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| **Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2024** |  |

**Belgrave Ward**

| **Date** | **Polling Station** | **Ward** | **Comments** | **Acting Returning Officer's comments** |
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| 09/09/24 | Lakeside Primary School | Belgrave | We do not feel that a primary school is a suitable place for polling. It disrupts the day and restricts where the children can go around the school. Also stops staff from using the staff room.  **What is your alternative to the suggestion for a polling station?** Another location | Schools are informed of scheduled polls several years in advance thus allowing ample time to plan for a Teacher Training Inset Day. This should help keep disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. Whilst schools must provide the Returning Officer with a suitable room to facilitate voting it is not the Returning Officer who chooses to close the school. This is a decision taken by the school. Lakeside Primary School, like several other schools used as polling stations throughout the borough remain either fully or partially open on polling days.  Schools are required under statute to be made available for voting purposes. This is partly because as a public building the access must meet all requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010. Accessibility for disabled voters is a very important issue and ensuring that polling stations are suitable for all sorts of disability is essential. Statistics state that there are approximately 7,000 people within the borough who have mobility issues and an unknown number of people with other impediments. We must be very careful about not accidentally disenfranchising an elector as they are unable to access voting facilities easily. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 has placed a requirement on the local authority to review the accessibility of all polling stations. A review is undertaken at every poll and a polling station questionnaire is available for completion by electors. No complaints have been received at any of the recent elections regarding accessibility at this venue. Therefore, no changes are proposed.  This submission also lacks to identify another location within the area. |
| 10/09/24 | Birdsbush Road | Belgrave | There is no need to close Schools for voting. we always used the Club and this didn’t interfere with our children’s education.  **What is your alternative option (if any) to the above polling station(s)?** No suggestion submitted. | The polling station for this area is located within the Sports Centre at Tamworth Enterprise College. Tamworth Enterprise College is unaffected and does not close to pupils on polling days. |
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