

Kings Heath Boys

Pre-publication Proposal to change the provision of the school from Single Sex Boys' School to Co- Educational school

February 2023



Introduction

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

School Information

Type:	Community School		
Name:	Kings Heath Boys	DFE:	330/4063
Address:	Chamberlain Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B13 0QP		
Ward:	Billesley	Constituency:	Selly Oak
Age Range:	11-16	Sixth Form:	NA
Gender:	Boys	Capacity:	840 (Sept 2023)
Last Ofsted:	February 2022	Ofsted Rating	Good

What changes are proposed?

Birmingham City Council are proposing to carry out the following changes at Kings Heath School:

- Change the provision from a single sex (boys) school to a co-educational school

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

Birmingham City Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and is proposing to deliver the above prescribed changes as part of our Basic Need programme.

Kings Heath Boys is a community secondary school located in the south of Birmingham. The School currently has a capacity of 840 pupil places. Despite expanding in September 2020 to support basic need, the school is still experiencing a number of unfilled pupil places. It is the only school within 3 miles without a waiting list. Unfilled places can impact on the funding of a school and can create financial challenges.

Why has this school been chosen / identified?

The school has received representation from local families who believe there is insufficient co-educational places in the south of the city, particularly schools with a comprehensive admissions policy (e.g. not faith based). A detailed analysis by the local authority supports that view and notes that whilst there are sufficient school places in the area, there is a relatively high concentration of single sex schools locally.

Moreover, girls' schools are generally more popular with families in Birmingham than boys' schools and in recent years single sex girls' schools have filled with on time applications and first preferences, leaving little or no spare places for girls moving into the area or applying outside of the normal admissions round. Kings Heath Boys have expressed an interest in becoming co-educational and the local authority believe that a co-educational school in this location would offer a valuable alternative for girls living in the area and it is expected that there will be sufficient places for boys, particularly given a number of boys' schools in the south of the city are

undersubscribed. On balance, we are confident this proposal will secure beneficial outcomes for local families as well as proving a long-term sustainable solution for the school.

Evidence of Demand:

In this local area:

- Demand for single sex boys' places has historically been lower than for girls' schools and a number of boys' schools across the south of the city have unfilled pupil places. After parental preference has been accounted for, a disproportionate number of vacancies tend to be at single sex boys' schools.
- There is a higher demand for girls' places as indicated by admission preference data and waiting lists
- There are more single sex girls' places available but still does not necessarily fully meet demand.
- During the last Year 7 admissions round, 578 girls' parental preferences could not be initially met. Of those, 109 lived closer to Kings Heath Boys than the school they were initially placed at, although some were later offered a preferred school.
- Girls in the area are more likely to be placed at a school further away from their home/preference. Had it been possible to place girls at Kings Heath Boys, their average journey to school would have been reduced by over 1.5 miles.

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

In terms of the impact on other schools, we do not expect girls' schools in the area to lose pupils as they remain popular with Birmingham families. Other boys' schools may benefit if families are specifically looking for single sex provision. Overall, the number of places will not change and the number of pupils transferring from primary schools is expected to be high for a few years at least. The distribution of male and female pupils at schools in the area may be altered but we believe that will better serve families in terms of meeting parental preference.

KHBS is engaging with schools around the local area to inform them of the proposal to change the school's provision from single sex to co-education.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

If the proposal is approved, the implementation will be on a phased approach, with the new year 7 cohort being open to all genders. The school curriculum and activities will be adapted to meet the needs of all genders.

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:

As there is no increase in pupil numbers, we do not expect there to be any adverse impact on travel and transport arrangements. However, as we expect places to be available to local families, pupils will have the option to walk to school hence reducing some of the congestion at the start and end of the school day. School will work with our 'Modeshift Stars' scheme to update their travel plan.

Will there be changes to the school building?

The building will remain the same however some internal configuration will be required to accommodate female pupils. Suitable toilet and washing / change facilities will need to be adapted to cater for all genders.

Will this definitely happen?

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

Pre-publication

Length of time: 6 weeks

To engage with stakeholders and get feedback on proposal. All stakeholders will be invited to comment on the pre-publication proposal as early engagement.

Birmingham City Council will consider all feedback before proceeding to the next stage.

Statutory Publication / Representation period

Length of time: 4 weeks

The full proposal document will be published which will include the analysis of responses from the pre-publication consultation period. All stakeholders will be invited again to comment on the proposal.

The feedback is then analysed and presented to the decision maker, who in this case is the Cabinet member for Children and Families.

Decision

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 will be published 17th July at the latest.**

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected Kings Health Boys School will continue to operate as a single sex (boys) school. If places remain unfilled, it is likely school will face financial challenges.

How do I comment on this proposal?

We invite all interested parties to give us their comment on this proposal. Stakeholders can also complete the form below and leave it at the school.

Any comments must be received no later than 16th March 2023

*You can comment online via: <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/sot10189khbspre-pub>

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 [*some dates are indicative].

Key dates

Action	Date
Pre-publication	2nd February 2023 – 16th March 2023
Stakeholder engagement sessions	13th February 2023 Parent Drop in (8am to 8:45am) School Council (10am to 10.50am)* Staff (1.10pm to 1.40pm) Staff (3.05pm to 3.45pm) Parent (4pm to 5pm)
Statutory notice published	20th April 2023*
Start 4 week consultation period	20th April 2023
Finish 4 week consultation period	17th May 2023
Final decision deadline	17th July 2023*
Changes implemented	1st September 2024

Groups consulted:

Kings Heath Boys : governors, staff, parents/carers and pupils
 Birmingham City Councillors
 Member of Parliament
 NHS partners
 Birmingham Diocese and Archdiocesan
 Birmingham Schools
 Trade unions / professional associations
 Birmingham City Council Officers and departments

The Department for Education – School Organisation
Office of the Schools Adjudicator

Kings Heath Boys :

Pre-publication Proposal to change Single Sex School to Co-Educational

(our ref: SOT10189)

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 of the School	
Parent / Carer of pupil of the School	
School Governor of the School	
School Staff of the School	
Local Resident	
Elected Birmingham Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please describe e.g. staff of another school)	

Please provide your comments on the proposal.

(Continue on additional page, as required.)