



Full Proposal Document

St Benedict's Primary School

Proposal to alter the age range to remove nursery provision.

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, in collaboration with the Governing Body of the school, is consulting on the following changes to St Benedict's Primary School (a community school).

School Information

Type:	Community		
Name:	St Benedict's Primary School	DFE:	3302183
Address:	St Benedict's Road, Birmingham B10 9DP		
Ward:	Small Heath	District:	Hodge Hill
Age Range:	3 – 11 years	Capacity:	372 excluding the nursery.
Last Ofsted:	6 th June 2013	Ofsted Rating	Good

Nursery Capacity:

Capacity of nursery provision:	52 (part time equivalent)
Full time equivalent:	26
Current nursery attendance:	26 (September 2020)

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to carry out the following changes to St Benedict's Primary School:

- Alter the lower age limit from 3 years to become 4 years;
- This would change the age range of the school to be 4 – 11 years.
- This would result in the removal of nursery provision.

Why do we want to do this?

The number attending the nursery at the school has been lower in recent years. This is due to there being a large supply of nursery provision in the local area. Last year and in previous years, the nursery had been operating at approximately 50% capacity. This year, from September 2020, there are currently 26 children on roll in the nursery. This has financial implications as the cost of providing the nursery is more than the amount of money received. Nurseries operating with a large number of unfilled places can be a risk to the financial viability and sustainability of the nursery which can impact the budget of the school. If the school experiences financial deficit, this can impact on staffing, standards and attainment and affect the performance of the school. The proposed change will support the school to focus their time and finances on Key stage 1 and 2 (infant and junior phases).

Evidence of Demand:

Small Heath

- There is an over-supply of 372 part time equivalent Early Education and Childcare places (0 to 4 age range) in the Small Heath ward in which St Benedict's Primary School is situated.
- There are an additional 5 nursery classes managed by Primary Schools, 5 local private, voluntary and independent childcare providers and 6 childminders operating within the Small Heath Ward.

- There is also a significant oversupply of 2,259 part time equivalent Early Education and Childcare places (0 to 4 age range) in the wards that surround the Small Heath Ward i.e. Heartlands, Sparkhill and Balsall Heath East, Bordesley Green and Tyseley and Hay Mills.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers at Birmingham City Council, it is intended that the proposal will be implemented from **31st August 2021**

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

Other nursery providers in the area may find that they have increased applications. There is sufficient provision to accommodate the local need.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

There are no safeguarding concerns for any of the pupils that may be affected. There are currently 26 pupils on roll in the nursery class at the school, these are all part time. There will be limited impact on other pupils of the school.

Parents applying for places have been advised that there are proposals to close the nursery and have been advised to also look at alternative places should the closure of the school's nursery class be approved. The school and the Local Authority Early Years Team will be able to advise and support parents to find alternative places should the proposal be approved.

Note: The admission arrangements at the school are not affected by this proposal. Attendance at a nursery provision does not give pupils any priority to admission into the school's reception class.

How will this affect staff?

There will be no staff reductions. The nursery staff will be redeployed within the school to alternative roles of the same grade. There will be no change to the terms and conditions of the staff.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There is no building work needed for this proposal. The current nursery space will continue to be available and used for teaching within the school.

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

There are no project costs associated with this proposal. The nursery provision is currently funded through Early Education Entitlement funding for eligible 3 and 4 year olds based on actual termly attendance. It is intended that the removal of nursery provision from the school would provide savings and would avoid any pressure on the whole school budget.

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools.

Part One: Pre-Publication 22nd February 2021 to 19th March 2021

We sent a pre-publication letter to all parents, pupils and staff on 22nd February 2021, asking for any comments by 19th March 2021. Comments from part one of the process are for the attention of LA officers developing the proposal (these comments are not forwarded to the decision maker).

We received two responses during this time, one of which was responded to directly and the other was from a neighbouring Local Authority advising that they had no comment to make on the proposal.

Part Two: Statutory Consultation(Representation Stage) 22nd April to 20th May 2021

- We are now entering the four-week statutory consultation also referred to as “the representation period”.
- This consultation will run from **22nd April 2021 to 20th May 2021**.
- A public notice will be published in the Birmingham Post newspaper on 22nd April 2021, this is a statutory requirement.
- This document is the full proposal for statutory consultation. All comments we receive during this statutory period will be anonymised and forwarded to the decision makers for consideration.
- Within two months of the end of the representation period, by **20th July 2021** Birmingham City Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture will make a decision.

It is only after the decision that we will be able to say with certainty whether or not the proposal will be implemented. A letter will be sent to the Governing Body and Head Teacher to notify them of the decision. The school will share the decision with families and staff of the school. The decision will also be published on the consultation webpage in the details below.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected, St Benedict's Primary School will continue to have an age range of 3 to 11 years; and continue to offer nursery provision.

Alternative solutions to the sustainability of the nursery provision would need to be explored to relieve any financial pressure this causes to the school budget.

How can I make my views known?

We invite all interested parties to give us their views and comment on this proposal.

Any comments must be received between 22nd April 2021 and 20th May 2021.

You can submit your written comments via the following methods:

- Online survey:
<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/stbenedictsnursery>
- By email (with St Benedict's in the subject):
edsi.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk
- Using the attached form or by letter to:

Estates Management Team – Education Infrastructure
 Birmingham City Council
 PO Box 15843
 Birmingham B2 2RT

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for us to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal.

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	22 nd April 2021
Beginning of 4-week consultation period	22 nd April 2021
End of 4-week consultation period	20 th May 2021
Final decision to be made no later than	20 th July 2021
Changes implemented	31 st August 2021

Proposal to:

Change the age range of St Benedict's Primary School to remove nursery provision

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*)

Are you in favour of the proposal (please circle one answer)?

Yes	No		Neither/Don't know
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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)	

*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.

Your comments