

Kings Heath Boys

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

April 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 built capacity of 840 pupil places. The school expanded in September 2019 to support city's basic need; however, a number of pupil places remain unfilled. 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. 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 data indicates that this still does not fully meet demand in some areas.
- Girls in the area are more likely to be placed at a school further away from their home / preference. 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. 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 number of years. 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.

Leadership from King Heath Boys has engaged with schools around the local area and within the network 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 existing year groups would continue to be single sex boys' as part of the school's transition to co-education. A "transition order" will be requested as part of the decision process which formalises the gradual transition. The school curriculum and activities will meet the needs of all genders. It will take the school 5 years to become a fully co-educational school and pupils will be supported during this transition.

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.

How will this affect staff?

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

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, washing and changing facilities will cater for all genders.

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

The ongoing maintenance and running costs for this provision change will be the responsibility of the school and will be funded by the school budget.

There will be some branding changes to the school including school name, school uniform and signage around the school. The governing body is working with the school's leadership on rebranding the school image if the proposal is approved. This will be funded from the school's budget.

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 – finished

Length of time: 6 weeks

Stakeholders were invited to comment on the pre-publication proposal. Birmingham City Council and the School considered the feedback before proceeding to the next stage. Pre-publication closed on 16th March 2023.

The pre-publication consultation results have been analysed are available on the Beheard website: <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/sot10189khbspre-pub>

Statutory Publication “Representation period” – started/current

Length of time: 4 weeks

This complete proposal document will be published. Stakeholders will be invited to comment on the proposal.

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

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. **The decision will be published 18th July at the latest.**

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected Kings Heath Boys School will continue to operate as a single sex (boys) school. If places remain unfilled, it is likely that the school will face financial challenges. Girls in the local area may continue to be placed further away from where they live.

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 18th May 2023.

You can comment online via BeHeard:

www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/sot10189kxhstat-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

Stakeholders can also complete the attached form and leave it at the school.

What happens next?

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

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice published	20th April 2023
Start 4 week consultation period	20th April 2023
Finish 4 week consultation period	18th May 2023
Final decision deadline	18th July 2023
Changes implemented	1st September 2024

Groups consulted:

Kings Heath Boys School: 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:
Proposal to change Single Sex School to Co-Educational**
(our ref: SOT10189 Stat Pub)

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.)