



Draft 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

Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School are community schools located in the Sutton Vesey ward of the Sutton Coldfield district.

The infant school currently caters for up to 270 pupils from 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 Infant and Nursery School is federated with Boldmere Junior School.

The junior school currently caters for up to 360 pupils from 7– 11 years; pupils from the infant school transfer to the junior school at Year 3.

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

Both Schools share the same Executive Head Teacher.

What changes are proposed?

We are proposing to establish SEN provision in a resource base which will admit up to 24 Infant and junior pupils (Key stage 1 and 2) who have a diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and a statement of SEN or an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) which names one of the schools.

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.

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 places is being implemented as a priority.

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.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers at Birmingham City Council, following full consultation, it is anticipated 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 Basic Need (school within an identified 'hotspot')
- 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
- v) Risk of overprovision

Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School have both received a judgement of “Outstanding” in their last Ofsted inspection and we believe the schools will be able to sustain the planned growth. The schools are located in the North of the City where there is a shortage of school places to accommodate pupils with ASC, both are popular schools, have enough space to accommodate additional classrooms and we believe will be able to cope well with the additional pupils. The children in Boldmere Infant and Nursery School will be able to transfer to Boldmere Junior School at the junior phase (key stage 2). This will ensure continuity of their education.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

The resource base places will be commissioned by Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review service (SENAR), in line with the SEN Code of Practice. The SEN designation for the resource base will be for children with ASC. Existing pupils will have benefit of access to this provision if required.

Pupils at the resource base will have access to the mainstream provision at Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School for certain periods of the school week as appropriate for them.

Alterations will enable existing and future pupils to access high quality learning spaces and facilities.

How will this affect staff?

Staff will generally be unaffected; however, a school with special provision might offer more opportunities for professional development.

Will there be changes to the school building?

We will have to do some work to provide the additional classrooms required for the resource base. Please note that changes to the school building may be subject to planning permission. 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.

Will this definitely happen?

No. There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. We will write to all parents, pupils, staff and Governors with details of the final proposal and details of how to comment at that time. There will be four weeks for people to formally comment on the final proposal - this is referred to as the ‘representation period’.

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 additional places will have to be provided at another school. It may also mean that some pupils with ASC will need to travel further to access the provision they need.

What Happens Now?

Birmingham City Council must follow a formal process to establish SEN provision at Boldmere Infant and Nursery School and Boldmere Junior School. This begins with a 4 week initial consultation on the draft proposal with a number of interested parties, including parents, staff and Governors. The council will then need to consider the outcome of the consultation before deciding whether to proceed to the second stage of the consultation – publishing the final proposal with a statutory public notice. If the proposal proceeds, then a decision is expected in January 2018.

How can I make my views known?

We want your views on the proposal and you can send these to us via the consultation web page www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/boldmere, 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 first consultation period will run for four weeks from 19th September 2017.

The closing date for comments is 17th October 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
Consultation on Draft Proposal (4 weeks)	19 th September – 17 th October 2017
Consideration of Feedback from Draft Proposal	18 th October – 25 th October 2017
Statutory notice to be published	2 nd November 2017
Beginning of 4 week representation period	2 nd November 2017
End of 4 week representation period	30 th November 2017
Final decision to be made no later than	30 th January 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 19th September 2017 to 17th October 2017. You can make your views known by visiting; www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/boldmere to send us your thoughts by **Tuesday 17th October 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
.....

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

