



## **SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS**

### **Prescribed Alterations to a Community Infant School**

#### **Colmers Farm Infant School**

#### **IMPORTANT**

**THIS PROPOSAL IS RELATED TO THE PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE COLMERS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS.**

## PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal.

### Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006

#### In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details

**1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.**

Not applicable

#### In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local authority details

**1. The name, address and category of the school.**

Birmingham City Council, Education & Skills Infrastructure, PO BOX 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT.

Colmers Farm Infant School, Leybrook Road, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9PB

Community School

#### Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

**2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

#### Objections and comments

**3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —**

**(a) the date prescribed in accordance with Schedule 3 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 20013, by which objections or comments should be sent to the local authority; and**

**(b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.**

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on any or all of the proposals by visiting

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/colmersfarm](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/colmersfarm)

or, by writing to School Organisation Team, Education and Skills Infrastructure, PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT. The last date for comments is 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Full details on the proposals, including copies of the public notice and consultation document can be found on these webpages.

**Alteration description**

**4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.**

- To alter the upper age range and expand Colmers Farm Infant School to accommodate pupils of junior school age and thus amalgamate Colmers Farm Infant School & Colmers Farm Junior School with effect from 1st April 2016.
- Under these proposals Colmers Farm Infant School will cater for children aged 4-11. The net capacity of the expanded school will be 420. This is the combined net capacity of the current Colmers Farm Infant and Junior Schools.
- The admission number for the amalgamated school will remain at 60, which is the same as it is currently for Colmers Farm Junior and Infant schools separately.
- **This proposal is related to the proposal to discontinue Colmers Farm Junior School with effect from 1st April 2016 – See separate full proposals.**
- The children currently attending Colmers Farm Junior School will automatically transfer to Colmers Farm Infant School. There will be no Year 3 application round going forward.
- Colmers Farm Infant School will also be proposing to change its name to reflect the change in age range and amalgamation should the proposals be approved.

**School capacity**

**5. —(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within Schedule 2 alterations other than alterations proposed in foundation proposals which may be published by a governing body or local authority as specified in Regulations 4 and 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the proposals include —**

**(a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;**

The current capacity of Colmers Farm Infant School is 180.  
The proposed capacity of Colmers Farm Infant School will be 420

**(b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;**

The current number of pupils admitted in each year group, currently Reception, year 1 and year 2 is 60 per year.  
The proposed number of pupils per year group will remain at 60 and will be in years Reception – Year 6 following the alteration of the upper age limit and the transferral of the pupils from the junior school.

**(c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;**

Not applicable.

***(d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.***

Where the number of pupils on roll in any relevant year group is lower than the admission number, this is as a result of movement during the year. Birmingham currently has a high level of net cohort growth meaning that the level of places available can change greatly over the year in different areas of the city as families arrive requiring school provision.

***(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within Schedule 2 alterations other than alterations proposed in foundation proposals which may be published by a governing body or local authority as specified in Regulations 4 and 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.***

At the time of publication, the total number of students on roll is:

179

### **Implementation**

***6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.***

Not applicable

### **Additional Site**

***7. —(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.***

The proposal is related to the closure proposal for Colmers Farm Junior School.

If the proposals are implemented all pupils from the junior school will transfer onto the roll on the infant school.

Colmers Farm Infant and Colmers Farm Junior School currently occupy the same site, the junior aged children will continue to occupy the current junior site which will be incorporated into the amalgamated school if the proposals are implemented.

***(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.***

Not applicable

### **Changes in boarding arrangements**

***8. —(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned Schedule 2 alterations other than alterations proposed in foundation proposals which may be published by a governing body or local authority as specified in Regulations 4 and 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 —***

***(a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;***

Not applicable

***(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;***

Not applicable

***(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and***

Not applicable

***(d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.***

Not applicable

***(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in Schedule 2 alterations other than alterations proposed in foundation proposals which may be published by a governing body or local authority as specified in Regulations 4 and 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) —***

***(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and***

Not applicable

***(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.***

Not applicable

#### **Transfer to new site**

***9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—***

***(a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;***

Not applicable

***(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;***

Not applicable

***(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;***

Not applicable

***(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;***

Not applicable

***(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and***

Not applicable

***(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.***

Not applicable

#### **Objectives**

***10. The objectives of the proposals.***

To alter the upper age range and expand Colmers Farm Infant School to accommodate pupils of junior school age and thus amalgamate Colmers Farm Infant School & Colmers Farm Junior School with effect from 1st April 2016.

Under these proposals Colmers Farm Infant School will cater for children aged 4-11. The net capacity of the expanded school will be 420. This is the combined net capacity of the current Colmers Farm Infant and Junior Schools.

