



Rudheath Senior Academy

Consultation to open a 15 place SEN Resourced Provision

PROPOSAL:

The governing body of [Rudheath Senior Academy](http://www.rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk) in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority is proposing to add a 15 place SEN resourced provision for children with effect from May 2025. As a consequence of this proposal we have been asked by the DFE and the local authority to consult with all parents, and local schools to ensure that all stakeholders have been consulted.

Background

As you are probably aware there is an increase in the demand for special school places and SEN resourced provision places nationally. At present, special schools and resourced provision places are oversubscribed nationally and locally. There has been an increase in the identified need of additional resourced provision through the EHCP process. Following extensive research and identification of need it has been identified that there is a lack of local provision within the county.

This means that some children who require a specialist school place either have to wait for a place to become available or would have to travel some distance daily to be able to access the nearest available provision. Schools in Cheshire West and Chester have been approached by the local authority to support them with an additional resourced provision in the locality.

The creation of this provision within Rudheath Senior Academy will also reduce transport costs allowing children and young people to remain and be educated in their local community.

The Governors and The North West Academies Trust have therefore proposed Rudheath Senior Academy to support the need for this additional provision in the area.

For us as a school, this is a great opportunity for us to continue to build on the work we do to support all our pupils and would further increase the expertise of our staff.

The North West Academies Trust, Rudheath Senior Academy, and the Local Authority propose to develop a 15-place special educational needs resourced provision within the existing footprint of the school building.

The main benefits of this proposal:

The PAN of the school will remain the same to accommodate the 15 additional SEN resourced provision children.

The SEN resourced provision will accommodate up to 15 secondary-aged children with an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) with Communication and Interaction (C&I).

The SEN resourced provision will accommodate existing space in the school building and there will be internal modification to the school building only to accommodate additional learning spaces with the envisaged resourced provision classrooms.

The SEN resourced provision would be separately funded, and both current and additional staff would be recruited to ensure that the provision of the resourced provision would not impact the quality of education

currently provided at Rudheath Senior Academy. Existing SEND staff are experienced and qualified to support the development of the new provision, and the school has appropriate space available. Without the expansion, there would be insufficient suitable places for C&I pupils in Cheshire West and Chester, and their special needs may not be met locally.

No capital funding will be required by the school to implement this proposal. It will not affect the capacity of the school and does not put pressure on existing classroom spaces.

The Process

The proposed indicative timetable is as follows:

3-week Consultation Period extended: Monday 16th September 2024 to Friday 25th October 2024. The 3-week consultation period has been extended till 25th October, during which anyone with a view on the change can write to the governing body to inform them. Once the consultation period has closed governors will meet to consider all the responses before making a final decision on any changes. All responses must be received by 12pm on Friday 25th October 2024.

Governing Body meeting: The Governing Body will meet to consider the consultation responses and whether to implement this proposal on the week of Monday 4th November 2024. We will respond to and answer any parent questions and post answers to any questions raised on our school website. If it is agreed that the proposal will be implemented, then the proposed implementation will take effect as of May 2025.

Please respond to the Consultation by 12 noon on 25th October 2024:

In writing: Consultation, FAO Mrs C. Williams, Headteacher, Rudheath Senior Academy, Middlewich Road, Northwich, CW9 7DT

Or by emailing: admin@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk with the subject line 'Consultation'.

With regards,

Mrs C. Williams



Headteacher (on behalf of the Chair of Governors).