

Full Proposal Document

Name of School: Skilts School

*Proposal to Remove the
Boarding Provision*

Introduction

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

Skilts School is one of 27 Birmingham special schools and can offer up to 81 places for pupils with a statement of need or Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, (SEMH).

Of the 81 places the school can offer, 12 of these places can accommodate boarding pupils who have a statement of need or EHCP for a residential school place.

School Information

Type:	Special School (Local Authority Maintained)		
Name:	Skilts School	DFE:	3307037
Address:	Gorcott Hill, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 9ET		
Ward:	Sambourne	District:	Stratford-Upon-Avon
Age Range:	5 – 11 years	Capacity:	81
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:

- Removal of boarding provision

Why do we want to do this?

Birmingham City Council, as the Local Authority, jointly with the Interim Executive Board of the school and its management team, have taken the joint decision to consult with stakeholders with a proposal to close the residential unit with effect from 31st July 2019.

- The School has not admitted any boarding pupils for at least 3 years; The provision has recently been used for evening intervention/short break/respite only;
- For schools with residential units operating with a large number of unfilled residential places there can be a risk that they become financially unviable. If a school has a financial deficit, this can impact on staffing, standards and attainment; and, ultimately, the future of the school.
- The closure of the residential unit will allow the Local Authority to stop using the buildings as they are beyond economical repair and no-longer fit for their original purpose.
- The school received an OFSTED rating of “inadequate” when they were inspected on 5th December 2017.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers (following full consultation) it is intended that the proposals to close the residential unit will be implemented on **31st July 2019**.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

There are no safeguarding concerns as a result of this proposal and there will be no effect on the current pupils as none of the children on role at the school are residential pupils (residential pupil: a pupil who has a statement of need or EHP that specifies they need a residential place.)

There are a small number of pupils who have had the opportunity for respite/short break care at the residential unit due to the fact there are no residential pupils at the school.

The Local Authority will be contacting all the parents of the pupils who currently receive respite/ short break care directly to provide them support throughout this period and to discuss and identify the alternative provision to meet their individual needs.

It is anticipated that all pupils currently receiving respite/short breaks at the school will either have left or will have been found alternative respite provision by the implementation of this proposal on 31st July 2019.

How will this affect staff?

Staff will be offered alternative roles wherever possible.

Any changes to existing terms and conditions or staff reductions resulting from the closure of the residential unit will be with full consultation with the trade unions and teaching associations.

Will there be changes to the school building?

There will be no changes to the school building other than the closure of the residential unit which will no longer be accessible to pupils and staff. The long term future of the residential building will be decided by the Local Authority.

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

There are no project costs relating to this proposal.

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 25th June 2018 to 20th July 2018. We received three comments regarding the draft proposal, two in writing and one verbally. All three concerns raised were regarding the respite care provision that some pupils receive at the school. These concerns have been given consideration and the interim Executive Board, the Management Team at the School and Local Authority Officers will work with all pupils and parents to identify and arrange alternative respite provision.

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 close the residential unit.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If this proposal is rejected, the residential unit will remain open.

Skilts School will still have to maintain and resource the residential unit even if it continues to operate with unfilled boarding places. This could cause the school to go into further financial deficit and could eventually impact on staffing, standards and attainment, and ultimately, the future of the school for all staff and pupils.

How can I make my views known?

We welcome comments within the four week consultation period between **28th February 2019 to 27th March 2019 (Midnight).**

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/skilts

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	28th February 2019
Beginning of 4 week consultation period	28 th February 2019
End of 4 week consultation period	27th March 2019
Final decision to be made no later than	27th ^h May 2019
Changes implemented	31st July 2019

Skilts School:
Proposal to Remove the Boarding provision

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.