

Proposed merger of Elmbrook School and Leicester Partnership School (LPS)

Introduction

The Council are proposing bringing together Elmbrook School and Leicester Partnership School into one combined provision with aligned leadership, governance and resources through the creation of one management committee (whilst continuing to operate across two sites). 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.

We would like to hear your views on the proposal. You can do this by completing the [online consultation](#). Should you require a paper copy of this consultation these can be accessed by emailing or contacting Kurshedha Williamson kurshedha.williamson@leicester.gov.uk (0116 454 2172)

About the schools

Elmbrook School (Primary Pupil Referral Unit - PRU) is a pupil referral unit establishment offering 40 places for pupils aged 5 - 11 years old. It was inspected in May 2022 and judged to be good.

Leicester Partnership School (LPS) provides a range of educational provision for young people, between the ages of 11-16 years, who have been excluded, or who are at risk of exclusion, from mainstream education offering 140 places. It was inspected in February 2025 and judged to be good.

The proposal

The proposal is to bring the two schools together to create one large pupil referral unit (PRU) which will be overseen by one management committee. Note, both schools will continue to operate from their existing sites. The proposal is being led by the Local Authority and both management committees and headteachers have been informed of these proposals.

Background information

Overview

Leicester City Council wants to make sure all children receive a good education. This includes children who cannot go to their usual school because they are ill, have been excluded, or need extra help. Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) help these children. They support children in both primary and secondary school. PRUs give children a safe place to learn, trusted adults, and lessons that meet their needs.

Children's needs across the city are changing and the way PRUs work needs to change with them to fully meet these needs going forward. The Council also needs to use resources in the best way so support can continue in the future.

Because of this, the Council is suggesting that **Elmbrook School** and **Leicester Partnership School** work together as one school. They would share leaders and decision-making through one management group.

Both schools will stay on their own sites and there will be **no changes for pupils or families**.

When are the changes proposed to happen?

If, following the consultation Leicester City Council agrees to make these changes they will take effect from April 2026 through the creation of one management committee.

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.

What are the benefits?

By bringing together the two schools with oversight from one management committee this will:

- Provide a clearer and more inclusive pathway for children and young people with a range of needs
- Enable a collaborative curriculum and specialist support across phases
- Strengthen leadership capacity and governance oversight
- Support a more efficient and sustainable use of funding

This proposal represents a clear commitment by the Local Authority to secure and protect the future of PRUs. 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.

What happens next?

Meetings/ briefing presentations

Three briefing sessions have been scheduled and will take place on:

- **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) – [submit your questions](#)

At each meeting you will be able to hear from Local Authority officers on this proposal who will address questions that have been submitted before the session.

Should you have any further questions please contact Kursheda Williamson – Kursheda.williamson@leicester.gov.uk