

St Benedict's Primary School

**Proposal to:
Establish Special
Resource Provision
(Resource Base).**

April 2024



Introduction

Birmingham City Council (the Council), as the Local Authority for Birmingham is consulting on proposed change to St Benedict's Primary School (the School). This document describes what is being proposed and why.

School Information

Type:	Community School		
Name:	St Benedict's Primary School	DFE:	330/2183
Address:	St Benedict's Road, Birmingham, B10 9DP		
Ward:	Small Heath	Constituency:	Hodge Hill
Age Range:	4 – 11 years	Sixth Form:	no
Gender:	Mixed	Capacity:	420
Last Ofsted:	January 2023	Ofsted Rating	Good

What changes are proposed?

The Council is proposing to carry out the following change to the School:

- Establish Resource Base provision
 - Resource Base for up to 36 pupils which will be implemented over three phases:
 - 12 in September 2024
 - 12 in September 2025
 - 12 in September 2026
 - Type of need: Cognition & Learning/Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

The School is a mainstream community school rated 'Good' by Ofsted. The School has a capacity of 420 pupils.

Why has this school been chosen / identified?

The School currently offers additional support to pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for Cognition & Learning (C&L)/ Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In collaboration with the Council, it is proposed that the School establish a Resource Base. Due to the steadily growing demand in Birmingham, this change will help to provide places for pupils with an EHCP with C&L/ASD needs and support both the Council and the School in their strategic aims.

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. There has been an increase in the number of school-age pupils with EHCPs in Birmingham, by over 900 in the last three years. There is also an increase in requests for statutory assessment which could result in EHCPs; these requests are currently averaging 150 each month.

When will these changes happen?

Following this consultation period, if the proposal is approved by the decision maker, the changes will be implemented from **September 2024**.

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

There should be no negative effects on other schools, as the Resource Base will offer specialist provision for which there is a need. There is currently a shortage of 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 additional places for pupils with C&L/ASD needs.

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 36 place Resource Base will increase the number of primary places at a 'Good' school for pupils requiring C&L/ASD provision and provide greater choice for parents.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

Current pupils may notice the small increase to the total number of pupils at the School. This change would not affect the admission arrangements, admission number or process for mainstream pupils. The 36 Resource Base places would be reserved for pupils with an EHCP for C&L/ASD needs with places being commissioned and offered through the Council's Special Education Needs Assessment and Review service (SENAR).

How will this affect staff?

Generally, staff will be unaffected and may experience more opportunities for professional development. If this proposal is approved, any impact on terms and conditions would be with full consultation with Trade Unions/Professional Associations.

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 Authority transport arrangements for children with special needs will apply (Birmingham City Council's Children and Young Persons Travel Service).

Will there be changes to the school building?

Yes, the school has identified existing space in the school buildings that would be used for this provision. Some internal reconfiguration would take place to ensure appropriate space for the resource base as well as some work to upgrade toilet-facilities.

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

The works are being scoped and indicative costs of £170,000. Funding for the Resource Base will be sought from the Council's High Needs Capital Grant. Birmingham City Council will ensure that the project will deliver value for money. The ongoing maintenance of the Resource Base will be the responsibility of the school and funded via the school's delegated budget. The School will receive regular funding from the Council's High Needs Block budget for resourcing the specialist provision.

Will this definitely happen?

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. Following this statutory consultation, the proposal will be presented to the Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families; they are the decision maker for this type of proposal.

It is only after a decision that we will be able to say with certainty whether or not the proposal will be implemented. The decision will be published on the consultation website below (BeHeard) and stakeholders will be notified.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

The School will continue to offer additional support to its pupils with ASD and would consider ways to ensure a stable and sustainable future for this provision. This would also mean that the Council would need to identify alternative / additional places for pupils that have an EHCP for ASD provision.

How do I comment on this proposal?

We invite all interested parties to comment on this proposal.

Any comments must be received no later than Thursday 10th May 2024.

You can comment online via:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/stbenedictsot10195>

You can write to us at:

By email: eds.enquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

By letter:

School Organisation
Education Infrastructure
Birmingham City Council
PO Box 15843, Birmingham B2 2RT

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for the Council to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal.

Key dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice published	11 th April 2024
Start 4-week consultation period	9 th May 2024
Finish 4-week consultation period	9 th April 2024
Final decision deadline	9 th July 2024
Changes implemented	1 st September 2024

Groups notified of this proposal:

Parents and Pupils of St Benedict's Primary School
 Staff and Governors of St Benedict's Primary School
 Birmingham City Councillors
 Member of Parliament for the constituency
 NHS partners
 Birmingham Diocese and Archdiocesan
 Birmingham Schools
 Neighbouring Local Authorities
 Trade unions / professional associations
 Birmingham City Council Officers and departments
 The Department for Education – School Organisation
 Office of the Schools Adjudicator
 Public notice in Birmingham Post Newspaper

**St Benedict's Primary School:
Establish SEN Provision (Resource Base)**

Thank you for taking the time to send us your thoughts on this proposal.

Consultation Response Form

Please help us to analyse your response by completing the following:

Your name (optional): _____

Your contact details (optional):

Are you in favour of the proposal (please select one answer)?

Yes	No	Neither / Don't know
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What type of person / stakeholder are you (please select one answer)?

Pupil at St Benedict's Primary School	
Parent / Carer of pupil of St Benedict's Primary School	
Governor at St Benedict's Primary School	
Staff at St Benedict's Primary School	
Local Resident	
Birmingham City Councillor	
Member of Parliament	
Other - please describe (for example: staff of another school; or, parent of prospective pupil)	

Please provide your comments on the proposal.

(Continue on additional page, as required.)

Personal or identifying information is removed from responses before sharing with the decision maker