

Lime Wood Primary School Specialist Resource Provision

Consultation



Proposal

Woodland Academy Trust is proposing to open a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at Lime Wood Primary School in the autumn term of 2025, designed to support 12–15 children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the primary need is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), including those on the diagnostic pathway.

This consultation follows the Department for Education's guidance for making significant changes to academies. Adding a resource provision is classified as a "significant change" under DfE criteria, and therefore requires formal consultation, submission of a business case, and approval from the Regional Director on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education.

The proposed SRP will enhance inclusive education within the Borough of Bexley by providing specialist, tailored support within a mainstream setting. The Trust has submitted an Expression of Interest to the DfE and is engaging in consultation as part of the pre-approval process. Full guidance on the significant change process can be found on the DfE website: [Making significant changes to an academy](#).

Alignment with the Bexley Local Offer

This proposal is aligned with the Bexley Local Offer, which aims to ensure that children and young people with SEND have access to high-quality support, education, and services. The Local Authority supports the development of this provision and recognises the growing need for early intervention and inclusive opportunities for children with ASD and SLCN within the primary sector.

The SRP at Lime Wood Primary School will contribute to Bexley's strategy to expand local specialist capacity, reducing the need for out-of-borough placements and supporting children closer to home.

Vision and Strategic Leadership

The provision will be strategically led by the school's Headteacher, who also serves as the Trust's Inclusion Lead. The Trust is recognised for its strong SEND practices across Bexley and Kent, as validated through external reviews.

The SRP will operate within the Trust's wider Inclusion Strategy, supporting its commitment to early intervention, inclusion, and celebrating neurodiversity. The vision for the provision is to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where children with ASD can thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

Lime Wood Primary School's vision is -

"To deliver a curriculum that is provided by good teachers underpinned by an effective blueprint for excellence in culture, behaviour, attainment and wellbeing -to find the champion in everyone."

Provision Aims

- **Tailored Support:** Provide individualised support tailored to each child's needs to ensure academic and social success.
- **Inclusion:** Enable pupils with ASD to learn within a mainstream setting while receiving specialist support.
- **Expertise:** Led by a qualified teacher with a specialism in SEND (ASD), holding or working towards a postgraduate qualification.
- **Social Interaction:** Foster development of social skills and friendships through structured peer engagement.
- **Access to Curriculum:** Implement a Universal Design for Learning approach to adapt the national curriculum to neurodiverse needs.
- **Transition Support:** Provide continuity through key educational transitions (e.g., nursery to reception).
- **Parent Involvement:** Encourage regular collaboration between families and school staff to support progress.
- **Holistic Development:** Address academic, communication, behavioural, and emotional well-being.

Children will access mainstream classrooms as appropriate, with clear planning and support. Those for whom mainstream time is not suitable will remain in the SRP full-time. The provision will initially support EYFS to KS1, growing in line with school roll increases. A review will be conducted by the end of Year 2 to determine future KS2 inclusion or possible expansion.

This provision increases parental choice and ensures a continuum of support within a mainstream setting.

Accommodation

The SRP will be located within the existing Lime Wood Primary School site and includes:

- A wheelchair-accessible classroom and facilities.
- Direct access to a sensory room and in-class toilet.
- Outdoor learning space.
- Dedicated drop-off/pick-up areas for smoother transitions.
- Access to specialist facilities: Library, Art/DT Room, Food Science Room, Dance Studio, Forest School, MUGA and 3G Pitch.

Admissions

Admissions will be managed through the Bexley SEND EHCP panel process, separate from the school's general admissions. The SRP will offer 12–15 places, growing gradually based on need and LA commissioning.

Eligibility Criteria:

- EHCP in place.
- Diagnosis of ASD, or on diagnostic pathway with strong supporting evidence.
- Primary need identified as ASD (EHCP Section B).
- Suitable for EYFS–KS1 (with future review for KS2 expansion)
- Able to participate in some mainstream learning, with support.
- Evidence of engagement and developmental progress in EYFS (e.g., emerging communication skills).

Admissions Not Considered When:

- Lack of family support for school's strategies.
- Provision is at full capacity.
- No confirmed/pending ASD diagnosis.
- Admission would compromise safety or educational provision for others.
- Siblings are not given automatic priority.

Funding

The SRP will be funded through a combination of:

- **Pre-16 core funding:** via the local school funding formula.
- **Top-up funding:** per-pupil funding from the commissioning local authority for high needs support.

What happens next?

The consultation period runs from **20th June 2025 to 4th July 2025**.

This is an opportunity for stakeholders to share views and ask questions regarding the proposal to establish the SRP for pupils with ASD and SLCN at Lime Wood Primary School.

Woodland Academy Trust must complete the DfE's formal approval process for significant changes to an academy. An Expression of Interest has already been submitted.

More information: [Making significant changes to an academy](#)

Have your say

You can participate in this consultation and give your views by –

Emailing us at: info@watschools.org.uk

Posting your views to:

FAO: Consultation
CEO, Woodland Academy Trust
c/o Lime Wood Primary School
2 Sandy Road
Erith DA8 1FJ

Consultation audience:

- Parents, carers, staff, governors, and trustees.
- All Bexley schools and Early Years providers.
- Bexley Council, ward councillors, MPs.
- Unions.



Woodland
Academy Trust