

Proposal to merge Elmbrook School and Leicester Partnership School

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

FAQs of proposal

Question	Answer
What is section 19 of the Education Act 1996?	Section 19 places a legal duty on local authorities to arrange suitable education for compulsory school age children who are unable to attend school due to illness, exclusion, or other reasons.
What is section 61 of the Children and Families Act 2014?	Under section 61, local authorities may arrange for a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to be educated somewhere other than a school or post-16 setting.
What is the High Needs Block?	High needs funding supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision for children and young people with SEND who require additional resources to participate in education and learning, mainly in schools and colleges, from their early years to age 25 (excluding young people aged 19 to 25 who do not have an education, health and care plan (EHC) plan and individuals who are over the age of 25)• Children up to age 16 in alternative provision (AP) who, because of exclusion, illness, or other reasons, cannot receive their education in mainstream or special schools
What is the main focus of this proposal?	The Council are proposing bringing together Elmbrook School and Leicester Partnership School into one combined provision with aligned leadership, governance and resources through the

	<p>creation of one management committee (whilst continuing to operate across two sites).</p> <p>Through this we hope to secure a strong and sustainable model of provision that continues to evolve to meet need, now and in the future.</p>
<p>What six options were considered?</p>	<p>The six options included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merging Elmbrook School and Leicester Partnership School creating one management committee (<i>preferred option</i>) • Federating the two schools • Academising the PRU • Commissioning private alternative provision • Establishing SEMH DSP provision • Maintaining the current model
<p>How did you identify this was the best option?</p>	<p>This proposal represents a clear commitment by the Local Authority to secure and protect the future of pupil referral units. We are affirming the necessity and proven effectiveness of the PRU and placing it as a priority resource. In a climate where many Local Authorities are dismantling this provision, we are taking a strong stance to safeguard its survival. Expanding the PRU's remit to address a broader range of needs ensures its sustainability and continued relevance.</p> <p>We envision the merger of these two schools with the creation of one management committee will strengthen this for now and the future whereas other options evaluated would not achieve the same required outcomes.</p>
<p>What are the benefits of this proposal?</p>	<p>Benefits identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and staff training in areas such as Team Teach and

	<p>pedagogical development would reduce duplication and training costs, while, more importantly, strengthening practice across both settings by sharing knowledge, expertise, and professional experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term casework would be possible, enabling staff to track pupils' progress over several years. This continuity would support more informed interventions, better monitoring of academic, social, and emotional development, and stronger relationships between pupils, families, and staff, resulting in greater positive long-term outcomes. • A collaborative curriculum from Early Years through to Key Stage 4 would enable coherent mapping of knowledge and progression across subjects such as maths, English, art, and PE. This would allow teachers to build on prior learning, reduce unnecessary repetition, and provide a more consistent and cumulative learning experience for pupils across both sites.
What is the benefit of one management committee?	One Management Committee will provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic oversight • Financial accountability • Monitoring of safeguarding and quality of education
If this proposal is agreed how quickly will it be implemented?	We anticipate lead members and senior leaders to make a final decision by the end of March. If agreed this will be implemented from April onwards through the creation of one management committee.
How will you communicate with stakeholders?	A communication plan has been drafted which includes communicating this proposal to pupils, parent carers, staff, school governors, unions, schools across the city and the public. This will be through a mixture of email communications, newsletters, online platforms (including LA consultation site and the Local Offer) and briefing sessions.

When are the briefing sessions scheduled for?	<p>Three briefing sessions have been scheduled and will take place on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 26 January (15.30-16.30) – Elmbrook School (teaching and support staff of provision, union representatives, governors only) • Tuesday 27 January (15.30-16.30) – LPS (teaching and support staff of provision, union representatives, governors only) • Wednesday 28 January (16.30-17.30) – Microsoft teams (for parents and carers, school reps across the city, union reps, internal council staff, members of the public)
How will consultation feedback be reviewed and influence a final decision?	Consultation feedback will be drafted into a report to support lead members and senior leaders' final decision. We anticipate this to be ready in mid to late March (subject to change).
What is the process you are following under the prescribed alterations process?	<p>The prescribed alterations process in education is a formal, statutory process for making significant changes to maintained schools.</p> <p>Although Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) do not class as maintain schools the local authority will be following this process to ensure everyone is able to share their views on this proposal.</p> <p>There are 5 stages as part of this process including:</p> <p>Stage 1: Initiation – gaining agreement from lead members/ senior leaders on this proposal before communicating this</p> <p>Stage 2: Publication – communicating this proposal and publishing a notice statement</p> <p>Stage 3: Consultation – consulting with people on the proposal to support in a final decision</p> <p>Stage 4: Decision – lead members/ senior leaders must make a final decision following reviewing consultation feedback</p>

	Stage 5: Implementation – if agreed, the proposal will then be implemented (there is no specific timescales for this)
How will I find out the outcome of this proposal following the consultation process?	This will be communicated firstly to the chairs of the management committee and headteachers. Following this it will be communicated through a range of channels to inform everyone of the final decision.
I have a question about this proposal, who should I contact?	Contact Kurshedha Williamson by emailing Kurshedha.williamson@leicester.gov.uk

FAQs for Teaching and Support Staff across both provisions

Question	Answer
How will this affect teaching and support staff across both provisions?	This proposal is to merge the provision to create one school, with one management committee to oversee the practice of both sites. If agreed the new management committee, once in place, will be tasked with designing the future travel for the school as any school is subject to their management committee.

FAQs for Pupils/ Parents and Carers

Question	Answer
Will my child need to move to a new school site?	Both schools will remain two separate sites and there will be no physical changes to either sites. Pupils will not be asked to move to a new site should this proposal be agreed.
Will the school remain as separate primary and secondary sites?	There will be no changes to the age ranges currently met under each site. They will remain as separate primary and secondary school sites.
Will this mean the school has a new name?	The proposal outlines the merger of two management committees which will form one school under one DFE number.

	This will require one registration name for the DFE, but the identity of the two sites can be factored into the merger and ultimately would be the decision of management committee.
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FAQs for Governors

Question	Answer
Are other PRUs across the country operating as one school?	There are many examples of shared governance through a strategic board across multiple schools, supporting resilient governance and highly effective leadership. For example, the Leigh Academies Trust brings together four smaller settings under a single governance board. Outcomes and Ofsted judgements are exceptionally high.
Have Local Authority representatives undertaken a benefits analysis?	A benefits analysis has not been undertaken as this options appraisal has been focused on increasing efficiencies and not financial savings. However, if agreed we envision this proposal to bring savings through economies of scale such as, procurement savings.
Will the merger of the management committee mean governors are asked to determine the new direction of travel for the school? Will the Local Authority be supporting governors with this?	This proposal is to merge the provision to create one school, with one management committee to oversee the practice of both schools. If agreed the new management committee, once in place, will be tasked with designing the future travel for the school as any school is subject to their management committee. The Local Authority will be able to offer the committee support and guidance should they wish to utilise this.
What are the financial implications of this proposal?	The merging of the two schools will not have an impact on the current funding allocations for the provision. The current allocations will be merged into a single budget for the combined

	PRU to be allocated by Headteachers and the management committee.
What will be the new structure of the management committee? How will you determine there is equal representative across both existing committees?	A new committee structure will need to be put in place with support from Local Authority governance services. It will be recommended that there is equal representative across both existing committees who can share their knowledge and expertise of individual provisions.