



Consultation by the Forward Education Trust to make significant changes to Brays Special School

Proposal to form two schools from the existing Brays Special School

Introduction

The Trustees of Forward Education Trust are consulting on a proposal to make changes to Brays Special School.

- Brays School is one of 27 Birmingham special schools and can offer up to 316 places for pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) for Physical, Medical, Learning Difficulties, and Autistic Spectrum Condition.
- Brays School currently operates on two sites: Brays Road, Sheldon, Birmingham and Leycroft Avenue, Tile Cross, Birmingham. The sites are 1.97 miles from one another.
- Brays School (Sheldon) best serves children with Physical, Medical, profound, and severe Learning Difficulties There are 100 pupils at this site which has a capacity of 116 pupils.
- Brays School (Tile Cross) was formed in 2016 on another site to create additional provision for pupils with complex Autistic Spectrum Condition. This site opened in 2017. There are 168 pupils who attend this site which has a capacity for 200 pupils.
- The two sites provide education for two different types of special educational needs and can operate as two separate schools.
- The pupils attending each site have an EHCP that reflects the site that the child is educated on.
- The demand for special school provision continues to increase in the Birmingham area.
- In principle Birmingham City Council support the proposal.

School Information

Type:	Special School (Academy)		
Name:	Brays Special School	DFE:	330/7038
Address:	Brays School, Brays Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 1NS (postal address/site 1) Brays School, Leycroft Avenue, Tile Cross, Birmingham B33 9UF (site 2)		
Ward:	Sheldon Glebe Farm and Tile Cross	District:	Birmingham
Age Range:	2 – 11 years	Capacity:	316
Last Ofsted:	05/02/2020	Ofsted Rating	Overall Effectiveness: 1 Outstanding

What changes are proposed?

The Trustees of Forward Education Trust are proposing to carry out the following permanent changes to Brays School:

- To de-amalgamate Brays School from one school over two sites to become two separate schools, each with their own site.

- Brays School currently operates across two sites, Brays School (Sheldon), Brays Road, Sheldon Birmingham B26 1NS; Brays School Annex (Tile Cross), Leycroft Avenue, Tile Cross, Birmingham B33 9UF.
- It is proposed that the two sites become individual schools, independent of one another.

Brays School (Sheldon):

- Will become a single site school on the Sheldon site and retain the name of Brays School.
- The capacity will remain at 116 pupils.
- The age range will be 2-11-year-old pupils.
- The SEND need type will be Physical (PD), Medical, Profound and Severe Learning Difficulties (PMLD and SLD) and Complex Medical Needs

Brays School (Tile Cross):

- Will become a new separate school, called Leycroft Academy.
- Leycroft Academy's capacity to be for 200 pupils aged 5-11 years
- Leycroft Academy to specialise in and have a SEND need type of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) as its primary need type

The proposed changes are not dependent on any other schools nor do they have any impact on special school admission arrangements.

Why do we want to do this?

This proposal is being developed for the following reasons:

- To enable each school to give more tailored provision to the needs of the current school population.
- To further develop specialist teaching environments to serve the specific needs of the children.
- To enable the staff to be specialists in the requirements of the young people and for their continuing training to be specialised in the needs of the school.
- To help the Local Authority with the sufficiency of specialist places for primary age pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Birmingham.

When will these changes happen?

If the proposal is approved by the decision makers, following full consultation it is intended that the proposal to separate the school into Brays School and Leycroft Academy will be with effect from 1st April 2021.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

No students will be displaced.

If the proposal is approved, pupils who would be due to have a place at Brays School Sheldon Campus will attend the Sheldon site as specified in their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Their EHCP will say Brays School on it.

Pupils due to attend Brays School (Tile Cross) will attend Leycroft Academy, (the new name of the proposed school) which was formerly Brays School (Tile Cross). Individual EHCPs will be amended to reflect this change of name of the school to Leycroft Academy.

Leycroft Academy will provide specialist learning for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) as now.

