



# Draft Proposal Document

**Lindsworth School**

*Proposal to Lower the Age  
Range of a Community  
Special School and Increase  
the Number of Places*

**Introduction**

Birmingham City Council, as the local authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to make certain changes to Lindsworth School. These changes are explained in the sections below.

**School Information**

Lindsworth School is a community special school located in the Brandwood ward of the Selly Oak district. The school is currently commissioned for up to 113 places for pupils, from age 11 to 16, which have a statement of need or Education and Health Care Plan for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH).

Lindsworth School is federated with Springfield House School in Knowle, which is a primary aged special school for pupils who have a statement of need or Education and Health Care Plan for Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties. The schools share an Executive Head teacher and Governing Body.

The success of this federated Governing Body has been clearly evidenced through recent OFSTED inspections. Lindsworth School has been judged as Good in January 2016.

**What changes are proposed?**

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to Lindsworth School:

- Change the lower age range from 11 – 16 years to 9 – 16 years. This will mean the school will be able to educate children across Year 5 to Year 11.
- Increase the number of pupils up to 138 across the whole school.

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

Birmingham City Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. Birmingham City Council is proposing the above prescribed changes, in line with our Additional Primary Places (APP) and Special Schools Additional Places (SAPP) Programme.

Pressure for places is at its most severe in our special schools. There is currently a significant shortage of specialist provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

These proposals will allow Year 5 and 6 pupils to access the facilities offered by a secondary aged provision and enable smoother transition between primary and secondary phases. The extended provision will support pupils to access a local provision; supporting pupils who currently spend a significant time out of full time education or are educated out of the city. This will help reduce travelling time for this vulnerable group and extend the provision available to pupils with this need to more effectively meet their needs, ensuring they are safe and able to thrive.

**When will these changes happen?**

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers at Birmingham City Council, following full consultation, it is anticipated that the proposals will be implemented from **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018**.

**Why has this school been chosen?**

Additional SEMH places are required to accommodate pupils without a school place or pupils requiring more specialist provision. All schools were asked to submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) to Education & Skills Infrastructure (EdSI), to take additional pupils.

Originally, the Executive Head of Springfield House and Lindsworth submitted an expression of interest to accommodate Key Stage 2 (junior) pupils in what had been a vacant teaching block on the Lindsworth site. It was planned that the teaching block would become an annex of Springfield House School, following full refurbishment.

This expression of interest was successfully evaluated by Education Infrastructure and Special Educational Needs Assessment & Review (SENAR) officers in conjunction with representatives from the Special Head teacher Forum and Birmingham Education Partnership. Springfield House agreed to take a number of children immediately as they were without a school place. These pupils were accommodated in temporary available space at Lindsworth School site.

Following Lindsworth School's recent OFSTED judgement of Good, Education & SENAR Officers and the Leadership Team of the Springfield House and Lindsworth federation met to reassess the expression of interest. It was therefore proposed that Lindsworth School increase their pupil numbers by changing the age range, allowing them to take Year 5 and 6 pupils. Permanent space has been identified on the school site that would accommodate the proposed expansion following refurbishment.

**How will this affect pupils at the school?**

The refurbishment work will allow the school to eventually admit up to 138 pupils from Year groups 5 to 11 (age 9 – 16) with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This alteration will support the transition process from primary to secondary.

New pupil intakes will be gradual as referrals come through SENAR.

The refurbishment is in line with government standards and pupils' learning will not be unduly disrupted. Pupils at the school will have the opportunity to view the facilities, prior to moving in, to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings. The refurbishment will enable existing and future pupils to access high quality learning spaces and facilities. Please be reassured that the high standard of education and care for your child will remain.

Any amendments to individual pupil's statements that are necessary to transfer from Springfield House to Lindsworth will be completed by SENAR, the leadership team; and the parents and pupils concerned.

**How will this affect staff?**

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

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

The building work at the school will be to fully refurbish rooms in line with government standards. The Head teacher and governors have participated in the design process, as strategic partners of Birmingham City Council and as representatives of the pupils. Birmingham City Council's Education and Infrastructure Capital Team will manage this project with the contractors to ensure there is minimum disruption at the school for the pupils.

We expect all the refurbishment work to be complete by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 which would enable the school to accommodate up to 138 pupils.

**Will this definitely happen?**

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. We are publishing this draft proposal document now for information (July 2017). We will write to all parents, pupils, staff and Governors with details when we publish the final proposal for formal consultation. . This will be a four week statutory consultation for people to formally comment on the final proposal - this is referred to as the 'representation period'.

Within two months of the end of the representation period the Council's Cabinet Member for Children Families and Schools jointly with the Interim Corporate Director for Children and Young People will make a final decision.

It is only at that point that we will be able to say with certainty that the school will change their age range and increase the number of places offered above the current capacity.

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

If a decision is taken that Lindsworth School should not lower the age range, the school will remain as an 11-16 school at its current capacity. Current Year 5 and 6 pupils on site would need to be displaced to other provision. Further additional places for pupils with SEMH needs will need to be provided at another site or school. This would mean that pupils may have to travel further to school or may be educated in a provision that does not meet their specific need.

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

If you have any immediate comments or concerns please contact the school or email Birmingham City Council School Organisation Team, before 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (end of term) via: [eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk) and include Lindsworth SOT10114 in the subject.

We will write to you again with details of the formal consultation and how to comment on the final proposal in September 2017\*. The formal consultation (also known as the representation period) will run for four weeks. It is during this time that you will have the opportunity to formally let us know what you think about the proposed changes to Lindsworth School.

**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 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.

Proposed Timeline for Expansion\*

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
Beginning of 4 week representation period	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
End of 4 week representation period	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Final decision to be made no later than	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
School changes the age range to 9-16 and increases the number of places to 120	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018

\*subject to change