

Proposal Document

Harper Bell Seventh-Day Adventist School

Proposal to Alter the Lower Age Range of a Voluntary Aided Mainstream School to Remove the Nursery Provision

Introduction

Birmingham City Council as the Local Authority for Birmingham, in collaboration with the Interim Executive Board at Harper Bell Seventh-Day Adventist School, is consulting on a proposal to close the nursery provision at the school. In order to do this we are proposing to change the age range of the school. It is proposed that these changes come into effect from **31st December 2016**.

The Interim Executive Board of the school is in full support of these proposals. The changes are explained in the sections below including details of the consultation and how you can make your views known.

School Information

Harper Bell Seventh-Day Adventist School is a voluntary aided school located in the Nechells ward of the Ladywood district. The school caters for pupils aged 3 to 11. The school was established as a one form entry voluntary aided primary school. This means that each year group has one class of up to 30 places in each. The school became a maintained school as of 1st September 2011, prior to which it operated as an independent school. The school is the only school within the authority providing Seventh-Day Adventist faith provision.

The school currently has a nursery that can accommodate up to 25 full time equivalent (FTE) places. As at May 2016 there were 210 pupils on roll at the school, and of those pupils only 17 were in the nursery. Of the 17 pupils that were in the nursery in May 2016, all but 4 will be moving to Reception class in September 2016. The 4 pupils remaining in the nursery will be joined by 9 new nursery pupils for September 2016.

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to alter the lower age range of Harper Bell Seventh-Day Adventist School in order for the school to become a 4 to 11 primary and by effect remove the nursery provision at the school.

Why do we want to do this?

The nursery provision can currently accommodate up to 25 FTE or 50 part time places. The nursery has been undersubscribed for some time, with only 17 pupils on the roll at the school in May 2016. The school received an OFSTED rating of “requires improvement” when they were inspected on 12th February 2015, after which an Interim Executive Board was set up at the school. The falling rolls at the school coupled with the results of an OFSTED inspection led the Local Authority, the Interim Executive Board of the school and its management team, to take the joint decision to consult with stakeholders with a view to closure of the nursery. This will allow the school to focus resources on improving outcomes for pupils in Reception through to Year 6 and help the school on their improvement journey to achieve their aim of becoming an outstanding school.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

The pupils in the nursery will need to find alternative nursery provision in time for January 2017. Early Year Consultants in conjunction with the [Children’s Advice and Support Service \(CASS\)](#) in Birmingham, the Interim Executive Board and Management Team at the school are working with parents of nursery aged children to provide them support throughout this period. Information and support packages will be provided to help parents to secure alternative childcare places thus

ensuring that the locality of any alternative nursery place fully meets their needs. It is anticipated that all pupils will have been found alternative nursery places by December 2016.

All other pupils at the school should generally be unaffected.

How will this affect staff?

Staff should generally be unaffected. It is proposed that a temporary supply teacher will be employed in September 2016 in the nursery and will remain until the nursery closes.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There will be no alterations to the school building. The current management and the Interim Executive Board of the school have investigated the possibility of the accommodation being used for a private, voluntary or independent (PVI) nursery provision but this has proved unfeasible. The new Head Teacher and their management team will instead decide how to rearrange the use of the accommodation that was previously used for the nursery provision.

Will this definitely happen?

Whilst this type of proposal does not require a formal statutory process, there is a requirement to consult interested stakeholders in line with DFE [non-statutory guidance](#). We are issuing this consultation document and welcome any comments during a four week period outlined below. Following this four week period we will consider all comments made and it is only at that point that we will be able to say with certainty that the school will alter the age range of the school and close the nursery.

How can I make my views known?

The four week consultation period for people to comment on the proposal will commence on **Monday 19th September 2016 and will run for four weeks up to and including Friday 14th October 2016**. During this time you have the opportunity to let us know what you think about the proposed closure of the nursery. You can make your views known by visiting the link to the consultation website (live on 19th September 2016) www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/harperbell; Or by writing to:

School Organisation Team
Education and Skills Infrastructure
PO Box 15843
Birmingham
B2 2RT

Email: eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

It is proposed that a consultation meeting with the Head Teacher and Officers from the Local Authority will take place at the school on 19th September at 3.45pm

What happens next?

The Local Authority and Interim Executive Board will consider all comments made during the consultation period. All comments will be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Education and the Strategic Director for a final joint decision as to whether to close the nursery provision.

Possible Timeline for Alteration to Age Range and Nursery Closure

Action	Date
Proposal document distributed	19 th September 2016
Beginning of 4 week consultation period	19 th September 2016
Parents meeting at school	19 th September 2016 at 3.45pm
End of consultation period	14 th October 2016
Final decision	To be confirmed (November 2016)
Nursery closure	31 st December 2016

All parents of pupils registered at the school and all other interested parties will be notified as soon as a final decision has been made and Department for Education ([Edubase](#)) will be updated as relevant.