Each school will have their own specialisms and leadership team.

Parents and carers would continue to have opportunities to meet with professionals annually or sooner if required to review the EHCP as they would normally do.

How will the proposal increase educational standards and parental choice?

The schools will be following the national curriculum and work within the requirements of the Academy Funding Agreements, the Charities Commission, and the SEND code of practice.

A closely focused school specialism will further develop tailored learning, providing bespoke provision for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans. Specialising will enable the schools to develop in accordance with the needs of the population of the whole school.

The leadership of each school will be specialists in their field for the specific need types of the children within each school.

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

There should be no negative effects on any other schools through this school reorganisation process. The two schools will continue to operate with their respective specialisms, very similar in the way the two Brays sites do now and before the de-amalgamation.

How will this affect staff?

The two sites will operate as two separate schools and remain part of Forward Education Trust.

All staff members are employees of Forward Education Trust and therefore there will be no change of employer. No jobs are at risk of redundancy.

Any changes to existing terms and conditions for anyone working across two sites resulting from this proposal will be in full consultation with the trade unions and teaching associations. None are anticipated.

The specialisms at the respective sites will continue as now and the pupils will continue with their education in the same way on the sites they currently attend.

The current staff at Brays (Tile Cross) will be assigned to Leycroft Academy but remain employed by Forward Education Trust. Dedicated school leadership will be required at Leycroft Academy and Brays School. This will come from within the school plus through additional appointments if required.

Training will be provided for staff as required.

What will it cost to make this change?

Making the change will have minimal costs as the two sites are already fully operational. There will be a requirement for dedicated Headteachers and leadership teams at each school. This will be financed through the individual schools' budgets.

Will there be any additional pupils?

The proposal does not involve adding any more pupils at this time. This proposal does not preclude proposals in the future to take additional pupils onto the school sites where there

is capacity to do so and the school can meet the needs of those pupils. Any new proposal to make a significant change would be subject to a separate statutory consultation process.

Will this definitely happen?

No, there is a statutory process that the Trust Board must follow to make these types of changes to schools. It includes consultation with all stakeholders that may be affected by the proposal which includes staff, pupils' families and carers, agencies, the local community, elected members, other schools and local authorities. Ultimately the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office is the decision maker.

Consultation

This document is the consultation document. We welcome comments on the proposal between **Wednesday 7th October to Friday 6th November 2020**.

All comments received during the consultation period will be considered by the Trust Board, after consideration the Trust Board will decide whether to proceed with the proposal to de-amalgamate Brays School. We will notify stakeholders of the Trust Boards decision, to proceed to the next stage of the process.

What happens next?

If the Trust Board proceed with the proposal, a Full Business Case will be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), who will decide whether the school will de-amalgamate. We will notify all stakeholders of the RSC's decision, when this has been made.

What will happen if this proposal does not go head?

If this proposal is rejected, Brays School will continue to operate on two sites as it does at present.

How can I make my views known?

We welcome comments within the consultation period. Comments must be received no later than **Friday 6th November 2020**. Please note **all postal responses need to be addressed to the Trust Board (marked Brays Consultation) and received no later than this date**.

Anyone wishing to make comments, support or objections to this proposal may do so by:

- Writing to the following Address: FAO: Trust Board, Forward Education Trust, Central Office, c/o Brays School, Leycroft Avenue, Tile Cross, Birmingham. B33 9UF. (Mark the letter- Brays consultation).
- Or by emailing: enquiry@fet.ac

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.

Brays School: Proposal to form two schools from the existing Brays Special School

- **Brays School at Brays Lane, Sheldon, B26 1NS. For 116 pupils aged 2-11 years, diagnosed with Physical, Medical, Profound or Severe Learning Difficulties and complex medical needs.**
- **Leycroft Academy, Leycroft Avenue, Tile Cross, B33 9UF. For 200 pupils aged 4-11 years (Reception age to year 7), diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Condition.**

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	
Other (please specify)	

Please provide your comments to the proposal.

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