



Full Proposal Document

Name of School: Skilts Special School

Proposal to Transfer to New Site and Increase the Number of Pupil Places

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to make changes to Skilts Special School.

- Skilts School is one of 27 Birmingham special schools and can offer up to 64 places for pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, (SEMH). Skilts School is a Birmingham School that is located outside of City of Birmingham boundary, in Worcestershire.

School Information

Type:	Special School (Local Authority Maintained)		
Name:	Skilts Special School	DFE:	3307037
Address:	Gorcott Hill, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 9ET		
Ward:	Sambourne	District:	Stratford-Upon-Avon
Age Range:	5 – 11 years	Capacity:	64
Last Ofsted:	5 th December 2017	Ofsted Rating	Overall Effectiveness: 4 (inadequate - special measures)

What changes are proposed?

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

- Increase the number of places from 64 to 90 with effect from 1st January 2020
- Transfer to new site at Hallmoor Road, Birmingham B33 9QY with effect from 1st September 2021 (The new site is 20km/12.5miles from the current site – measured by “straight line distance”.)
- Increase the number of places from 90 to 120 with effect from 1st September 2021.

Why do we want to do this?

This proposal is being developed due to the condition of the school buildings at the current site which is outside the city boundary at Gorcott Hill, Redditch Worcestershire. Buildings at the current site are beyond economical repair and the only option is to completely replace the buildings.

Repairs are continuing to be carried out to keep the current site and buildings operational. This will allow the school to increase their number of SEMH places that they can offer up to 90 at the current site with effect from 1st January 2020.

If new accommodation is not provided, the school buildings at the Gorcott Hill site will eventually have to close as they will be beyond repair and no longer be a safe environment for learning.

The proposal will be to build new accommodation which will be within the city boundary on land already owned by Birmingham City Council education department at Hallmoor Road, Birmingham B33 9QY. This site is 20km/12.5 miles from the current site (measured by “straight line distance.”)

There is a need for more SEMH places in the city and the proposed new site provides the opportunity to increase the number of pupils the new buildings could accommodate, from 90 to 120.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers (following full consultation) it is intended that the proposal to;

- Increase the pupil numbers from 64 to 90 at the current site will come into effect from **1st January 2020**
- Transfer to the new site and increase the number of places to 120 with effect from **1st September 2021**

How will this affect pupils at the school?

As the school provides education for pupils from across the whole of Birmingham, relocating the school within the city boundary should have a positive impact on the time pupils spend travelling to school. The new build can take place without any interruptions to the pupils' education and the transition to the new site will be handled with a level of sensitivity to all the stakeholders but in particular to the needs of the 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 changes at Skilts School are considered appropriate for the current pupils at the school and is part of a programme to enhance the overall school accommodation solution for both the current and future pupils.

The school on the new site on Hallmoor Road will be new-build and fit-for-purpose accommodation to meet the needs of key-stage 1 and 2 pupils.

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 Skilts School offers specialist city wide provision. There should be no negative impact on other SEMH schools as there is a continued need for SEMH places citywide.

How will this affect staff?

Moving to a new site may impact some staff. Any changes to existing terms and conditions resulting from the transfer will be with full consultation with the trade unions and teaching associations.

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

The project to relocate Skilts School will be funded from Birmingham City Council funds.

Will this definitely happen?

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

We sent a pre-publication letter to all parents, pupils and staff in June, asking for any comments by 19th July.

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 school will transfer to a new site at Hallmoor Road and increase the number of places from 64 to 90 with effect from 1st January 2020 and from 90 to 120 with effect from 1st September 2021.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected,

- Skilts School will remain at the current site, outside the City boundary at Gorcott Hill, Redditch.
- The school will continue to offer 64 places and the opportunity to provide much needed additional SEMH places will not be possible.
- If new accommodation is not provided, the school buildings will eventually have to close as they will be beyond repair and no longer be a safe environment for learning.
- Alternative places would need to be found for the current and future pupils of the school.

How can I make my views known?

We welcome comments within the four week consultation period between **12th September 2019 and 10th October 2019**

Anyone wishing to make comments, support or objections to this proposal may do so through the BeHeard consultation website:

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

Or in writing to;

Birmingham City Council’s School Organisation Team through:
Education and Infrastructure
PO Box 15843
Birmingham B2 2RT

Or by emailing: eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

Please include **Skilts** in the email subject

A consultation response form can be found at the end of this document and can be used if anyone would like to send their comments in writing or by email.

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	12 th September 2019
Beginning of 4 week consultation period	12 th September 2019
End of 4 week consultation period	10 th October 2019
Final decision to be made no later than	10 th December 2019
Changes implemented:	
1. Increase in pupil places from 64 to 90	1 st January 2020
2. Relocate to Hallmoor Road and Increase pupil numbers from 90 to 120	1 st September 2021

Skilts School:

Proposal to transfer to a new Site and increase pupil places

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

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)	

Please provide your comments to the proposal.