



SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS

Prescribed Alterations to a Community Special School

Brays School

Date of Proposal: 28th January 2016

**School Organisation
Education & Skills Infrastructure**
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Birmingham
B2 2RT

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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 education authority details

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

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

School Name: Brays School

School Address: Brays Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 1NS

Category: Community Special 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.

1st September 2016

Objections and comments

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

- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education 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 (28th Jan 2016), any person may object to or make comments on any or all of the proposals by visiting www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools/brays or by writing to School Organisation Team, Education and Skills Infrastructure, PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT. The last date for comments is 25th February 2016. A copy of the public notice can be found on the above website and in the Birmingham Post.

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.

The proposed changes are as follows:

1. Increase in the number of pupils 138 to 220 by provision of an additional site at;

Leycroft Building, Gressel Lane, Tile Cross, Birmingham B33 9UF

2. Change of Special Educational Needs designation to include Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC)

Brays School educates pupils of 2 – 11 years. The school educates children with a statement of need or Education, Health and Care Plan of Physical Medical Learning Difficulties and Complex Medical Need.

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8 , 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also 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;

Brays School currently has 176 pupils on roll; these places have been provided on a temporary basis at Leycroft Building. Birmingham City Council seeks to make this arrangement permanent to enable the school to offer 220 places by 1st September 2016 on a permanent basis.

(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;

Special schools do not have an admission number per year group. The pupils attending the school will have a statement of special education needs that will name the school. The pupils are not admitted solely in a specific year group. The current numbers on roll, per year group are as follows:

NURSERY 10

RECEPTION 19

YR 1 31

YR 2 43

YR 3 30

YR 4 22

YR 5 13

YR 6 8

TOTAL 176

(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;

The school are using the site on a temporary basis.

(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.

Not applicable – special schools do not have admission numbers.

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), 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 across the two sites is: 176

pupils.

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 school's main site operates from Brays Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 1NS.

In order to cope with the demand for places at the school, the school has been operating from an additional site which is Leycroft Building, Gressel Lane, Tile Cross Birmingham B33 9UF.

This building has now been identified as being able to provide a permanent solution for this proposal seeks to make the Gressel Lane site a permanent split site for Brays School.

(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 in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(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 paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (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;

Part of the proposal is to increase the pupil places at Brays School by the provision of an additional site. This site is 1.97 miles from the main site and is situated at:

Leycroft Building, Gressel Lane, Tile Cross, Birmingham B33 9UF.

The school will operate permanently across the split site if the proposal is approved.

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

Leycroft Building Gressel Lane, Tile Cross Birmingham B33 9UF is 1.97 miles (3.17 KM) from the main site at Brays Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 1NS

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

Following the publication of our Education Sufficiency Requirements in February 2015 (Appendix 1), all schools were invited to submit a proposal if they were interested in expansion. The Governing Body of Brays School submitted an expression of interest for an expansion and also to change their special educational needs designation to include Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

The EOIs were evaluated against the Basic Need criteria as follows:

- i) Location in relation to Basic Need (type of need)
- 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) Popularity of the school and ability to meet pupils' needs
- v) Potential of any expansion to create overprovision or reduce diversity of provision in an area

Brays School has received a judgement of "outstanding" in their last Ofsted inspection and we believe the school will be able to sustain the planned growth. The site identified at Gressel Lane has been accommodating the school on a temporary basis and has been identified as having enough space to accommodate additional classrooms. The building programme will improve the accommodation provision for current and future pupils. This proposal will help to address the shortage of primary places for children with statements of need or Education and Health Care Plans of Physical Medical Learning Difficulties and Complex Medical Need and also will allow the school to also accommodate pupils with statements of need or Education and Health Care Plans for Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

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

The site complies with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and is fully accessible.

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

Education Transport has been advised of the proposed changes and continues to work with EDSI and the school. They will continue to provide the home school transport level of provision that the children need to ensure that they can attend all three sites. The Local Authority's transport arrangements will apply where 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.

The School Travel Plan will be updated following the implementation of the changes to promote sustainable transport and reduce car use where possible. This is currently in the process of being updated with the Local Authority in readiness.

Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

Birmingham City Council is proposing the above prescribed changes, in line with our Special Schools Additional Places (SAPP) Programme. The changes are considered appropriate for the current pupils at the school in order to provide an improved school solution and better meet the needs of its growing numbers of pupils.

Birmingham City Council as the local authority for Birmingham has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. The city of Birmingham has a growing population with one of the youngest populations in Europe and the number of births in the city has risen rapidly over the last few years. To compound this Birmingham is also experiencing high levels of in year growth due to net migration into the city.

Pressure for places is at its most severe over some of our special schools; reactive measures have been implemented over a number of years to accommodate growth in demand for special school and resource base places and a planned programme of additional special places is being implemented as a priority. Brays School has had to accommodate pupils in temporary accommodation in order to ensure demand is met. The proposal is for Brays School to expand by the provision of a permanent additional site at Leycroft Building, Gressell Lane, Tile Cross, Birmingham B33 9UF in which the school has been accommodated on a temporary basis.

The increase in the number of places that can be offered on a permanent basis by having the additional site will enable a greater number of pupils to access the successful provision. The school was given an outstanding ranking on their last OFSTED inspection.

Approval of the proposal will enable the Council to meet its statutory duty to not only provide pupil places but also promote diversity and increase parental choice in planning and securing the provision of school places.

The proposed changes will offer professional development and improve retention and recruitment of the school's high quality teaching and non-teaching staff.

Consultation

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

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;

- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) 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 are being consulted and their views considered.

