



EXTENSION TO CONSULTATION TIME UNTIL TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2023 12pm

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Consultation on a proposed implementation of a SEND Integrated Resource Unit at Richmond Academy, Winterbottom Street, Oldham, OL9 6HY, with effect from September 2023.

Background

Richmond Academy is proposing to make an application to the Department for Education to make a change in the provision that the academy currently provides. The change is to implement a SEND Integrated Resource Unit from September 2023, this unit would provide places within the academy that will be fully funded by the Local Authority for SEND support within a mainstream school setting.

Richmond Academy currently has a pupil admission number of 60 children per year group. Under the proposals, this will remain unchanged and the places will be designated to the provision of SEND pupils with Educational Health Care Plans, these places will be for existing pupils. The proposed change would be to offer additional SEND places in a mainstream school, which is known as additional resource provision.

Specific Proposal

Richmond Academy is proposing that there are an additional 20 places in addition to the existing PAN of 60 which will specifically be for the Additional Resource Provision from September 2023. As the Local Authority determine the EHC admissions this will have no impact on the existing PAN and admissions arrangements. The 20 additional places created will be designated to the provision of SEND pupils with Educational Health Care Plans, these places will be for existing pupils.

Richmond provides support to our current SEND pupils using existing funding through the academy Inclusion Hub. The benefits of securing the funding and implementing the proposed change is that the academy will receive full funding for the places available to support the development of the service provided, creating further strong links between families, the community, and the school and improved continuity of SEND educational provision resulting in better outcomes for the children.

The Local Authority support Richmond Academy by providing funding to meet the place demand from the local community alongside supporting our future pupils and their families to access SEND provision in a mainstream school setting for 20 places.

Factors that have been considered by the Academy in deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- The continued ability of the school to provide specific support to SEND pupils
- The provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all pupils thus facilitating continuing school improvement and allow them to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils
- Future resource planning and management including financial impact on staffing

Chief Executive: Mr Antony Hughes

The Harmony Trust, Northmoor Academy, Alderson St, Oldham, OL9 6AQ
0161 260 0482 | info@theharmonytrust.org | www.theharmonytrust.org



Requirements for notification and publication

The proposed change requires a full business case to be submitted by The Harmony Trust to the Department for Education and is considered a significant change. In line with the 'Making a significant change to an open academy' guidance, published by the Department for Education, we are required to carry out a consultation on the proposal for a minimum of 4 weeks.

Who is being consulted?

During this statutory consultation we want to consult with as many stakeholders as possible including:

- Parents/carers of current pupils and prospective parents of pupils
- Primary, AP and special schools
- Affected admission authorities
- Richmond Academy staff
- Harmony Trust Trustees
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposed changes

Timetable for the Consultation Period

10th July 2023 - Consultation period begins

19th September 2023 12pm - Consultation period ends

19th September 2023 – The Harmony Trust consider all responses

When would the changes come into effect?

If approved, the arrangements would be introduced for September 2023.

How to respond

This consultation will run until 19th September 2023. You are invited to submit queries or comments using the following methods:

- In writing to Miss J Hainsworth, Director of Education, The Harmony Trust Ltd, Richmond Academy, Winterbottom Street, OL9 6HY
- or by email to info@theharmonytrust.org

Please mark the subject "Richmond SEND Integrated Resource Unit Consultation". Following the consultation period, the Trust will consider all comments received and include these in the full business case to be submitted to the Department for Education for the significant change application.

Chief Executive: Mr Antony Hughes

The Harmony Trust, Northmoor Academy, Alderson St, Oldham, OL9 6AQ
0161 260 0482 | info@theharmonytrust.org | www.theharmonytrust.org

The Harmony Trust, an exempt charity and company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 08840373