



Final Proposal Document

**Boldmere Infant and Nursery School
and Boldmere Junior School**

*Proposal to Establish Special
Educational Needs Provision at
Mainstream Schools*

Introduction

Birmingham City Council, as the local authority for Birmingham, is consulting on a proposal to establish special educational needs (SEN) provision in a resource base at Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School. These changes are explained in the sections below.

School Information

Type:	Community		
Name:	Boldmere Infant & Nursery School	DFE:	3302402
Name:	Boldmere Junior School	DFE:	3302401
Address:	Cofield Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 5SD		
Ward:	Sutton Vesey	District:	Sutton Coldfield

School Capacity:

Boldmere Infant & Nursery School currently caters for up to 270 pupils from age 3 – 7 years. The school also has a 26 full time equivalent nursery class (26 children attend in the morning and 26 children attend in the afternoon.)

Boldmere Junior School currently caters for up to 360 pupils from age 7– 11 years

Governance: Boldmere Infant and Nursery School is federated with Boldmere Junior School.

Last Ofsted inspection: Both Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and its federated school Boldmere Junior School have both received a judgement of Outstanding in their last OFSTED inspections.

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to establish SEN provision with a resource base which will support up to 24 infant and junior pupils (Key stage 1 and 2). The resource base will be a shared facility for pupils aged 4 – 11 years and will be registered at both Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School. It is intended that places across the two schools are offered over and above the existing Reception and Year 3 published admission numbers. The 24 places will be offered gradually and during the first two years the number of places allocated is likely to be low. These places will be for pupils who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and have a statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names one or both of the schools. We are proposing that the changes be implemented from 1st September 2018 if the decision is approved.

Why do we want to do this?

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

Reactive measures have been implemented over a number of years to accommodate growth in demand for resource base places and a planned programme of additional special educational needs (SEN) places is being implemented as a priority. This also supports the review of Special Educational Needs and/or Disability provision offered across the city (Birmingham's Strategy for SEND and Inclusion 2017-2020, by the Birmingham City Council Inclusion Commission; and, Children and Young People Education Delivery and Improvement Plan 2017 - 2018).

Resource bases are focussed on meeting the needs of young people with specific statements of need within a mainstream setting, where pupils have access to mainstream classes and SEN support as required to meet their needs.

Evidence of Demand

Birmingham has a young and growing population with the highest proportion of under-15 year olds of any major city in Europe. 30% of Birmingham's residents are under 20 year olds: the highest proportion of under 20 year olds of any major city in the UK. Special school population is continuing to grow. There is an increased demand for specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC). Over the last 18 months Birmingham City Council has been working to increase capacity of specialist places both in special schools and by provision of specialist SEN resource bases in mainstream schools.

How will the proposal increase educational standards and parental choice?

As part of the Inclusion Strategy, Birmingham City Council intends to provide SEN places for pupils to attend a school as close to home as possible.

Although the Boldmere Schools' resource base is offered as a city wide provision, the schools are located in the North of the City where we are forecasting a gap in provision that accommodates pupils with ASC. These proposed changes at Boldmere Infant and Nursery and Boldmere Junior School will increase the number of places for pupils requiring ASC provision in the local area and the north of the city. It will improve distribution of provision across the city to offer greater choice for parents of children who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and have a statement of SEN or an EHCP. The children with a statement or EHCP, who are admitted to Boldmere Infant and Nursery School to use the resource base, will be able to transfer to Boldmere Junior School at the junior phase (key stage 2) for continued use of the resource base. This will provide continuity of their education.

The last Ofsted report for Boldmere Infant School (2011) describes, "...all groups of pupils make equally rapid progress, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, who are very well supported and are set work that challenges them to do as well as they can'.

The last Ofsted report for Boldmere Junior School (2011) described, "The quality of learning for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is outstanding. They are exceptionally well supported by both class teachers and skilled teaching assistants. The type of support is matched well to individual need. Some pupils with autism, for example, have one-to-one support but care is taken to ensure that they are fully included through working within groups of other pupils".

The leadership at the schools is committed to continuing and sustaining this approach and level of support throughout the school. The school and pupils at Boldmere Infant and Nursery and Boldmere Junior School, continue to be supported by the Communication and Autism Team (CAT). CAT is a specialist education support service that supports children and young people with autism and shares best practice with SEN schools and mainstream schools that provide for pupils with autism. A member of CAT is working with the school and pupils to continue to grow and develop the autism provision, which will extend to the introduction of the resource base facilities.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers at Birmingham City Council (following full consultation) it is intended that the proposals will be implemented from **1st September 2018**.

Why has this school been chosen?

Additional places are required to accommodate pupils with ASC requiring more specialist provision. All schools were asked to submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) to Education Infrastructure (EDI), to take additional pupils. Expressions of interest are evaluated against Basic Need criteria as follows:

- i) Location in relation to specific need and locality
- ii) Standards in the school: it is expected that schools that expand will be Outstanding or Good
- iii) The capacity of the school to provide suitable accommodation on the site, within existing space and within planning / buildability constraints.
- iv) Flexible and innovative offer
- v) Collaborative working

The Executive Head of both schools submitted an Eoi to Birmingham City Council to establish resources for Infant and junior pupils (Key stage 1 and 2) who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and have a statement of SEN or an EHCP which names one or both of the schools. The Eoi was evaluated by officers from Birmingham City Council and was found to meet all the relevant criteria.

