

# What is happening at Beckfoot Nessfield School





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## What We Are Doing

Beckfoot Nessfield is a large site and through thinking differently, there is a brilliant opportunity to share rising costs and therefore benefit the children who attend this school. By creating a 'satellite' school for Beckfoot Phoenix in space within the Beckfoot Nessfield building, we are able to add 32 more places for pupils with identified special educational needs.

## Why

Beckfoot Nessfield was originally built for 450 pupils and is potentially only going to accommodate 240 by 2027. As such, the expansion of Beckfoot Phoenix will allow excellent use of unused space. We have a long and successful history as a trust of running and managing co-located special and mainstream schools and understand the benefits it can bring to all. There are a growing number of pupils in Bradford who need provision in special schools, and the current facilities are not enough to meet this demand. This is a fantastic opportunity for both schools to work collaboratively on a shared site while still maintaining their own strong identity.

## Benefits of the Project

- **Improved facilities:** Both Beckfoot Phoenix and Beckfoot Nessfield will benefit from improved facilities, enhancing the learning environment for all students.
- **Collaboration opportunities:** The shared site will provide opportunities for both schools to work collaboratively, sharing best practice and resources yet maintaining their own identities as individual schools.
- **Job creation:** The project will create local job opportunities within Beckfoot Phoenix, contributing to the local economy.
- **Enhanced community engagement.** The consultation process allows the community to have a say in the project, ensuring that the needs and concerns of all stakeholders are considered.
- **Increased capacity:** The project will add 32 more places for children with special educational needs, helping to meet the growing demand in Bradford and ensure the children most in need of specialist provision are able to thrive.

## How You Can Have Your Say

You can share your opinions through an online survey, please use the QR code or webpage at the end of this booklet to access this. The consultation period is from March 24th, 2025 to April 14th, 2025.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Education and Curriculum

### **Will Beckfoot Nessfield and Beckfoot Phoenix become one school?**

No.

Both schools will remain separate schools. They will share a campus but maintain their own identity and team within their own school on site.

### **Will this impact on the quality of education my child receives?**

No.

There will be no change to the curriculum offer for either Beckfoot Phoenix or Beckfoot Nessfield pupils. We are working with the Local Authority to ensure that the design of the building means that spaces are used in the best possible way to meet the needs of all young people.

### **Will loss of space for Beckfoot Nessfield impact on the curriculum delivery?**

No.

We are planning the build carefully to ensure Beckfoot Nessfield have all the facilities needed to ensure there is no erosion of the curriculum offer.

### **Will children on both Beckfoot Phoenix sites get the same deal?**

Yes.

The site at Nessfield is being carefully planned to ensure that there is no difference in curriculum delivery between the sites. The design includes a newly built sensory room, rebound room, soft play area and swing room. All classrooms will have access to outdoor spaces. Staff appointments would be made by Beckfoot Phoenix leaders. Both sites will have the same leadership team thereby ensuring the same culture, ethos and high expectations for pupils and staff. The same level of staffing consistency at both sites would be made.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Safety and Disruption

### **Will the children be kept safe during the building phase of the project?**

Yes.

The site will be appropriately managed by the Local Authority and experts in our Trust during the build. Where possible any major works will be done during the school holidays to ensure the absolute safety of children. The building work will be phased to ensure health and safety remains a top priority. The Local Authority and school are keen to provide learning opportunities for existing children during the build which will be carefully managed and risk assessed.

### **How much noise and disruption will there be during the build?**

Disruption from the build will be kept to a minimum, the building works will be coordinated by the Local Authority and will be kept to working hours.

### **Will there be an increase in traffic and will staff and family parking be an issue?**

No.

Additional staff parking has been planned into the build design. There will also be a dedicated drop-off for Beckfoot Phoenix pupils which will be secure. The original Beckfoot Nessfield site is designed for 450 pupils (a 2-form entry building). Should the plans go ahead, there will be up to 272 pupils on site, still well below the number the site is designed for, which should provide assurance that parking and traffic should not be an issue.

### **How will drop-off and pick-up work on a shared site?**

Drop-off and pick-up will be done at separate times for each school and will be staggered. Beckfoot Nessfield and Beckfoot Phoenix will remain two separate schools with separate pupil entrances.

### **Who is paying for the build?**

The Local Authority will fund the building.

