

Ward End Primary School

**Proposal to:
Establish SEN provision
(resource base).**

28th April 2022



Introduction

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

Pre-publication consultation:

The Council wrote to stakeholders on 18th March inviting any initial comments, questions or concerns related to the proposal outlined. Stakeholders were asked to respond no later than 8th April and no comments or questions were received.

School Information

Type:	Community school		
Name:	Ward End Primary School	DFE:	330/2108
Address:	Ingleton Road, Birmingham B8 2RA		
Ward:	Ward End	Constituency:	Hodge Hill
Age Range:	3 – 11 years	Sixth Form:	no
Gender:	Mixed	Capacity:	840
Last Ofsted:	November 2012	Ofsted Rating	Outstanding

What changes are proposed?

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

- Establish SEN provision;
- 'Resource Base' for up to 18 pupils;
- Type of need: Autistic Spectrum Conditions

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The School is a mainstream community school rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. The School has a capacity of 840 pupils and a nursery class that accommodates up to 52 part-time places.

Why has this school been chosen/identified?

The School currently offers additional support to pupils through the Enhanced Learning Hub. The hub is used to support pupils on roll which have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). The School does not currently have a formalised Resource Base. In collaboration with the Council it is proposed that the School establish a SEN resource base. Due to the steadily growing demand in Birmingham, this change would help to provide places for pupils with an EHCP for ASC and help the Council and the School in their strategic aims.

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. In the last four years the Council has increased the total number of special school places available to pupils with EHCPs by 10%. There has been an increase in the number of pupils with EHCPs in Birmingham, by over 800 in the last two years. There is also an

increase in requests for statutory assessments which may lead to 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 **1st September 2022**.

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, as the Resource Base will offer specialist city wide provision for which there is a need. There is currently a shortage of ASC places and no indication that other schools offering this type of provision will be negatively affected. Any impact on other schools should be positive as this proposal creates places for pupils with ASC 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. The proposed 18 place Resource Base will increase the number of primary places at an 'Outstanding' school for pupils requiring ASC provision and provide greater choice for parents.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Current pupils may notice the small increase to the total number of pupils at the School. This change would not affect the admission arrangements, admission number or process for mainstream pupils. The 18 Resource Base places would be reserved for pupils with an EHCP for ASC needs with places being commissioned and offered through the Council's Special Education Needs Assessment and Review service (SENAR). The intention is that 12 pupils would benefit from the Resource Base from 1st September 2022 with the remaining 6 places filled through the commissioning and referral process.

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?

Yes. There will be a reconfiguration of spaces in the school. Space previously used for nursery provision is undergoing refurbishment which would allow this change to be implemented.

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

The funding for the creation of the Resource Base will come from the Council's Special Provision Fund Allocation. £75,951 has been identified for this project. The ongoing maintenance and running costs for the resource base will be the responsibility of the school and they will be provided with regular funding from the Council's High Needs Block budget.

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?

The School will continue to offer Enhanced Learning Hub for its pupils and would consider ways to ensure a stable and sustainable future for the hub. This would also mean that the Council would need to identify alternative/additional places for pupils that have an EHCP for ASC provision.

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 Thursday 26th May 2022

You can comment online via:

www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/ward-end-primary2022

You can write to us at:

By email: edsi.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

By letter:

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 the Council to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal.

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice published	28 th April 2022
Start 4-week consultation period	28 th April 2022
Finish 4-week consultation period	26 th May 2022
Final decision deadline	26 th July 2022
Changes implemented	1 st September 2022

Groups notified of this proposal:

Parents and Pupils of Ward End Primary School
 Staff and Governors of Ward End Primary School
 Birmingham City Councillors
 Member of Parliament for the constituency
 NHS partners
 Birmingham Diocese and Archdiocesan
 Birmingham Schools
 Neighbouring Local Authorities
 Trade unions / professional associations
 Birmingham City Council Officers and departments
 The Department for Education – School Organisation
 Office of the Schools Adjudicator
 Public notice in Birmingham Post Newspaper

**Ward End Primary School:
Establish SEN Provision (Resource Base)**

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 person/stakeholder are you (please select one answer)?

Pupil at Ward End Primary School	
Parent/Carer of pupil of Ward End Primary School	
Governor at Ward End Primary School	
Staff at Ward End Primary School	
Local Resident	
Birmingham City Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other - please describe (for example: staff of another school; or, parent of prospective pupil)	

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

Personal or identifying information is removed from responses before sharing with the decision maker