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

There should be no negative effect on other mainstream schools or institutions in the area, as our forecasting suggests a shortage of ASC places in the north of the City. The impact on special schools and schools with resource bases for ASC should be positive, as it will improve the distribution of ASC places across the city. This may support ASC pupils to more easily access the nearest appropriate provision.

How will this effect pupils at the school?

The SEN designation for the resource base will be for Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

The resource base provision is available only to pupils that have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and have a statement of SEN or an EHCP which specifically names the resource base provision at one or both of the schools. Up to 24 places will be commissioned by Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review service (SENAR), in line with the SEN Code of Practice.

Parents and carers of existing pupils that are attending either of the Boldmere schools can request a review of their child's needs and provision with SENAR team if they are interested in access to the resource base provision.

Pupils with a statement of SEN or EHCP, admitted into these commissioned places at the schools (through SENAR), will have access to the mainstream provision for periods of the school day or week, as appropriate for them. As additional resources will be available for these pupils, it should have no effect on the learning experience of other pupils at the school. The schools are confident that the introduction of more specialist resources and staff will allow all teachers and support staff to further develop their skills to provide a well-rounded learning experience for all pupils. The additional specialist resources will help the school to continue to develop their approach to integration and inclusion of all pupils.

Will there be any effect on staff members at school?

The addition of specialist resources at the school will enhance the quality of learning and teaching opportunities. The schools intend to use this opportunity to recruit specialist staff; in addition existing teachers and support staff will have the opportunity to further develop their skills when working with a wide range of pupils.

Will there be changes to the school building?

We will have to do some work to provide the additional spaces required for the resource base. Planning permission will be sought for any new building at the school where required. Design information will be available for public comment during the planning process. Any disruption due to building work will be kept to the very minimum during the school day. We expect all work to be complete for **1st September 2018** to accommodate the new pupils.

Travel and Transport

The impact on transport and travel will be minimal as the places will be allocated on a phased basis through the Birmingham City Council's Special Educational Needs Assessments and Review (SENAR) team. The school consider that they have a sensible approach in dealing with transport at the school site and this approach will continue. An area of the school site has been identified that could provide additional parking facilities, should they be necessary. The school will continue to review and update their travel plan, as and when required. The Local Education Authority transport arrangements for children with special needs will apply (Travel Assist), where relevant.

What are the project costs for this proposal and how will these be met?

The estimated project cost for the proposal is £500,000.00 which will be funded by Birmingham City Council through the Basic Need programme. Approval to spend the money will be requested of Cabinet Committee in due course. Long term value for money will be achieved through the re-use of a modular building that is currently not in use on a redundant site at another school. The building will be placed on the Boldmere site and refurbished. This will dramatically reduce the overall construction costs in comparison to the provision of a totally new building.

Will this definitely happen?

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

We consulted on the draft proposal document from 19th September 2017 to 17th October 2017. We received 21 responses in total and an analysis of these can be found on the previous BeHeard web; page:<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/boldmere/>

Birmingham City Council Officers have considered the comments received and where able have provided corrections, clarifications and additions in this final proposal document.

This document is the final proposal for statutory public consultation, referred to as the "representation period". The representation period lasts for four weeks and will end on the 7th December 2017. 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 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 schools will establish the resource base.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If a decision is taken that Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School, should not establish SEN provision. It will mean that some pupils with ASC will need to travel further to access the provision they need.

How can I comment on this proposal?

We welcome comments within the four weeks consultation period from 9th November 2017 to 7th December 2017. 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/boldmereFINAL, alternatively a consultation form is available at the back of the document which can be returned to:

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

This statutory consultation (representation) period will run for four weeks from 9th November 2017 to 7th December 2017.

The closing date for comments is 7th December 2017.

The following intended 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 (subject to change)

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	9th November 2017
Beginning of 4 week representation period	9th November 2017
End of 4 week representation period	7th December 2017
Final decision to be made no later than	7 th February 2018
School establishes a 24 place resource base	1 st September 2018

Proposal to Establish Special Educational Needs Provision at Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School

We are consulting on the proposals for four weeks from 9th November 2017 to 7th December 2017. You can make your views known by visiting; www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/boldmerefinal to send us your thoughts by **Thursday 7th December 2017** or alternatively complete and return the form below to the following address: School Organisation Team, Education and Skills Infrastructure, PO Box 15843, Birmingham, B2 2RT.

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

Consultation Response Form

Please help us analyse these responses by indicating your interest in the proposals:

Parent / carer of a pupil

☐

Governor

☐

Member of staff

☐

Other

☐

If other, please specify interest

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Please provide any comments or suggestions you might have on the proposals.

Additional comments: