



CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Consultation on a proposed implementation of an Integrated Resource Unit for pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) at:

- **Alvaston Junior Academy, Elvaston Lane, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 0PU from November 2025**
- **Ash Croft Primary Academy, Deepdale Lane, Sinfin, Derby, DE24 3HF from November 2025**
- **Cottons Farm Primary Academy, Sheridan Street, Sinfin, Derby, DE24 9HG from November 2025**
- **Lakeside Primary Academy, 877 London Road, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 8UY from November 2025**

Background

The academies listed above are proposing to make an application to the Department for Education to make a change to the provision that the academies currently provide. The change is to implement an Inclusion Hub for pupils with SEND. Each Hub would provide additional places within the academies which would be commissioned and funded by the Local Authority. This would allow our academies to provide the right support for those pupils that need specialist provision.

The current pupil admission number (PAN) for each academy is:

- Alvaston Junior Academy - 90 children per year group
- Ash Croft Primary Academy - 40 children per year group
- Cottons Farm Primary Academy - 20 children per year group
- Lakeside Primary Academy - 90 children per year group

Under the proposals, these will remain unchanged. Additional places will be designated to the provision of pupils with SEND, including places for some of our 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

The academies are proposing that there are additional places in addition to the existing PAN as detailed below which will specifically be for the Additional Resource Provision.

- Alvaston Junior Academy - 12 places
- Ash Croft Primary Academy – 8 places (plus 8 more places in September 2025)
- Cottons Farm Primary Academy - 12 places
- Lakeside Primary Academy – up to 20 places (8 in Early Years and 12 across KS1/2)

As the Local Authority determine the EHC admissions this will have no impact on the admissions arrangements.

The academies provide support to our current SEND pupils using existing funding through the academies Inclusion Hubs. The benefits of securing the funding and implementing the proposed change is that the academies 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 schools and improved continuity of SEND educational provision resulting in better outcomes for the children.

The Local Authority support the academies, they provide funding to meet the need in the local community, alongside supporting our future pupils and their families to access SEND provision in mainstream school settings for the number of places outlined in this proposal.

Chief Executive: Mr Antony Hughes

The Harmony Trust, Northmoor Academy, Alderson St, Oldham, OL9 6AQ
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Factors that have been considered by the academies in deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- Providing choice for parents of pupils with SEND, allowing them to access places in their local communities
- The continued ability of the academies to provide specific support to SEND pupils
- The provision of the most appropriate learning environment for all pupils thus facilitating continuing academy improvement and allow them to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils
- Future resource planning and management including financial impact on staffing

Requirements for notification and publication

The proposed change requires an application 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 3 weeks.

Who is being consulted?

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

- The Local Authority
- Parents of children who attend the affected academies
- Parents in the area
- Primary and special schools in the area
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposed changes

Timetable for the Consultation Period

Monday 14th October 2024 - Consultation period begins

Tuesday 12th November 2024 5pm - Consultation period ends

Wednesday 13th November 2024 – The Harmony Trust consider all responses

When would the changes come into effect?

If approved, the arrangements would be introduced from November 2025.

How to respond

This consultation will run until 5pm on Tuesday 12th November 2024. You are invited to submit queries or comments using the following methods:

- In writing to marked for the attention of Ms J Hainsworth, Director of Education, The Harmony Trust Ltd using the academy address listed at the beginning of this document that your comments are referring to
- or by email to info@theharmonytrust.org

Please mark the subject "Primary SEND Integrated Resource Unit Consultation" followed by the academy name.

Following the consultation period, the Trust will consider all comments received and include these in the application to be submitted to the Department for Education for the significant change application.

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