The admission number for the amalgamated school will remain at 60, which is the same as it is currently for Colmers Farm Junior and Infant schools separately.

This proposal is related to the proposal to discontinue Colmers Farm Junior School with effect from 1st April 2016. The children currently attending Colmers Farm Junior School will automatically transfer to Colmers Farm Infant School. There will be no Year 3 application round going forward.

Colmers Farm infant School will also be proposing to change its name to reflect the change in age range and the amalgamation.

### **Consultation**

#### ***11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—***

***a list of persons who were consulted;***

***minutes of all public consultation meetings;***

***the views of the persons consulted;***

***a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and***

***copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.***

All statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with. Due regard and careful consideration was given to the guidance contained within 'School Organisation - Maintained Schools, Guidance for Proposers and Decision-Makers' document, Jan 2014. All individuals or bodies suggested in the guidance have been consulted.

On 7.9.15 and prior to the pre statutory consultation officers met with Chair of Governor ( currently chair of both schools) and representatives of the Governing Body to discuss the proposal. Officers then held a meeting with staff members.

The pre- statutory consultation commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and ran for 6 weeks until 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015.

As part of an initial pre-statutory consultation, all pupils, parents, Governors, teaching and non-teaching staff were sent a consultation document pack (Appendix 1) week commencing 14th September 2015.

All teaching associations and trade unions, The Archdiocesan and The Anglican Diocese of Birmingham, Executive Members for Northfield District and Longbridge ward councillors, and all neighbouring authorities were advised of the consultation by email on 15<sup>th</sup> September and advised how to obtain consultation packs. An online response BeHeard survey was in place for consultees to respond during the consultation period.

Further meeting were held as follows;

24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – Meeting for proposers, LA officers and Professional Associations/

Trade Unions

On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 two separate meeting were held as follows

- Meeting for proposers and LA officers
- Meeting for proposers, LA officers and staff members and professional associations.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 - Meeting for proposers, LA officers, staff members and parents

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 a joint Governing Body meeting was held. Careful consideration was made by both governing bodies of all the comments received during the consultation period. Both Governing Bodies agreed to move to the next stage of the process for amalgamation.

**Project costs**

**12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local authority, and any other party.**

There will be no capital costs for this proposal.

**13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).**

Not applicable.

**Age range**

**14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.**

Current age range is 4 – 7

The proposal will alter the upper age limit to 11 years – this proposal is in relation to the proposal to discontinue Colmers Farm Junior School. Pupils from the junior school will transfer to the infant school thus amalgamating the schools. To form an all through infant and junior school.

**Early year's provision**

**15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—**

**(a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;**

Not applicable

**(b) how the school will integrate the early year's provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early year's provision for childcare;**

Not applicable

**(evidence of c) parental demand for additional provision of early year's provision;**

Not applicable

**(d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and**

Not applicable

***(e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.***

Not applicable

**Changes to sixth form provision**

***16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—***

***(i) improve the educational or training achievements;***

***(ii) increase participation in education or training; and***

***(iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities***

***for 16-19 year olds in the area;***

Not applicable

***(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;***

Not applicable

***(c) Evidence —***

***(i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and***

***(ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;***

Not applicable

***(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.***

Not applicable

***17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.***

Not applicable

**Special educational needs**

***18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—***

***(a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;***

Not applicable

***(b) any additional specialist features will be provided;***

Not applicable

***(c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;***

Not applicable



**(d) details of how the provision will be funded;**

Not applicable

**(e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;**

Not applicable

**(f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;**

Not applicable

**(g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;**

Not applicable

**(h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and**

Not applicable

**(i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.**

Not applicable

**19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—**

**(a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;**

Not applicable

**(b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;**

Not applicable

**c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and**

Not applicable

**d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.**

Not applicable

**20. Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—**

**(a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local authority's Accessibility Strategy;**

**(b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;**

*(c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and*

*(d) improved supply of suitable places.*

Not applicable

**Sex of pupils**

**21. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—**

***(a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;***

Not applicable

***(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and***

Not applicable

***(c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 11 of the Equality Act 2010).***

Not applicable

**22. Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—**

***(a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and***

Not applicable

***(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.***

Not applicable

**Extended services**

**23. If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.**

Not applicable

**Need or demand for additional places**

**24. If the proposals involve adding places—**

***(a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;***

Not applicable –the newly amalgamated school will offer the same amount of places as the two separate infant and junior school currently do.