### **When will the building work start and how long will it take?**

Timescales depend on a series of factors including planning permission and consultation. Once started we expect the building work will be completed in phases taking no more than 18 months from start to finish. We expect significant periods of down time to allow for the usual school year cycle.

### **When will this change happen?**

Should the change go ahead, work would begin following planning applications being approved. It is hoped that places will be ready for pupils to commence in January 2027.

# Staffing and Employment

## **Will staff be expected to work for both schools?**

Teachers and Teaching Assistants will only be expected to work in the school they are employed by. Some operational staff, such as administrators, receptionists and site managers may be required to support both schools through the provision of shared services such as reception.

## **Will there be an expectation of working across both sites at Beckfoot Phoenix?**

No.

For Beckfoot Nessfield staff, they will remain at Beckfoot Nessfield.

For Beckfoot Phoenix staff, there will be a 'usual location' which will either be the current site or the new one. Any movement will be done in consultation with collaboration and agreement at the heart of it. It is highly unlikely that teachers and teaching assistants would be asked to move between sites on a regular basis unless employed to do so.

## **Will this change mean becoming more specialised or losing skills?**

No.

Beckfoot Phoenix will remain a special school for pupils with severe learning difficulties and profound and complex learning and medical needs. As well as a learning difficulty, children may also have autism, communication difficulties, physical disabilities, and visual or hearing impairments.

## **Will leadership work across the two sites for Beckfoot Phoenix and will there be adequate support at both sites?**

Yes.

There will always be access to someone from leadership at both sites. As Beckfoot Phoenix will be a split site, there will be additional leadership employed to ensure appropriate capacity.



# Student Placement and Movement

## **Will Beckfoot Phoenix children be moved between sites?**

No.

Existing children at Beckfoot Phoenix will not be moved unless there is a clear benefit to the child. This would be done in full consultation with families.

## **Will there be a choice about the site my child attends?**

No.

Pupils at the current school site will remain there. For new pupils joining Beckfoot Phoenix, the leadership team would decide which site best suited the child's needs.

## **Will there be cross over of pupils between Beckfoot Nessfield and Beckfoot Phoenix?**

No.

This project does not affect placement arrangements. Both schools remain independent and have their own admissions criteria which are not affected by this change. Children will not switch between Beckfoot Nessfield and Beckfoot Phoenix; they are separate schools.

## **Will the medical provision be to the same standard on both Beckfoot Phoenix sites?**

No.

There would be appropriately trained medical staff on both sites to meet the needs of the children. However, due to the nature of the site at Beckfoot Nessfield, it is unlikely that pupils with complex physical and medical needs would attend this site.

# School Identity and Culture

## **Will pupils and staff know that they belong both to their own school and the site?**

Yes.

While both schools on the Beckfoot Nessfield site will retain their own identity, there will be opportunities for purposeful and joyful collaboration. Both schools have a strong individual culture which will remain.

For Beckfoot Phoenix, no matter which site you are on the culture and ethos will be the same. Opportunities will be created for Beckfoot Phoenix pupils and staff at both sites to come together. For staff, the CPD offer will remain consistent across both sites.



# Local Authority Consultation Document

## Consultation Document: Beckfoot Phoenix

### Sufficiency of Specialist places for Children and Young People with SEND

**Proposal for Beckfoot Phoenix to operate an additional site, facilitating an increase of 32 places for children and young people with an EHCP specific to the designated need of the school.**

The Local Authority has specific duties to ensure that there is sufficient specialist provision available for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), where their EHCPs determine that their needs should be met in specialist provision.

Bradford has experienced a significant increase in the number of children and young people with EHCP's requiring specialist provision. It is projected that demand for specialist places will continue to grow across all sectors.

### Beckfoot Phoenix School

Beckfoot Phoenix is part of the Beckfoot Trust and is a school for pupils with special educational needs. We work closely with the Local Authority to support Children and Young People with an Education, Health and Care Plan in order to give them the best possible learning journey.

The Beckfoot Trust is a medium-sized family of 10 Bradford District schools, secondary, primary and special. Our mission is to 'create remarkable schools where no child is left behind'. We are determined to be remarkable because the communities that we serve deserve it and our students deserve nothing less.

Beckfoot Phoenix is a primary school (age 2 - 11) all of whom have difficulty with their learning. Some of our children have severe learning difficulties and others have profound and complex learning and medical needs. As well as a learning difficulty, children may also have autism, communication difficulties, physical disabilities, and visual or hearing impairments.

