

Public Consultation – January 2025

Proposal to create a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Difficulties Base at Trinity Primary School

The purpose of this consultation is to ask for your views and consult on the development of a new Resourced Provision (base) for up to 16 pupils with SEMH difficulties at Trinity Primary School from September 2025. It is important to hear your views at this stage so we can consider them as part of the work to be undertaken, should approval be obtained.

The consultation and decision-making process is outlined below:

This consultation will run from 23/01/25 – 13/02/25.

A report outlining the consultation responses received will then be taken to Herefordshire Council to decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

Further Information

This document contains information that will help you understand the issues surrounding this proposed change. If you require any additional information not included in this document to enable you to make a response, please contact admin@trinity.hereford.sch.uk

Have your say

It is very important that all those involved have a say. The link to the online response form is available here: <https://forms.office.com/e/Lne9Txx35Y>

If you are unable to access the online response form, please email the school office: admin@trinity.hereford.sch.uk

Responses must be submitted online or to: admin@trinity.hereford.sch.uk

Why we are proposing to create a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Difficulties Base in a mainstream primary school?

Herefordshire Local Authority (LA) has short-term, intervention provisions for primary-aged children with SEMH difficulties. The purpose of this provision is to assess children's needs and support them and the staff in their mainstream school to develop strategies so that they are able to be integrated into and thrive in a mainstream school.

The LA also has a specialist school for children with SEMH difficulties. This offers long term places separate from mainstream schools.

Considering the number of requests for long term places at the specialist school for children in the primary phase of their education, it is evident that there is a need for an expansion in the number of specialist primary SEMH places.

Cost of opening a new base

There is likely to be very minimal expenditure to ensure that the rooms identified are modified and equipped in readiness for their opening in September 2025. We also plan to offer the staff appointed appropriate further training in order to ensure they are well placed to carry out their new role.

Purpose of the SEMH base

The purpose of the base is to allow children who need additional support for their SEMH difficulties to access mainstream education to gain that support from specialist staff who work from the base classroom. The criteria for being offered a place at a base is that the children must have SEMH difficulties and a level of educational need that can only be met through a SEMH base as identified in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). They must also have a reasonable prospect of being able to access some time in mainstream lessons. The bases are designated local authority specialist provision and therefore any decisions of pupil placement are made by the local authority in accordance with the statutory guidance in the SEND Code of Practice (2015). Trinity Primary School will be consulted as part of the statutory EHCP process.

Funding for the SEMH base

The base will be funded in the same way as special schools and other specialist provision such as autism bases. The new base will be funded for 16 places plus individual pupil top-up funding in accordance with the level of need described in their EHC Plan. Experience with existing specialist bases has been highly positive and has created an ethos of inclusion throughout the schools concerned. We anticipate that the extension of the network of mainstream bases will be highly beneficial to the whole community. Parents will know that, where their child meets the criteria for entry to specialist provision, they will have specially trained staff to address their needs. Schools will know that children that require the specialist provision will be able to access it when it is needed. Trinity Primary School will benefit by acquiring a specialism and experience in the needs of children with SEMH difficulties, which will benefit all children attending the school.

How the decision will be made

At the conclusion of this consultation period the Governors will consider any issues that have been raised before deciding whether to make a formal approach to the Council.

The council will consider evidence from various sources in order to reach a considered view on the merits of the proposal. In particular the following factors:

The response to the public consultation

The quality of education provision at the school

The ability of the school to manage the proposed change to support the continued improvements at the school

Demand for specialist SEMH places in the local area

Who is being consulted?

Parents and carers of pupils attending the School

Staff and Governors of other local schools

Any person or organisation wishing to make a representation

What happens next?

Consultation Phase

During the consultation phase anyone with an interest can express their views on the options expressed in this document.

Submission of formal proposal to Local Authority

The governors will take note of issues raised during the consultation. At the conclusion of the consultation period a decision will be made whether to submit a formal proposal to the council.

Implementation

If approved, this proposal will be implemented by the school from September 1st 2025