

**Consultation by the
Governing Body of
Hamilton Special School**

*Proposal to Alter the age
range from 4–11 to 4–13
years*

Introduction

The Governing Body is consulting on a proposal to make changes to Hamilton Special School. This document describes what is being proposed and why.

School Information

Type:	Foundation Special School		
Name:	Hamilton Special School	DFE:	330/7006
Address:	Hamilton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 8AH		
Ward:	Holyhead	Constituency:	Perry Barr
Age Range:	4-11	Sixth Form:	N/A
Gender:	Mixed	Capacity:	108 (123 pupils on roll)
Last Ofsted:	October 2019	Ofsted Rating	Outstanding

What changes are proposed?

The Governing Body with the support of Birmingham City Council is proposing to carry out the following temporary changes at Hamilton Special School:

- Alter the age range from 4 – 11 years to 4 – 13 years.
- Effective from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2025.

Why do we want to do this?

Hamilton School (the School) is a foundation special school with 123 pupils on roll with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) as well as Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

Altering the age range will allow:

- Continuity for pupils at the school, enabling pupils in Y6 to remain at the school for an additional two years (up to Y8), whilst the potential for a permanent age range increase and capacity is explored.
- Hamilton School to offer places to a wider age range for pupils with an EHCP for ASC
- the Local Authority to address the shortage of places for secondary age pupils with an EHCP for ASC

There is significant need for more school places in Birmingham for children with EHCPs, both in special and mainstream schools. In the last four years Birmingham City Council has increased the total number of special school places by 10%. Enabling pupils at Hamilton School to remain until the end of Y8 will reduce the pressure on other schools offering ASC places in other parts of the city. It is anticipated that the alteration to the age range will be on a temporary basis for two years only in the first instance whilst options are being explored for a permanent solution

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers, who are the Governing Body (following full consultation), it is intended that the proposal to alter the age range of Hamilton School from 4 – 11 years to 4 -13 years to include a Y7 and Y8 class at the school will come into with effect from 1st September 2023 for 2 years.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

If the proposal is approved, pupils who are due to transfer to other settings in September 2023 and September 2024 will be offered the opportunity to remain at school for another two years in a Y7 and Y8 class at Hamilton School. This will allow pupils two further years to consider where they would like to continue their education.

The Pupils with Education Health and Care plans in Y6 would have their EHCP reviewed and amended by the Local Authority SENAR Department to reflect the secondary provision in Y7 being met by Hamilton School. Parents and Carers would continue to have opportunities to meet with professionals annually or sooner if required to review the EHCP as they would normally do in the primary phase of the school.

How will the proposal increase educational standards and parental choice?

The proposed age range change at Hamilton School for two years is considered appropriate for the current Y6 pupils at the school as it will allow them educational continuity in their current setting.

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 Hamilton school will offer local provision for which there is a high need. ASC is a growth area across the country and specialist places are in high demand. The Governing Body's proposal to create additional secondary places for pupils with ASC releases pressure on other special schools across the city.

How will this affect staff?

The alteration to the age range could provide staff with greater career development with the opportunity to teach KS3 pupils.

Any changes to existing terms and conditions resulting from this proposal will be with full consultation with the trade unions and teaching associations. The pupils who stay on in the school into Y7 will receive a full entitlement curriculum for their age. This will be delivered through a primary model with the staff they are familiar with. Additional special teachers with secondary experience will be available to support the school as required. Training will be provided to staff as required.

Travel and Transport:

The school will update their travel plan in line with the proposed changes and increase in pupil numbers.

The Local Authority transport arrangements for the additional year groups with special needs will apply (Birmingham City Council's Children and Young Persons Travel Service).

Will there be changes to the school building?

There will be no changes to the existing school building. However, temporary accommodation will be provided on the school site to cater for the additional Y7 and Y8 pupils.

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

The project costs are yet to be confirmed but will be funded by the Local Authority from the High Needs Capital Allocation.

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a non statutory process the Governing Body must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools.

Consultation

This document is the consultation document. We welcome comments on the proposal between **10th January 2023 – 7th February 2023**.

All comments received during the consultation period will be considered by the Governing Body, after consideration the Governing Body will make a decision whether to proceed with the proposal to temporarily alter the age range of Hamilton School. We will notify you of the decision when this has been made.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected,

- Hamilton School will continue to offer up to 123 places for ASC and SCLN.
- Pupils will leave the school at the end of Y6 and will not have the opportunity to remain at the school in Y7.

How do I comment on this proposal?

The Governing Body welcomes any comment on this proposal within the 4 weeks consultation period.

Any comments must be received no later than 7th February 2023

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/schoolorganisationsot10188hamilton>

You can write to us at:

By email:

eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

By letter to:

School Organisation

Education Infrastructure

Birmingham City Council

PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for the Governing Body to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal [*some dates are indicative]. There will be an opportunity for parents/carers and members of staff to meet with members of the Governing Body together with officers from the local authority on 23rd January to ask any questions about the proposal, Details of the meeting will be sent separately.

Action	Date
Start 4 week consultation period	10 th January 2023
Stakeholder engagement sessions	23 rd January 2023*
Finish 4 week consultation period	7 th February 2023
Final decision	9 th February 2023
Changes implemented	1 st September 2023

Hamilton School
Alter the age range from 4–11 to 4–13 years

Thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts on this Governing Body 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 school	
Parent/Carer of pupil at the school	
School Governor at the school	
School Staff at the school	
Other (please specify)	

Please provide your comments on the proposal.
(Continue on additional page, as required.)