At Beckfoot Phoenix, we see every child as unique. We are proud of our school specific curriculum and personalised approach that ensures every child leaves our school with the skills that will help them with their life. For some, this means learning to read and write, for others, it is about learning to be more independent, and for others, it is being able to accept help and support so that they can happily access the world around them. For all - it is about 'Learning lots, making memories and being brilliant'.

At our school, we keep our children at the absolute heart of everything we do. It is all about:

- Keeping them safe;
- Valuing them and giving them a voice and;
- Enabling them all to 'Enjoy, Learn and Succeed'.

Our highly motivated team work hard to enable all pupils to achieve beyond what could ever be imagined.

The Local Authority's 2024-25 Strategic Plan shows evidence that there is demand for primary special school places across the Bradford District

### Why are we consulting?

If a school wishes to make significant changes, such as changing the number and/or type of school places and/or where they are offered, they need to have a fair and open local consultation with relevant stakeholders.



# Local Authority Consultation Document

After views have been sought and assessed the school must then submit a Tier 1 Application to the Department for Education (DfE) which will then go to approval at the Regional Schools Group.

## What are we consulting on?

This proposal is to increase the number of pupils on the roll at Beckfoot Phoenix by 32 through the use of an additional site. This additional site will be created by the renovation of existing surplus space at Beckfoot Nessfield.

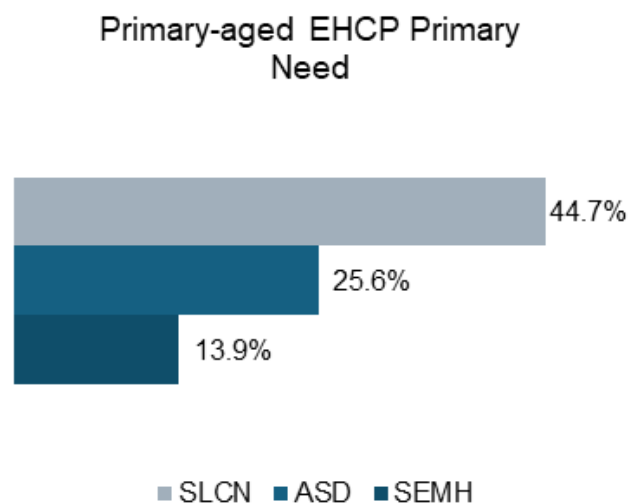
## Evidence of demand:

Bradford District has experienced a significant increase in demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision over the past decade. It is projected that demand will continue to grow across all sectors, despite the decrease that we have seen in the birth rate within the Bradford district, regionally and nationally, the number of children and young people with an EHCP continues to rise.

The total number of children and young people aged 0-25 with an EHCP was 7309 in September 2024. This is up from 6259 the previous year in November 2023.

We have seen the number of EHCPs for school-aged children and young people doubled from 2579 in January 2019 to 5223 in September 2024

Amongst primary-aged children with an EHCP, evidence shows communication and interaction needs are most prominent which the primary needs Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) fall broadly under. See the graph below.



Three most- prevalent needs on primary-aged children's EHCPs, September 2024.

## How will this be achieved?

If approved, the plan is for the Local Authority to work closely with the Trust and Schools to renovate and repurpose surplus classrooms and facilities in Beckfoot Nessfield. Following which Beckfoot Nessfield and Phoenix will share the same site but still operate as separate

# Local Authority Consultation Document

schools. This new site for Beckfoot Phoenix will facilitate the increase of 32 places.

## **Who will fund and ensure the project is delivered?**

The Local Authority are supporting this and will project manage and fund this development from the High Needs Capital Funding.

This provision will be staffed and managed by Beckfoot Phoenix and the Beckfoot Trust.

## **How can I share my views?**

The consultation will be open from **24th March 2025 to the 14th April 2025** for you to share your views.

Please click on the link or QR Code below to open the survey and to share your views on the proposal:

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/BeckfootPhoenixCons>

Or you scan the QR code below



If you would prefer a paper copy of the consultation, please contact the school office or e-mail: [office@beckfootnessfield.org](mailto:office@beckfootnessfield.org)

**“This is a fantastic opportunity for both schools to work collaboratively while still maintaining their own identities.”**



**Thank you.  
We look forward to  
hearing your feedback.**

