

The Pines School

Proposal to: Make a Prescribed Alterations Through an increase in Pupil Numbers

September 2022



Introduction

Birmingham City Council (the Council), as the Local Authority for Birmingham is consulting on proposed changes to The Pines Special School (the School). This document describes what is being proposed and why.

School Information

Type:	Community school		
Name:	The Pines School	DFE:	330/7045
Address:	Marsh Hill, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7EY		
Ward:	Stockland Green	Constituency:	Erdington
Age Range:	2 – 15 years	Sixth Form:	
Gender:	Mixed	Pupil Places:	230
Last Ofsted:	July 2019	Ofsted Rating	Good

What changes are proposed?

The Council is proposing to carry out the following change to the School:

- Permanently increase the number of places the School can offer to pupils, from 230 to 260 by September 2022.
- Permanently increase the number of places the School can offer to pupils, from 260 to 270 by September 2023.

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The School can currently offer up to 230 pupil places. The School currently offers support to pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Evidence of Demand:

There is significant need for more school places in Birmingham for children with EHCPs, both in special schools in mainstream schools. In the last four years the Council has increased the total number of special school places available to pupils with EHCPs by 10%. There has been an increase in the number of pupils with EHCPs in Birmingham, by over 800 in the last two years. There is also an increase in requests for statutory assessments which may lead to EHCPs; these requests are currently averaging 150 each month. There is significant need for more school places in Birmingham for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs.

When will these changes happen?

Following this consultation period, if the proposal is approved by the decision maker the changes will be implemented from **September 2022**.

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

There should be no negative effects on other special or mainstream schools, as the school will offer specialist city wide provision for which there is a need. There is currently a high demand for SLCN and ASD places and no indication that other schools offering this type of provision will be negatively affected. Any impact on other schools

should be positive as this proposal creates places for pupils with SLCN and ASD needs and so releases places at other schools to meet the needs of other pupils.

How will the proposal increase educational standards and parental choice?

The Council 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 increase in pupil numbers at The Pines School will increase the number of secondary places for pupils requiring SLCN and ASD provision at a 'Good' school and provide greater choice for parents.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Current pupils may notice the increase to the total number of pupils at the School. School places would continue to be commissioned by SENAR, in line with the SEND Code of Practice. The SEN designation for the school will not change. With the additional pupils, the school may decide to organise the school differently to ensure educational continuity but that would be the school's decision.

How will this affect staff?

Generally, staff will be unaffected and may experience more opportunities for professional development. If this proposal is approved, any impact on terms and conditions would be with full consultation with Trade Unions / Professional Associations.

Travel and Transport:

The impact on transport and travel will be minimal. 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 (Home to School Transport).

Will there be changes to the school building?

No changes to the school building will be undertaken

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

The funding for the creation of the additional capacity will come from the Council's High Needs Allocation capital budget. £1,719,446 has been identified for this project.

The ongoing maintenance and running costs will be the responsibility of the school and will be funded via the school budget.

Will this definitely happen?

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. Following this statutory consultation, the proposal will be presented to the Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture; they are the decision maker for this type of proposal.

It is only after a decision that we will be able to say with certainty whether or not the proposal will be implemented. The decision will be published on the consultation website below (BeHeard) and stakeholders will be notified.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If the proposed increase in pupil places is not approved for implementation, the school will continue to operate at 230 pupil places. This will mean that a number of pupils will be unable to remain at or be offered places by the School in the future. Alternative and additional places would need to be at other schools, which could have a negative impact on pupils out of school and on travel arrangements to other provision.

How do I comment on this proposal?

We invite all interested parties to give us their comment on this proposal.

Any comments must be received no later than 7th July 2022

You can comment online via:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/pinessot10186>

You can write to us at:

(please include: **The Pines SOT10186 in all correspondence**)

- By email: edsienquires@birmingham.gov.uk
- By letter, or by completing and sending the attached comments form to:
Birmingham City Council,
School Organisation Team,
PO Box 15843,
Birmingham, B2 2RT.

What happens next?

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

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice published	9th June 2022
Start 4-week consultation period	9th June 2022
Finish 4-week consultation period	7th July 2022
Final decision deadline	7th September 2022
Changes implemented	September 2022

Groups consulted:

The Pines School: governors, staff, parents/carers and pupils

Birmingham City Council colleagues and services

NHS partners

Local Councillor(s)

Member(s) of Parliament

Birmingham Schools

Local Archdiocese

Other/Neighbouring Local Authorities

Trade Unions/Professional Associations

The Pines School: Increase Pupil Places

Thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts on this proposal.

Consultation Response Form

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

Your name (optional): _____

Your contact details (optional): _____

Are you in favour of the proposal (please select one answer)?

Yes	No	Neither/Don't know
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What type of stakeholder are you (please select one answer)?

Pupil at The Pines School	
Parent/Carer of pupil(s) The Pines School	
School Governor of The Pines School	
School Staff at The Pines School	
Local Resident	
Elected Birmingham Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please describe)	

Please provide your comments on the proposal.

(Continue on additional page, as required.)