

Consultation to open a 20 place SEN Unit at Sirius Academy North with effect from September 2024.

Background

There is an increased number of pupils in the school age population in Hull. This, combined with changes in individual special education need, places demand on special school places across the age range. At present, special school places are oversubscribed particularly in respect of Cognition and Learning & Communication and Interaction

A clear strategy to meet demand in the short and long term is being developed within the city. Unlike in many other authorities, there is not a wide range of specialist resource provision in mainstream schools in Hull at present. There are currently 6 approved resource base provisions and the local authority have a phased approach to increase capacity at some and develop others. The model is now being developed in other schools in Hull, both Primary and Secondary, as part of the longer-term strategy for SEND Sufficiency.

In January 2023, Hull schools were asked to express an interest in opening a specialist SEND unit or increasing the sufficiency in others. The LA have worked with trusts to develop a phased approach to increase sufficiency. Sirius Academy North is a Constellation Trust academy which currently meets a wide range of special educational needs within the mainstream provision. The school and Trust have an inclusive ethos.

Specific Proposal

The Constellation Trust, Sirius Academy North, and the Local Authority, proposes to develop a 20 place special educational needs unit within the existing footprint of the school building.

The PAN of the school will not increase to accommodate the 20 additional SEN unit children.

The SEN unit will accommodate up to 20 secondary aged children with an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) with 'Cognition and Learning' and or 'Communication and Interaction' as a primary need.

The SEN unit will be positioned in existing space in the Sirius Academy North building and any necessary works have already been undertaken.

The SEN unit would be separately funded, and additional staff would be recruited to ensure that the provision of a SEN unit would not impact the quality of education currently provided. Existing SEND staff are experienced and qualified to support the development of the new provision, and the school has

Head of School: Ian Ravenscoft

Sirius Academy is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales [No. 06545395]
Registered office: Sirius Academy, 296 Anlaby Park Road South, Hull HU4 7JB



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appropriate space to support the needs of the children.

Why?

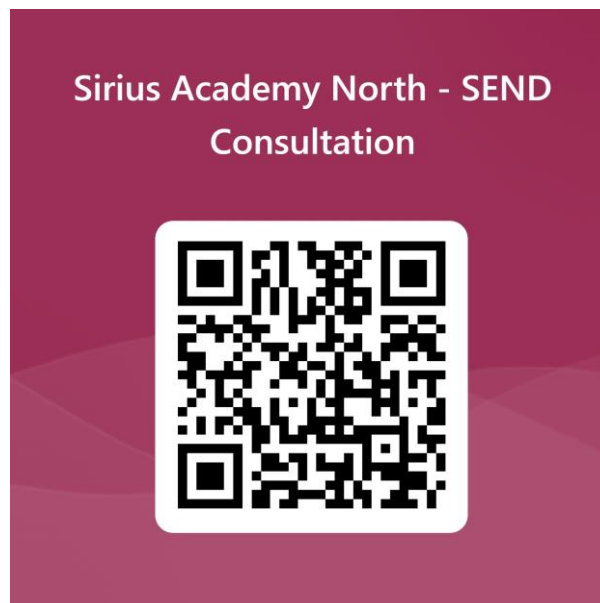
There is an increase in the school age population in Hull, as well as changes in educational need, therefore the demand for special school places across both primary and secondary settings is high. At present, special school places are oversubscribed particularly in respect of SLCN/C&L. Also, nationally the Department for Education forecast a significant (30%+) increase in the number of special school places that will be required in England in 2024/25.

Without the expansion there would be insufficient suitable places for SLCN/C&L pupils in Hull, and their special needs will not be met.

How to respond

You are invited to submit comments about the proposal within the consultation period of 3 weeks. The consultation will be open between the dates of Monday 13th May to Monday 3rd June 2024 via the link/QR code below.

Following the consultation period, the Trust will consider all responses and take these into account.



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