

Full Proposal Document

The Pines Special School

*Proposal to Increase the
Number of Places at The
Pines Special School from
190 to 230*

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is about to commence a consultation on changes to The Pines Special School (a foundation special school).

School Information

Type:	Foundation Special School		
Name:	The Pines Special School	DFE:	330 07045
Address:	Marsh Hill, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7EY		
Ward:	Stockland Green	District:	Erdington
Age Range:	2 – 16 years	Capacity:	190
Last Ofsted:	29 th January 2019	Ofsted Rating	Outstanding

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to The Pines Special School

- Increase the number of places the school can offer from 190 to 230.

Why do we want to do this?

Birmingham City Council is proposing the above prescribed changes, in line with our Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Inclusion. To accommodate the growth in demand for special school places a planned programme of additional special places is being implemented as a priority.

The intention of this proposal is to increase the number of places at The Pines Special School to help address a shortage of secondary places for children with Statements of Educational Need or Education and Health Care Plan for Autistic Spectrum Condition(ASC). It will allow more children to remain at The Pines Special School until they are 16 instead of transferring to a new provision at the age of 11 years; and, enable a greater number of pupils to access outstanding provision. The school has an excellent teaching record, with outstanding achievement and progress for its students. The proposed changes will offer professional development and improve retention and recruitment of the school's high quality teaching and non-teaching staff.

The school currently caters for up to 190 places for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan for (ASC), of these 190 places : 130 primary aged pupils and up to 60 secondary aged pupils.

The proposal will be to increase the total number of places the school can accommodate up to 230. It is intended that the additional 40 places will be for secondary aged pupils, increasing the number of secondary places the school could cater for from 60 to 100 with effect from 1st September 2019; however, these places will be created on a phased basis.

Evidence of Demand:

Birmingham has a young and growing population. Birmingham has the highest proportion of under-15 year olds of any major city in Europe. 30% of Birmingham's

residents are under 20; the highest proportion of under 20 year olds of any major city in the UK.

Special school population is continuing to grow. There is an increased demand for specialist provision for pupils with ASC or Social Emotional Mental Health needs (SEMH).

Over the last 18 months the Local Authority has been working to increase capacity across our special school estate. We have commissioned additional places projects across 19 special schools.

The proposal to increase the number of places offered at The Pines Special School for pupils with ASC, will help to address the shortage of secondary places for pupils with statements of ASC provision in the City.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers (following full consultation) it is intended that the changes would be implemented in **September 2019**. It is proposed that these places will be provided on a phased basis from that time

Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?

There should be no negative effects on other mainstream schools (non-SEN), as The Pines Special School offers specialist city wide provision. There is currently a shortage of ASC places, so no indication that there would be any negative impact on other ASC schools. 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 that may better meet the needs of other pupils.

How will the proposal increase educational standards and parental choice?

The Local Authority 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 increase in pupil numbers at The Pines Special School will increase the number of secondary places for pupils requiring ASC provision at an 'Outstanding' school and provide greater choice for parents.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Pupils will notice some changes but those are likely to be limited. The school will grow gradually. The increase will be phased so the change in pupil numbers will occur over a period of time. School places will be commissioned by Special Educational needs Assessment and Review Team (SENAR) in line with the SEN code of practice. The SEN designation for the school will not change. With the additional pupils, the school might decide to organise the school differently to ensure educational continuity but that will be the school's decision.

How will this affect staff?

Staff will generally be unaffected; however, a larger school might offer more opportunities for professional development.

Will there be changes to the school building and if so what are the project costs and how will they be met?

Capacity was created as part of the last school organisation proposals which were approved in August 2016 to relocate the school, alter the upper age range and increase the number of places. The cost of the recent refurbishment works were included in the most recent Cabinet Member report approved in December 2018.

Travel and Transport:

The impact on transport and travel will be minimal as the places will be allocated on a phased basis through the Local Authority's Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review (SENAR) team. 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 (Travel Assist).

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. We wrote to parents/pupils/staff and other stakeholders regarding the forthcoming proposals on 15th February 2019 and invited comments until 8th March 2019. During this pre-publication consultation we received no comments regarding the proposal to increase the number of places that The Pines Special School can offer.

This document is the full proposal for statutory public consultation, referred to as the "representation period". All comments received during the representation period will be forwarded to the decision makers for consideration.

Within two months of the end of the representation period the Council's Cabinet Member for Education Skills and Culture, jointly with the Director for Education & Skills, will make a final decision.

It is only at that point that we will be able to say with certainty that The Pines Special School will increase the number of places to 240.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If the proposed increase is not approved for implementation, the school will continue to operate at its current size. This will mean that a higher number of pupils will be unable to remain at The Pines at the secondary stage. Additional places would be provided at another school which could have a negative impact on pupil travel distances.

How can I make my views known?

We invite all interested people to give us their views and comment on the proposal. Any comments must be received no later than 11th April 2019.

You can comment online via BeHeard:

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

You can write to the Local Authority:

- By email: eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk
(Please include **The Pines** in the email subject)

- By letter, or by completing the attached comments form to:
The Local Authority,
School Organisation Team,
PO Box 15843,
Birmingham, B2 2RT.

What happens next?

The following timescale is for guidance only. At any point during the process, the proposal might be withdrawn or rejected by the City Council. The proposed dates 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 these dates.

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	14 th March 2019
Beginning of 4/6 week consultation period	14 th March 2019
End of 4 week consultation period	11 th April 2019
Final decision to be made no later than	11 th June 2019
Changes implemented	1 st September 2019

Thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts on these proposals.

Proposal to:

Increase the number of places at The Pines Special School from 190 to 230

Consultation Response Form

Please help us to analyse your response by completing the following:

Your name (optional*): _____

Your contact details (optional, if you would like a reply*)

Your interest in the proposal (please indicate one of the below):

Pupil	
Parent	
School Governor	
School Staff	
Local Resident	
Local Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please specify)	

Your comments:

*Personal details are used by Birmingham City Council for the purpose of this consultation only. Your details are not shared publicly or with any other organisation or company.