

## Birley Spa Primary Academy

Consultation on closure of the Integrated Resource.



L.E.A.D. Academy Trust  
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## **Statutory consultation on the proposed closure of the Integrated Resource at Birley Spa Primary Academy.**

Consultation period: 12 May 2021 – 15 June 2021

### **Background**

Birley Spa Primary Academy has an Integrated Resource commissioned by the Local Authority to provide up to 12 places for pupils with language, communication, interaction and/or autistic spectrum disorders.

The Integrated Resource is part of the Local Authority's co-ordinated strategy for SEND provision across the City, and is part of an ongoing review which has identified a number of sites capable of adding capacity to the City's SEND provision.

### **Proposal**

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust propose that the Integrated Resource at Birley Spa Primary Academy closes to new pupils with effect from 1 January 2022. This means that no places in the Integrated Resource will be offered to pupils not already allocated a place with effect from 1 January 2022 as part of a phased closure of the provision.

**For pupils who already have a place within the provision there will be no change, and they will remain in the Integrated Resource until they leave Birley Spa Primary Academy at the end of Year 6.**

Factors that have been considered by the Trust when deciding to consult on this proposal include:

### **Ensuring that Birley Spa Primary Academy is able to meet the needs of all pupils.**

We want Birley Spa Primary Academy to be an inclusive school where all pupils get the education, care and support they are entitled to and need. To achieve this, we need to ensure that all pupils who attend the academy receive educational provision that is most appropriate to their needs.

The physical location within the academy building of the Integrated Resource is not always conducive to meeting the complex needs of some pupils, and can consequently make de-escalation more difficult, impacting on learning for pupils. The limited space and environment mean that pupils within the Integrated Resource can feel on display when they require emotional support. Due to their complex needs, this means that on occasions, pupils accessing the Integrated Resource can feel exposed when they are at their most vulnerable. Therefore, the current provision does not constitute an ideal environment to best meet the emotional and educational needs of the pupils to the highest standard, and consequently can impact negatively on their schooling experience as a whole.

As a result of the location of the Integrated Resource and the nature of the needs of the pupils accessing it, on occasions, pupils not in the Integrated Resources can witness displays of complex behaviours. This can be distressing, impacting negatively on the schooling experience for some mainstream pupils.

### **Financial Resources.**

Some parents apply for places at the academy in the belief that this will enable them to secure a place in the Integrated Resource. Due to the limited number of places available, this is not the



actuality of what happens, and consequently the academy has a significant proportion of pupils with very complex needs within a mainstream setting. This can compromise the academy's ability to offer an optimum standard of education to all pupils in its care. Additionally, having pupils from outside of our academy directed to the Integrated Resource by the local authority means that some of our pupils with high level complex needs, and who would meet the criteria of requiring alternative provision, are not securing a place within our Integrated Resource. This impacts on our ability to run a high-quality alternative provision within the academy for our own pupils and families.

The funding required to meet the complex needs of these pupils and the pupils within the Integrated Resource is beyond what the academy receives, and this position is not sustainable without limiting the enrichment and educational opportunities for all pupils.

### **Discussions and collaboration with the Local Authority.**

The academy has been working closely with the Local Authority, and conversations have been ongoing with regards to the Integrated Resource provision at the academy to ensure there are sufficient places within Integrated Resources in other settings to offset the proposed loss of places at Birley Spa Primary Academy. A review undertaken by the Local Authority has suggested that other settings would be able to provide capacity if the Integrated Resource at the academy was to begin a phased closure.

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust believe that closing the Integrated Resource Provision will assist the academy to provide stability in their long term planning and allow them to deliver high quality educational outcomes for pupils. By establishing Integrated Resource provision in a setting that is more appropriately located, we believe that pupils will be better served by accessing provision more tailored to their specific needs.

The Trust is consulting with key stakeholders, including:

- Parents/carers of current pupils
- Parents in the area;
- The local authority;
- Primary, secondary, AP and special schools and sixth form and FE colleges in the area;

You are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal to Mrs. Pemberton, Executive Headteacher, via email at [enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk) or post them to:

Mrs. Pemberton  
Birley Spa Primary Academy  
Jermyn Crescent  
Sheffield  
S12 4QE

The Trust will be holding a meeting for stakeholders to attend on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 4.30pm where you will be able to hear further details on the proposal and have the opportunity to provide feedback. Due to the ongoing restrictions relating to the Covid 19 pandemic the meeting will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams.



Please contact [enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk) to register your interest in attending the meeting.

This consultation will end on the 13 June 2021. Please send any comments regarding these proposed changes before that time.

Following the consultation period L.E.A.D. Academy Trust will consider any comments received and how to proceed.