

# Consultation Document

*Proposal to Expand by Enlargement and  
Alter the Upper Age Range of a  
Maintained Mainstream School*

**Turves Green Boys' School**

Birmingham City Council Directorate of Development and Culture

November 2013

## **Introduction**

Birmingham City Council, the local authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to expand and alter the upper age limit of Turves Green Boys' School from September 2016.

These changes are explained in the sections below. This consultation starts on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and will run for 6 weeks until 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in line with guidance from the Department for Education on 'Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form' (February 2010).

## **School Information**

Turves Green Boys' School is a comprehensive maintained school located in Northfield area of Birmingham. The school caters for boys aged 11 to 16. It can accommodate 625 students in Years 7 – 11. Currently the school operates at 125 places (4 classes) per year group.

Turves Green Boys' School worked in conjunction with Birmingham City Council to submit a successful bid to the Education Funding Agency under the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) to renew its school buildings. The expansion of Turves Green Boys' was part of the bid as a result of the upcoming demand on school places across the City.

The School has been included in the second batch of West Midlands' schools to be rebuilt with a forecast completion date of Spring 2016.

## **What changes are proposed?**

Birmingham City Council is proposing to expand Turves Green Boys' School from September 2016 across ages 11-16 by one form of entry. We are also proposing to alter the upper age limit of the school from 16 to 18 to add a sixth form.

The school will therefore be able to admit 150 students through each Year 7 - 11 rather than the current 125 pupils. This means that there will be 5 classes per year group. The growth of the school will be gradual as larger numbers of children are admitted into Year 7 each year and work their way through the school. The alteration to the upper age limit to accommodate sixth form provision will mean the school can take 100 students across Years 12 and 13.

## **Why do we want to do this?**

The City of Birmingham has one of the youngest populations in Europe and the number of births in the city has risen rapidly over the last few years. Our projections show that we need to provide an additional 70 forms of entry for Year 7 places in the

city between 2014 and 2019. Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority, has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and seek to work with all schools and education settings to meet Basic Need.

Under the Government's Raising the Participation Age (RPA) agenda, there is also a Citywide need for additional sixth form provision to support the need for all young people to participate in education or training until at least their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday from 2014, enabling students to achieve potential and go onto further or higher education or skilled employment. It is proposed that the Sixth Form will become an integral part of Turves Green Boys' School to enable more students to continue their studies after Year 11.

### **Why has this school been chosen?**

Turves Green Boys' School was successful under the PSBP bid to rebuild and expand the school, including the addition of sixth form.

To decide which schools should be expanded, Birmingham City Council set out a number of criteria including whether the school is in the right place, whether it is popular with local families, whether it has sufficient existing space or space on which to build or accommodate a new build and whether it has strong leadership capacity to cope with the additional students. Turves Green Boys' School is central to the upcoming area of demand, it is popular with local families, will have enough space to accommodate additional classrooms through the rebuild and, has the leadership capacity to cope well with the proposed changes. The enlargement would bring the admission numbers in line with Turves Green Girls' School on the site who operate at 150 per year group.

### **How will this affect students at the school?**

Students will notice some changes but these are likely to be limited. The plan is for the school to grow by 25 students per year group for 5 years so the change in pupil numbers will occur gradually. By 2019 each year group across Years 7 – 11 will hold 150 students. The first intake to Sixth Form will take place in September 2016.

By expanding the school, we will enable a greater number of local students to access Turves Green Boys' successful provision and benefit from its supportive and committed environment. The school has high aspirations for its students to achieve their full academic potential. The addition of the Sixth Form will also support students to prepare for the next stage of their journey by obtaining the skills to succeed after their school life.

### **How will this affect staff?**

Staff will generally be unaffected; however, a larger school will offer more opportunities for professional development, providing access to more resources and expertise and enabling staff to further develop new learning experiences in order to continue delivering good quality provision for its students.