A letter was sent out to parents/carers of all pupils registered at Brays School w/c 18th January 2016 explaining the proposals and the process that was to follow. Officers have offered the school the opportunity for parents meeting during the representation period and a meeting is scheduled for 2nd February 2016. A web page www.birmingham.gov.uk/school/brays has been setup providing information on the proposal as well as copies of public notices. An online BeHeard survey is in place for consultees to respond during the representation period.

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 education authority, and any other party.

This project is part of the Special Schools Additional Places programme.

The costs for the reconfiguration and expansion are to be confirmed as part of the Full Business Case which will be submitted for Cabinet approval in due course. Please contact eds1.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk if you require any additional information.

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education 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).

All costs will be met by Birmingham City Council through their Basic Need funding allocation. All projects costs will be included in a Full Business Case and scheduled for Cabinet.

Age range

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

Not applicable

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 years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

Not applicable

(c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years 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;

The school provides education for children with a statement of need or Education Health

and Care Plan for Physical Medical Learning Difficulties and Complex Medical Need. Part of the proposal is to change this designation to include provision for children with a statement of need or Education Health and Care Plan for Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC.)

(b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

Not applicable

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

The school will have 220 commissioned places by September 2016.

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

All costs will be met by Birmingham City Council through their Basic Need funding allocation. All projects costs will be included in a Full Business Case and scheduled for Cabinet.

(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;

The school will continue to accommodate all of its current pupils.

(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;

An additional permanent site is to be provided at:

Leycroft Building, Gressell Lane, Tile Cross, Birmingham, B33 9UF

This site is 1.97 miles (3.17 KM) from the main site.

The school have been operating from the Gressel Lane site on a temporary basis; these proposals seek to make this permanent.

(h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education 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

The proposal means that some pupils will be accommodated at different sites now and in the future. The proposals are conducive with the school's aspirations to improve the standard and quality of educational provision for its current and future children. The expansion will allow more children to access the outstanding provision at the school.

(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.

The school will have 220 commissioned places by September 2016.

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 education 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.

The changes are considered appropriate for the current pupils at the school in order to provide an improved accommodation solution and better meet the needs of its pupils. The addition of the second site is part of a programme to enhance the overall school accommodation solution for its current and future pupils. The main Brays site is not suitable for expansion. The Gressel Lane site was identified as a suitable alternative accommodation - subject to refurbishment- which would allow Brays School to transfer some of its pupils and have enough capacity to allow Brays School to increase its pupil numbers to 220.

The addition of the Gressel Lane site and the change to special educational needs designation will help the school support additional children including those with high and complex Autistic Spectrum Conditions. The proposal will help to create additional special school places in line with demand so more pupils going forwards have access to suitable places.

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 section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

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;

Birmingham City Council is proposing the above prescribed changes, in line with our Special Additional Places (SAP) Programme. Please find here a link to the Education Development Plan www.birmingham.gov.uk/edp and Education Sufficiency Requirements document published in February 2015 (Appendix 1).

The headlines are as follows:

- Birmingham City Council as the local authority for Birmingham has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.
- The city of Birmingham has a growing population with one of the youngest populations in Europe and the number of births in the city has risen rapidly over the last few years.
- To compound this Birmingham is also experiencing high levels of in year growth due to increased levels of cohort growth into the city.
- On the basis of current demand for special school places, without factoring in trends in complex needs, our model indicates the need for an additional 554 places from 2012–20 based purely on growth and assuming that the proportion of young people with complex needs remains constant and the proportion of those young people educated in special schools remains constant.
- Pressure for places is at its most severe in a number of our Special Schools. Our programme of expanding special school provision will continue. We want to ensure there is a good spread of specialist provision for children with complex needs so that every child can be offered an appropriate place close to home.
- Additional places for pupils with Cognition and Learning needs, Autistic Spectrum Conditions and Social Emotional Mental Health conditions are required.

(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

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

- (a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;
- (b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Not applicable

Appendix 1: Extract of Education Sufficiency Requirements, February 2015

Projected Special Place Requirements

There is an imperative to address immediate shortfalls in the sufficiency, suitability and appropriate location of physical spaces available to meet demand in special provision.

Special School Requirements

2015 Special School Additional Space requirements (Immediate Pressures)

SSAP 2015	Planned and continued reactive work	For planned developments please see Appendix 3a Places required to meet immediate pressure in C&L, ASC and BESD provision across all key stages
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2016 Special School Additional Space requirements

SSAP 2016	Forecast an expectation of 120 pupils with SEND as a result of population growth.	We forecast an increase of 120 additional pupils from May 14 to May 16 across ASC, C&L and BESD areas of need
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Specific Measures to increase capacity for special provision places 2015 & 2016

The following measures will be used to address immediate shortfalls in the sufficiency, suitability and appropriate location of physical spaces available to meet demand in special provision.

a) Balance supply and demand:

- Consider flexible commissioning in response to the changing demand and need in order to meet a local education offer
- Develop the education infrastructure to provide sufficient school places for children and young people with SEND across the range of education settings, making best use of capital investment to align the infrastructure to the growing demand in particular areas of need

b) Make optimum use of existing space:

- Continue to refurbish/redesign/expand to create additional capacity within existing estate
- Explore and invite alternative models for special school provision on mainstream school sites where space is available
- Provide a short-term solution of essential temporary accommodation on existing school sites to meet immediate demand

c) Schools Capital Programme:

- Invite expressions of interest from primary or secondary special providers who wish to expand to meet Basic Need and would require a level of capital investment from the Local Authority
- Invite expressions of interest for resource bases in mainstream schools from September 2015, particularly for ASC and C&L provision
- Identify additional spaces and/or buildings for immediate refurbishment for use by existing special schools and allocate necessary capital investment
- Deliver additional places through re-location of either whole or part of an existing special school on an alternative site

Please contact edsi.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk if you would like a Full Copy of the document.