Another option was to temporarily decant the pupils to another site whilst the new building is constructed on the current site. However the cost of this option is prohibitive and the pupils would have to be moved twice, once to the temporary site and then back again once the new school is complete. Based on cost and disruption to the pupils' education the current site was dismissed. The Reservoir Road site is 2.9 miles (straight line distance) from the current site and belongs to Birmingham Education department. The new build can take place without any interruptions to the pupils' education and the transition to the new site will be handled with a level of sensitivity to all the stakeholders but in particular to the needs of the pupils.

What is Priority Schools Building Programme?

Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) is a Department for Education programme that considers application from Local Authorities and other agencies to rebuild and refurbish school buildings in the greatest need of repair across the country.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers (following full consultation), who for this type of proposal is Birmingham City Council, it is intended that the proposals will be implemented from 1st November 2021.

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 needed; helping children to attend a school nearer to home and as part of their local community. The proposed changes at Oscott Manor are considered appropriate for the current pupils at the school and is part of a programme to enhance the overall school accommodation solution for both the current and future pupils. The new site will be new-build and fit-for-purpose accommodation to meet the needs of key-stage 3, 4 and 5 pupils.

Travel and Transport:

As Oscott Manor is for pupils that have an EHCP or Statement of Need., the Local Education Authority transport arrangements for children with special needs will apply (Travel Assist). Travel Assist will be fully engaged and advised of the proposed changes and will support any necessary changes to travel plans and arrangements. The school will continue to update their travel plan, as and when required.

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

There should be no negative effects on other mainstream schools (non-SEN), as Oscott Manor School offers specialist city wide provision. There should be no negative impact on other ASC schools as there is a continued need for ASC places citywide.

How will this affect staff?

Staff will generally be unaffected; the new site at reservoir Road is 2.9 miles from the Oscott Manor site, with good transport links. This may mean that some members of staff experience changes to their daily commute. A new purpose built school might offer new opportunities for professional development.

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

The building replacement is part of the Department for Education's (DfE) Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) and the new building will be constructed by the DfE's capital team. The majority of the cost for this project will be provided by the DfE. The Local Authority may contribute additional funding to increase the number of peoples that can be accommodated in the new buildings.

Will this definitely happen?

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

Two pre-publication letters were sent to parents in January and March advising of the forthcoming proposals whilst we awaited the outcome of the DfE's feasibility studies on the proposed new site at Reservoir Road. This document is the full proposal for statutory public consultation, referred to as the "representation period". The representation period lasts for four weeks and will end on 2nd May 2019. All comments received during the representation period will be anonymised (personal details removed) and 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 and 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 relocate to the new site at Reservoir Road.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected, the building could reach a state where it may need to be closed due to health and safety reasons. The current building can no longer be repaired and to do nothing would mean that the school building would eventually have to close. This would mean that alternative places would need to be found for the current and future pupils of the school.

How can I make my views known?

We welcome comments within the four weeks consultation period from 4th April 2019 to 2nd May 2019. Anyone wishing to make comments, support or make objections to this proposal may do so through the BeHeard consultation website:

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

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 **Oscott Manor SOT10126** in the email subject

Any comments must be received no later than 2nd May 2019

What happens next?

Key Dates:

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.

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	4 th April 2019
Beginning of 4 week consultation period	4 th April 2019
End of 4 week consultation period	2 nd May 2019
Final decision to be made no later than	2 nd July 2019
Changes implemented	1 st November 2021

Proposal to:
Transfer Oscott Manor to a New Site at Reservoir Road Erdington

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*)

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)	

Your comments:

*Personal details are used by Birmingham City Council for the purpose of this consultation only. Your details are not shared publicly or with any other organisation or company.