

Consultation on a proposal to
increase capacity and extend the
age range of pupils attending:

The Meadows Sports College

Consultation Period: (4 weeks)

Education Skills and Employment

Introduction

Sandwell Council is consulting on a proposal to make certain changes to The Meadows Sports College. These changes are explained in the sections below.

This consultation starts on 2 May 2017 and will run for four weeks until 26 May 2017.

School Information

The Meadows Sports College is a community special school located in Dudley Road East, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3BU. The school provides education for pupils deemed to have the following:

- Complex, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties and Autism
- Profound and Multiple Difficulties and Autism
- Profound/Severe Learning Difficulties and Autism
- Severe Learning Difficulties with Physical and Sensory Disabilities
- Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)

The age range of the school is currently 11 to 19.

All admissions to the school are as a result of Sandwell Council determining that this is the most appropriate educational provision. Students are accepted who have an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP)/Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) agreed by the Council which specifies Complex, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD).

What changes are proposed?

It is proposed to increase pupil capacity by up to 20 and to extend the age range of the school from ages 11-19 to ages 9 -19. This will mean that the school will cater for children from within Year 5 up to Year 14.

Why do we want to do this?

As the population of Sandwell grows so does the demand for school places. This also includes the demand for places in our special schools. Having undertaken a recent review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision in Sandwell the council has identified the need to increase SEN provision by using the full capacities of our schools. We are looking at what additional provision is required and what we can use better within our existing schools.

At the Meadows Sports College, we can re-establish a number of classrooms that are currently not used for teaching and learning.

When will this start from?

If the proposal is approved by Sandwell's Cabinet, it is anticipated that the proposal will be implemented from 1 November 2017.

What is the impact on:

Children and young people

The proposal allows for The Meadows school to extend its curriculum and provide support for children approaching secondary age. It will support the transition process and enable earlier transitions. Secondary transfer of SLD children in mainstream schools can be extremely stressful and this additional flexibility in special provision provides parents and children with increased choice and more options.

Staff

Staff currently employed by The Meadows Sports College will have no change to their circumstances.

All staff will have opportunities to continue their professional development by sharing practice and expertise across an extended age range. It will allow opportunity to upskill staff and extend knowledge of a primary curriculum.

Facilities

The facilities at The Meadows Sports College will be increased to include the opportunity to provide education for up to 20 more children across an extended age range of age 9 to 19. The proposal will include the reassigning of spaces within The Meadows Sports College to become areas for teaching and learning for children with severe and complex learning difficulties of primary age.

How can I make my views known?

We want your views on the proposal and would like you to complete the consultation form. If you would like to request a consultation meeting, please contact the school's Head Teacher or the Chair of Governors.

Views can be sent to us in a number of ways. A consultation form is available at the back of this document which can be returned to the school or alternatively views expressed at a consultation meeting (please arrange this via the school's Head Teacher) or in letters and emails. This document is also available on the Council's website:

www.consult.sandwell.gov.uk

If you would like to make any comments or suggestions, please return the attached consultation response form to the Meadows Sports College or write to:

Dr Kevin Rowland,
Principal Educational Psychologist,
Group Manager Inclusive Learning,
Connor Education Centre,
Connor Road,
West Bromwich B71 3DJ
Email: kevin_rowland@sandwell.gov.uk

Please note the closing date for comments is 26 May 2017. Although it will not be possible to respond to individual comments, all issues raised during this initial consultation process will be considered.

What happens now?

Please see the timescale below. Sandwell Council must follow a formal process to increase capacity and to extend the age range of The Meadows Sports College. This begins with a 4 week initial consultation period with a number of interested parties including parents, staff and governors. The council will then need to consider the outcome of this consultation before deciding whether to proceed to a second stage of consultation – the publishing of a full proposal and statutory notice. If the proposal proceeds, then a decision is expected in September 2017.

DATE	ACTION
2 May 2017	Initial consultation begins
26 May 2017	Initial consultation ends
1 June	Cabinet member to be briefed
12 June 2017	Statutory notice and full proposal published
12 June to 10 July 2017	Representation period
August / September 2017	Decision by Cabinet*
1 November 2017	Implementation

* If an appeal is received after Cabinet's decision then the matter would be referred to the schools adjudicator. This could affect the final decision or an implementation date.

Increasing pupil numbers and extending the age range at The Meadows Sports College Consultation Response Form

Are you a:

Please tick

Parent/Carer of a child

Student

Governor

Member of Staff

Member of the Community

Do you agree with the proposal that The Meadows Sports College should increase its capacity and extend its age range from 1 November 2017?

Yes No

Don't Know

Please add any comments here (and overleaf if necessary):

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form by Friday, 26 May 2017 to either the Meadows Sports College or Kevin Rowland, Special Educational Needs Service, Connor Education Centre, Connor Road, West Bromwich B71 3DJ

Data Protection Act, 1998

The information that you supply on this form will be used by the local authority for the purpose of consultation. All information is regarded as confidential and any data collected via this form will be processed or disclosed only within the limits of the data protection notification.

Additional Comments:

[Empty rectangular box for additional comments]