### **How will this affect local schools and colleges?**

Our projections indicate that additional school places are required in the area from September 2017. We do not envisage any negative effects on other local schools in terms of their future admissions numbers or student numbers. The additional form of entry at Turves Green Boys' School in 2016 will enable the school to plan for its future intake, supporting local students and their families to find places in a local school.

Turves Green Boys' School will admit directly to their Sixth Form from their secondary provision and will also take some external students. The new Sixth Form will provide an increased offer for the local area. Admissions criteria for the sixth form will follow the criteria set out by the Local Authority, so there should be little impact on other local Post-16 provision, and it will provide greater choice for local families.

### **Will there be changes to the school building?**

Under PSBP and as a result of the proposed increase in places, extensive work will be undertaken at Turves Green Boys' School to rebuild the school. We expect this work to be completed in time for early 2016. It is proposed that the first additional 25 children will be admitted in September 2016 in Year 7 once the building work is completed. The first sixth form intake will also take place in September 2016.

The building works will be centrally managed through the Education Funding Agency (EFA), and the school will be delivered through the EFA contractor framework, funded by capital grant. The EFA project management team, in consultation with the school, will ensure that the classroom sizes are in line with government building guidelines and that students' learning will not be unduly disrupted. The new school buildings will be subject to planning approval.

### **Will this definitely happen?**

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. We are now entering the consultation stage during which we want to hear your views on the proposal to expand the secondary and alter the upper age limit to add a sixth form. If, after considering your views it still remains to be a viable option, we will publish full proposals and allow a further six weeks for people to formally

comment on them. Within two months of the end of that six week period, the Council's Cabinet committee will make a final decision. It is only at that point that we will be able to say with certainty that the school will be expanded.

### **What will happen if this proposal is rejected?**

If a decision is taken that Turves Green Boys' School should not be permanently expanded then the school will continue to operate at its current number of pupils, although the rebuild of the school will continue to take place. This means that the school will continue to operate at 125 places per year group from Years 7 – 11, with no sixth form. It is likely that Birmingham City Council will need to pursue alternative solutions for providing additional mainstream places in the area as a result of projected growth in secondary numbers. This is likely to mean that some parents will have to travel much further to take their child to school which could possibly leave this school open to an increase in admission appeals, which can result in larger class sizes.

### **How can I make my views known?**

During this consultation period, you have the opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposed enlargement of Turves Green Boys' School. You can make your views known by completing the attached consultation response form and returning it or writing to:

School Organisation Team  
Education and Skills Infrastructure  
Directorate of Development & Culture  
PO Box 15842  
Birmingham  
B2 2RT

Email: [lucy.dumbleton@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.dumbleton@birmingham.gov.uk)  
[mary.lowe@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:mary.lowe@birmingham.gov.uk)

Tel: 0121 303 8847

Please note the closing date for comments is **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014**. Although it will not be possible to respond to individual comments, all of the issues raised during the consultation will be considered when we decide whether or not to move to the next stage of this process.

### **What happens next?**

The following timescale for the proposal to be implemented is for guidance only. At any point during the process, the proposal might be withdrawn or rejected by the

Education Funding Agency or City Council. The dates set out below meet the government requirements for us to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal and every effort will be made to keep to them.

Possible Timeline for Expansion

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Consultation begins	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
Consultation ends	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2014
Statutory notice published	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2014
Beginning of 6 week representation period	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2014
End of 6 week representation period	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2014
Final decision made	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
School is expanded	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2016

## Consultation Response Form

### Proposal to expand Turves Green Boys' School by enlargement and alter the upper age limit from 16 to 18 with effect from 1st September 2016

Please help us analyse these responses by indicating your interest in the proposal:

Parent / carer of a pupil

Governor

Member of staff

Other

If other, please specify interest

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Please provide any comments or suggestions you might have on the proposal to expand and alter the upper age limit of Turves Green Boys' School.

Please return this form to the address provided by **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014**.

Address: School Organisation Team, Education and Skills Infrastructure, PO Box 15842, Birmingham, B2 2RT

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.