

Springfield House Community Special School

**Proposal to:
Make a Prescribed
Alteration Through an
Increase in Pupil
Numbers**

April 2024



Introduction

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

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:	87
Last Ofsted:	June 2022	Ofsted Rating	Good

What changes are proposed?

The Council is proposing to carry out the following change to the School:

- Permanently increase the number of places the School can offer to pupils, from 87 to 115 from September 2024.

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The School can currently offer up to 87 pupil places. The School currently offers support to pupils with Speech, language and communication needs for Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH).

Evidence of Demand:

There is significant need for more school places in Birmingham for children with EHCPs, both in special schools and Resource Bases in mainstream schools. There has been an increase in the number of school-age pupils with EHCPs in Birmingham, by over 900 in the last three years. There is also an increase in requests for statutory assessment which could result in EHCPs; these requests are currently averaging 150 each month.

When will these changes happen?

Following this consultation period, if the proposal is approved by the decision maker, the changes will be implemented from September 2024.

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 within the area. There is currently a shortage of SEND places and no indication that other schools offering SEND provision will be negatively affected. Any impact on other schools should be positive as this proposal creates places for pupils with SEMH needs and so releases places at other schools to meet the needs of other pupils.

How will the proposal increase educational standards and parental choice?

The Council is keen to ensure that future places are provided in the areas that they are needed, helping children to attend a school nearer to home and as part of their local community.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Current pupils may notice the small increase to the total number of pupils at the School.

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:

The impact on transport and travel will be minimal. The school will continue to update their travel plan, as and when required. The Local Education Authority transport arrangements for children with special needs will apply (Home to School Transport).

Will there be changes to the school building?

In order to accommodate the increased number of pupils, two classrooms which are currently not in use will be reconfigured. These are:

- A former Information Technology suite which has not been utilised for a number of years.
- The former dining area.

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

The funding for the creating the additional places is estimated as approximately £170,000 this would be funded by the Local Authority from the High Needs Capital Allocation.

The ongoing maintenance and running costs of these reconfigured spaces will be the responsibility of the school.

Will this definitely happen?

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. Following this statutory consultation, the proposal will be presented to the Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture; they are the decision maker for this type of proposal.

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 on the consultation website below (BeHeard) and stakeholders will be notified.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If the proposed increase is not approved for implementation, the school will continue to operate at 87 places. This will mean a higher number of pupils will be unable to remain at, or be offered places at, the School in the future. Alternative and additional

places would need to be provided at other schools, which could have a negative impact on pupils out of school on travel arrangements to other provisions.

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 10th May 2024.

You can comment online via: <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/springfieldhousesot10199>

You can write to us at:

(please include: **Springfield House SOT10199 in all correspondence**)

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

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
Statutory notice published	11 th April 2024
Start 4-week consultation period	12 th April 2024
Finish 4-week consultation period	10 th May 2024
Final decision deadline	10 th July 2024
Changes implemented	1st September 2024

Groups consulted:

Springfield House 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 School:
Increase pupil numbers from 87 to 115 from September 2024**

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 page, as required.)