

Consultation on Proposal to Allocate Part of Sulivan School Estate for a Local Authority SEND Unit.

Background

Sulivan currently occupies a large, purpose-built site that exceeds our operational needs. Since our Published Admission Number (PAN) was reduced to 30, a significant portion of our estate has remained unused.

Proposal

We are proposing to permanently allocate a portion of our unused estate to the Local Authority (LA) for the development of a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) unit. This initiative aims to meet the growing local demand for specialist school places for children with complex needs.

Key Details

- The proposed SEND unit would be fully operated and staffed by the Local Authority (who may work in conjunction with a specialist provider).
- It would have a separate entrance, self-contained facilities, and no shared areas with Sulivan.
- There would be no interaction between the pupils in the SEND provision and those at Sulivan School, including during arrival/departure, lunchtimes, and playtimes.
- The proposed space is currently unused, and this change would not impact our school's provision, capacity, or operations.
- This would be a permanent reallocation of part of our estate for SEND use only.

Why This Matters – Benefits to Pupils and the Local Education System

- Our site is particularly well-suited for SEND provision: it is all on one level, with excellent outdoor access from multiple classrooms — an ideal setting for pupils with a range of physical and sensory needs.
- The project would expand local specialist capacity, helping to reduce the strain on mainstream schools and limit the need for out-of-area placements.
- It supports a collaborative, inclusive local offer, ensuring more children can access the right support, closer to home.

 The proposal makes practical and meaningful use of space that would otherwise remain underutilised.

Consultation and Next Steps

We welcome feedback from families, staff, and stakeholders on this proposal. Please use this link to submit any comments by Tuesday 27th May:

Consultation Response Link

Paper copies may also be submitted via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support as we seek to support all learners in our community.