

Springfield House Community Special School

**Proposal to:
Remove the Boarding
Provision**

September 2022



Introduction

Birmingham City Council (the Council), as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to make changes to Springfield House Community Special School (the School) which is one of Birmingham's 27 special schools.

The School can offer up to 96 places for pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, (SEMH). The school has boarding provision on the school site.

School Information

Type:	Special School (Local Authority Maintained)		
Name:	Springfield House Community Special School	DFE:	3307047
Address:	Kenilworth Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 0AJ		
Ward:	Knowle	Constituency:	Meriden
Age Range:	4 - 11 years	Sixth Form:	NA
Gender:	Mixed	Pupil Places:	96
Last Ofsted:	March 2022	Ofsted Rating	Inadequate

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to Springfield House Community Special School:

- Remove boarding provision

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The Council has been working closely with the School on their education improvement journey and supporting the management and maintenance of this school site, which is challenging.

- The school has not had any pupils on roll that have boarding as part of their EHCP for many years.
- The Council is continuing to fund the unfilled boarding places from High Needs funding.
- The residential buildings currently reserved for boarding pupils could be repurposed to enhance the education of pupils on roll.
- Removal of the boarding provision would enable the school to focus their resources on their education improvement journey.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers (following full consultation) it is intended that the proposal to remove the boarding provision will be implemented on **1st April 2023**.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Although there are no pupils on roll at the School with boarding as part of their EHCP, some pupils who previously used the residential buildings for extra-curricular activities (including staying overnight) would notice that these activities are no longer available. If boarding provision is removed, pupils at the School will notice that they start to use the repurposed spaces as part of their education programme.

Evidence of demand

As there have been no boarding pupils on roll at Springfield House Community Special School for many years, there is no evidence that the removal would impact on the level of demand and supply for this type of provision in the city.

How will this affect staff?

Any changes to existing terms and conditions or staff reductions resulting from the removal of boarding provision will be addressed in full consultation with the trade unions and teaching associations.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There are no direct changes to the buildings in order to remove boarding provision from the education offered by the School. If the boarding provision is removed, it is intended that the current residential spaces will be repurposed for the benefit and education of pupils on roll at the School. The associated work will be completed with careful consideration and will not disrupt the education programme of pupils.

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

There are no direct project costs for removing the boarding provision from the education offered by the School. Any repurposing of the residential spaces would be supported by the Council.

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools.

This document is the proposal for statutory (formal) consultation, referred to as the “pre-publication period”. Any comments received at this stage will be considered by the Council, as the proposer and decision maker for this type of change.

All comments received during the representation period will be forwarded to the decision maker for consideration. Within two months of the end of the representation period the Council’s Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families will make a decision. It is only at that point that we will be able to say whether the boarding provision will be removed.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected, Springfield House Community Special School will remain a special school offering boarding provision. The School will still have to maintain and resource the residential spaces, and the Council will continue to allocate High Needs funding to the School, even with no boarding pupils on roll.

How can I make my views known?

We invite all interested parties to give us their comments on this proposal.
Any comments must be received no later than **20th October 2022**.

You can comment online via:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/springfieldhousesot10181>

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

(please include: **Springfield SOT10181** in all correspondence)

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
Public Notice	22 nd September 2022
Statutory Consultation – Start	22 nd September 2022
Statutory Consultation – End	20 th October 2022
Decision deadline	20 th December 2022
Changes implemented	1st April 2023

Groups consulted:

- Springfield House Community Special 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

Springfield House Community Special School: Remove boarding provision

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

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