***(b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;***

Not applicable

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.**

Not applicable

**25. If the proposals involve removing places—**

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and**

Not applicable

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.**

Not applicable

## **Appendix 1 –Consultation document & public notice**

These resources can be accessed by visiting

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/colmersfarm](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/colmersfarm)



## **SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS**

### **Discontinuation of a Community Infant School**

### **Colmers Farm Junior School**

#### **IMPORTANT**

**THIS PROPOSAL IS RELATED TO THE PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE UPPER AGE LIMIT OF COLMERS FARM INFANT SCHOOL AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS.**

## Information to be included in section 15 proposals to discontinue a school

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### **Contact details**

***1. The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the proposals and the name, address and category of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.***

Birmingham City Council, Education & Skills Infrastructure, PO BOX 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT.  
Colmers Farm Junior School, Leybrook Road, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9PB  
Community School

### **Implementation**

***2. The date on which it is proposed to close the school or, where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.***

1st April 2016

(This proposal is related to the proposal under Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to make a prescribed alteration to Colmers Farm Infant School, namely to;  
Alter the upper age range and expand Colmers Farm Infant School to accommodate pupils of junior school age and thus amalgamate Colmers Farm Infant School & Colmers Farm Junior School with effect from 1st April 2016.)

### **Objections and comments**

***3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —***  
***(a) the date, by which objections or comments should be sent to the local authority; and***  
***(b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.***

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on any or all of the proposals by visiting  
[www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/colmersfarm](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/colmersfarm)  
or, by writing to School Organisation Team, Education and Skills Infrastructure, PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT. The last date for comments is 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Full details on the proposals, including copies of the public notice and consultation document can be found on these webpages.

**Reason for closure**

***4. A statement explaining the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.***

This proposal is related to the proposal under Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to make a prescribed alteration to Colmers Farm Infant School, namely to;  
Alter the upper age range and expand Colmers Farm Infant School to accommodate pupils of junior school age and thus amalgamate Colmers Farm Infant School & Colmers Farm Junior School with effect from 1st April 2016.

The amalgamation of the school is at the request of both Governing Bodies.

The OFSTED judgement in March 2015 placed the junior school in special measures. It is proposed that the two schools will join to make one primary school ages 4 – 11 years enabling a secure pathway for children throughout the primary phase. The infant school is currently rated "good" by OFSTED, it is felt these stronger links are considered necessary in order to support the junior school through their improvement journey.

**Pupil numbers and admissions**

***6. The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.***

Colmers Farm Junior School caters for up to 240 pupils aged between 7 – 11 years

The school caters for boys and girls

Their current admission number is 60 per year group

Their current capacity is 240

The school is a mainstream school

There is no boarding provision at the school

**Displaced pupils**

***7. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.***

The number of places in the area ( Longbridge ward) will remain the same. As detailed in question 3 the closure of the junior school is to enable the junior and infant school to amalgamate. All pupils currently on roll at the junior school will automatically transfer to the roll of the newly amalgamated school and there will be no displacement of pupils. However, should any pupil not wish to take up the place offered at the amalgamated school they will have the opportunity to apply for a place at others schools where places are available as they would now.

***8. Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including—  
(a) any interim arrangements;***

Please see question 5 above. All pupils currently on the junior roll will transfer to the roll of the amalgamated school.

***(b) the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs;***

There will be no change to the existing special educational needs policy that exists at both schools, the amalgamated school will continue to admit children with special needs by the normal procedure.

**and**

***(c) in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintains the school.***

Not applicable

**9. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.**

Not applicable – see answer in question 5

**Impact on the community**

**10. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.**

There will be no effect on the local community. The newly amalgamated school will continue to serve the local community as the separate infant and junior school currently do. The admission oversubscription criteria for Birmingham community and voluntary controlled schools will remain as now:

1. Looked after or previously looked after children.
2. Siblings (brother or sister who will be in attendance when sibling starts school)
3. Denominational claim (in case of voluntary controlled Church of England primary schools.)
4. Distance (children who live nearest to the school measured in straight line.)

**Rural primary schools**

**11. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered section 15(4).**

Not applicable.

**Balance of denominational provision**

**12. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.**

Not applicable – the school does not have a religious character

**Maintained nursery schools**

**13. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out-**

- (a) the local authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and***
- (b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.***

Not applicable

**Sixth form provision**

***14. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, the effect for 16 to 19 year olds in the area that the closure will have in respect of—***

***(a) their educational or training achievements;***

***(b) their participation in education or training; and***

***(c) the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.***

Not applicable

**Special educational needs provision**

***15. Where existing provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) believes the proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.***

Not applicable

**Travel**

***16. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.***

Not applicable. See answers to question 3 & 5. All pupils currently on roll at the junior school will automatically transfer to the roll of the newly amalgamated school there will be no displacement of pupils. The infant and junior schools occupy the same site and therefore there will be no effect on their journeys or travel time. Pupils who do not wish to take up their place at the amalgamated school can apply for a place at another school where places exist if they so wish as they can do now.

***17. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will work against increased car use.***

See answer to Q4. There will be no requirement to displace pupils