

Full Proposal Document

Oscott Manor School

Proposal to increase the number of pupil places and create an additional site.

Introduction

Birmingham City Council (the Council), as the Local Authority for Birmingham, is consulting on proposed changes to Oscott Manor School (the School).

School Information

Type:	Community Special School		
Name:	Oscott Manor School	DFE:	330 7053
Address:	Reservoir Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6DE.		
Ward:	Stockland Green	Constituency:	Perry Barr
Age Range:	11 - 19 years	Pupil Places:	116
Last Ofsted:	7 th May 2014	Ofsted Overall Effectiveness:	Good

What changes are proposed?

The Council is proposing to carry out the following changes to Oscott Manor School (the School):

- Permanently increase the number of places the School can offer to pupils, from 116 to 180.
- Expand onto an additional site: Ryland Road, Erdington, Birmingham B24 8JJ.

Why do we want to do this?

The School currently has 116 places for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

Due to increased demand for this type of SEND provision, the school currently has over 116 pupils on roll.

The Council is proposing the above prescribed changes to increase the number of places at the School to help support the steadily growing demand for places in Birmingham for children with an EHCP for ASC and SLCN. This proposal also ensures that changes to pupil places are compliant with government requirements.

From 4th January 2022 the school opened at its new, larger and purpose-built site at Reservoir Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6DE.

In close collaboration with the School, the Council's proposed changes include expanding the school onto an additional site (approximately 1.3 km or 0.8 miles from the main site). The intention is that the additional site would be an annex for the School's Post-16 provision and this would increase the total number of pupil places that can be offered across the two sites.

Evidence of Demand:

There is significant need for more school places in Birmingham for children with EHCPs, both in special schools and resource bases in mainstream schools. In the last four years the Council has increased the total number of special school places available to pupils with EHCPs by 10%. There has been an increase in the number of pupils with EHCPs in Birmingham, by over 800 in the last two years. There is also an increase in requests for statutory assessments which may lead to EHCPs; these requests are currently averaging 150 each month. There is an acute pressure and particular need for secondary places. The current secondary transfer cohort is 20% larger than two years ago and this rate of increase is expected to continue through into 2023.

The proposal to increase the number of places offered at Oscott Manor School for pupils with ASC and SLCN will help to address the increased demand for secondary places for these types of specialist provision.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers (following full consultation) it is intended that the changes would be implemented from **1st September 2022**. It is proposed that the additional places will be allocated in line with the processes of the Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review Team (SENAR)

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 the School offers specialist city wide provision. There is currently a shortage of ASC and SLCN places and no indication that other schools offering this type of provision will be negatively affected. Any impact on other schools should be positive as this proposal creates places for pupils with ASC and SLCN needs and so releases places at other schools to meet the needs of other pupils.

How will the proposal increase educational standards and parental choice?

The Council 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 increase in pupil numbers at Oscott Manor School will increase the number of secondary places for pupils requiring ASC and SLCN provision at a 'Good' school and provide greater choice for parents.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

The filling of places would happen from September 2022. Pupils on the main school site would not notice a substantial increase in numbers, as the Post-16 pupils would simultaneously relocate to the annex on Ryland Road. School places would continue to be commissioned by SENAR, in line with the SEND Code of Practice. The SEN designation for the school will not change. With the additional pupils, the school may decide to organise the school differently to ensure educational continuity but that would be the school's decision.

Pupils within the post-16 group would notice the change immediately, with the post-16 provision opening on the newly refurbished additional site. The School did some early engagement with post-16 pupils (“pupil voice”) in the Autumn term 2021 and the results of which have informed the development of the proposal.

How will this affect staff?

Generally, staff will be unaffected; however, school growth may offer more opportunities for professional development and for working across the two sites (as is the experience of other schools that operate across multiple sites). If this proposal is approved, any impact on terms and conditions will be with full consultation with Trade Unions / Professional Associations.

Will there be changes to the school building and, if so, what are the project costs and how will they be met?

There will be some costs associated with the project. Capacity has been identified within the space of the main school buildings which were newly built using c.£7.1 million from the Department for Education’s “Priority Schools’ Building Programme” (PSBP) and c.£1.4 million from the Council’s “Basic Need Allocation”.

The creation of the additional site will not require the Council to purchase land or buildings, as the proposed site is already owned by the Council. The refurbishment costs for the buildings are c.£110,000 plus c.£20,000 for ICT provision. This is being funded from the Council’s “Special Provision Fund” allocation and subject to all required approvals.

Travel and Transport:

The impact on transport and travel will be minimal. The school will continue to update their travel plan, as and when required. The Local Education Authority transport arrangements for children with special needs will apply (Home to School Transport). The additional site is approximately 1.3 km or 0.8 miles from the main Reservoir Road site.

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a statutory process that the Council must follow to make these types of changes to schools.

Pre-publication: We wrote to parents/pupils/staff and other stakeholders regarding the forthcoming proposals on 2nd February 2022 and invited comments until 2nd March 2022. During this pre-publication consultation no comments were received on this proposal.

Statutory publication: 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 maker for consideration.

Decision: Within two months of the end of the representation period, the Council’s Cabinet Member for Education Skills and Culture will make a final

decision. It is only at that point that we will be able to say with certainty whether or not the proposals will be implemented.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If the proposed increase and additional site is not approved for implementation, the school will continue to operate at 116 places. This will mean that a higher number of pupils will be unable to remain at, or be offered, places by the School in the future. Alternative and additional places would need to be provided at other schools, which could have a negative impact on pupils out of school and on travel arrangements to other provision.

How can I make my views known?

We invite all interested people to give us their views and comment on the proposal.

Any comments must be received no later than 7th April 2022.

You can comment online via BeHeard:

www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/oscottmanor2022

You can write to the Council:

(Please include: **Oscott Manor SOT10180** in correspondence)

- By email: eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk
- By letter, or by completing and sending the attached comments form to:
Birmingham City Council,
School Organisation Team,
PO Box 15843,
Birmingham, B2 2RT.

What happens next?

The following timescale is for guidance only. At any point during the process, the proposal might be withdrawn or rejected by the City Council. The proposed dates 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 these dates.

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice to be published	10 th March 2022
Beginning of 4 week consultation period	10 th March 2022
End of 4 week consultation period	7 th April 2022
Final decision to be made no later than	7 th June 2022
Changes implemented	1 st September 2022

Groups Consulted:

Oscott Manor School: governors, staff, parents/carers and pupils

Birmingham City Council colleagues and services

NHS partners

Local Councillor(s)

Member(s) of Parliament

Birmingham Schools

Local Archdiocese

Other/Neighbouring Local Authorities

Trade Unions/Professional Associations

Statutory Proposal: Oscott Manor School - increase the number of pupil places and create an additional site.

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*)

What is your interest in the proposal? (select one of the below):

Pupil	
Parent	
School Governor	
School Staff	
Local Resident	
Local Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other (please specify)	

Are you in favour of the proposal? (select one of the below):

YES	NO	NIETHER / DON'T KNOW
-----	----	----------------------

Write your comments (optional) (attach an additional page, if required):

*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.