

Consultation by the Governing Body of Hamilton School

**Proposal to Alter the age
range and increase pupil
number**

Introduction

The Governing Body of Hamilton School 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 School		
Name:	Hamilton 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 of Hamilton School, in collaboration with Birmingham City Council and the leadership of Hamilton Special School, is proposing to carry out the following changes at Hamilton Special School:

- Alter the age range from 4 – 11 years to 4 – 16 years.
- Increase pupil number from 108 to 287
- Effective from 1st September 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:

- Creation of a secondary school building to accommodate 160 additional pupils
- Continuity for current pupils at the school, enabling pupils in Y6 to remain at the school if this is appropriate
- 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%. Allowing pupils at Hamilton School to continue their secondary education until the end of Y11 and enabling the school to offer additional secondary places will reduce the pressure on other schools offering ASC places in other parts of the city.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved (following full consultation), it is intended that the proposal to permanently alter the age range of Hamilton School from 4 – 11 years to 4 -16 years will be from 1st September 2025.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

The proposal is for a new secondary school building to be built to accommodate 160 additional pupils. Current pupils will have the option to remain at the same school to continue their education.

Pupils in Year 6 would have the opportunity for their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to be reviewed and amended by the Local Authority SENAR Department to reflect continuation into secondary provision in Year 7 at Hamilton School. Parents and Carers would continue to have opportunities to meet with professionals annually to review the EHCP, as is normally the case in the primary phase of the school.

Specific facilities will be made available to aid pupils educational needs. More outdoor space is being planned for pupils which will aid and support in pupils development.

How will the proposal increase educational standards and parental choice?

The proposed age range change at Hamilton School will allow pupils to continue in an educational setting they are familiar with, while not affecting parental preference.

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 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 provides staff with greater career development with the opportunity to teach secondary school pupils. Any changes to existing terms and conditions resulting from this proposal will be made in full consultation with the trade unions and teaching associations. The alteration will be delivered through an existing primary model that staff are already familiar with. Additional specialist teachers with secondary experience will be available to support the school as required. Training and development will be provided to staff as required.

Travel and Transport:

If the proposal is approved 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 further changes to the current school buildings. A secondary school building will be built to accommodate 160 pupils, this will be located at the rear of the current school land. Additional play areas and parking (including drop-off and pick-up points for minibuses and cars) will also be created.

The secondary school will provide the necessary classrooms, break-out areas, dining, health and fitness, and hygiene provision required for the profile of the pupils that will be attending the school.

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

The funding for the creating of secondary provision is estimated to cost approximately £16 million funded by the Local Authority from the High Needs Capital Allocation.

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a statutory process which must be followed to make these sorts of changes to schools. The process is in three parts:

Pre-publication: 6th June 2023 – 18th July 2023

Length of time: 6 weeks

Stakeholders were invited to comment on the pre-publication proposal. A total of 30 responses were received, 26 in favour, 2 opposed, 2 neither / don't know. The responses were from 1 pupil at the school, 16 parents / carer of pupils at the school, 11 members of staff and 2 others. The results and comments from the consultation are set out in Appendix 1 of this briefing.

The next stage of the consultation will be the Statutory Publication and Representation Period of the School's proposal in the autumn term (21st September 2023 until 19th October 2023).

Feedback has been considered before proceeding to the next stage. Pre-publication closed on 18th July 2023.

The pre-publication consultation results will be analysed and shared on the Beheard website:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/schoolorganisationsot10191hamilton>

Statutory Publication “Representation period”: 21st September 2023 – 19th October 2023

Length of time: 4 weeks

Stakeholders are invited to comment on the statutory proposal as part of the representation period.

Stakeholders are encouraged to comment again during this representation period as comments from the Pre-publication are not carried forward. Only the comments from this representation period of the consultation are presented to the decision maker.

Decision: 19th October 2023 – 19th December 2023*

Length of time: 2 months

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 maker is Birmingham City Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families.

*some dates may be subject to change

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.
- The school will continue to offer Y7 and Y8 places until August 2025
- After September 2025 pupils will not have the opportunity to remain at the school in Y7 and Y8.

How do I comment on this proposal?

Birmingham City Council welcomes any comment on this proposal. (please include **Ref: HamiltonSOT10191Statpub** in all correspondence)

Any comments must be received no later than 19th October 2023

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/schoolorganisationsot10191hamiltonstatpub>

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 us to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal.

Action	Date
Start 6 week pre-publication consultation period	6 th June 2023 – 18 th July 2023
Stakeholder engagement sessions	12 th July 2023
Finish 4 week statutory consultation period	21 th September 2023 – 19 th October 2023
Final decision	19 th December 2023
Changes implemented	September 2025

Hamilton School
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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 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.)