



STOCKPORT

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO TITHE BARN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for pupils with Learning and Cognition or Social, Emotional & Mental Health needs

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

1. School and LA details

School: Tithe Barn Primary School

Address: Mauldeth Road, Stockport, SK4 3NG

Local Authority: Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

2. Description of alteration

2.1. Stockport Council proposes to establish specialist resourced provision (SRP) for pupils with learning and cognition, or social, emotional and mental health needs at Tithe Barn Primary School from September 2025.

2.2. The new provision will be based at the current site and will need some additional space adding to the school site to formally establish the base

3. Implementation

3.1. If the proposal is agreed, it is planned to undertake design/technical, and building work during the 2024/25 academic year.

4. Evidence of demand

4.1. Headlines

- SEND Population: 8,993 children and young people aged 0 to 25 years have SEND in Stockport. This consists of 67.3% receiving SEN support and 32.7% with an EHC plan. The SEND population predominantly comprises males (63.9%).
- Growth Over Time: The SEND population (including those with an EHC plan) has seen a significant increase, with an overall growth of 28.8% across all age bands from 2019 to 2023.
- Educational Settings: The majority of school-age children with SEND in Stockport attend state-funded primary schools, followed by state-funded secondary schools and independent schools.

4.2. Key Statistics

- SEND Prevalence: Approximately 10.7% of the 0 to 25-year-olds in Stockport have a SEND need, higher than both the national average (8.5%) and CIPFA neighbours (9.4%).
- Distribution of Needs: Autism is the most common identified need among the EHCP cohort, accounting for 36.5% of all primary needs.
- Educational Outcomes: Children and young people with SEND in Stockport have outperformed national, Greater Manchester, and statistical neighbour groups in terms of Early Years attainment.
- Home Education: Approximately 1.5% of the school-aged SEND population in Stockport are educated at home, with rates increasing by around 50% since 2019/20.

4.3. Considerations

- Increasing Demand: The rise in SEND identification, especially for Autism and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health needs, presents a challenge in meeting service demands.

- Educational Provision: The growth in the number of children requiring SEN support, particularly in mainstream school settings, underscores the need for enhanced educational support and resources.
- Deprivation and SEND: There's a clear association between deprivation and rates of SEN identification, with higher proportions of children and young people with SEND living in more deprived areas of Stockport.

4.4. We have recognised the need to commission further resource bases so that each neighbourhood is served by at least two primary resource bases and a commitment to have a secondary school resource base nearby.

5. Objectives

5.1. Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) provision

5.1.1. The SRP will be physically designed to be flexible and able to meet the needs of children with learning and cognition needs or have social, emotional and mental health needs. It is likely that as the local profile of need changes over time that the use of the resource base may change to ensure it meets local need.

5.1.2. Pupils that are allocated a place at the SRP will benefit from an individualised nurture group-type programme with a regularly reviewed support package. Staff will deliver a differentiated curriculum and use materials and approaches which promote the best possible academic, social and emotional outcomes for pupils.

5.1.3. The allocation of places to the SRP will be decided by the Stockport Council's SEND service. There will be no priority to the SRP for existing Tithe Barn Primary School pupils applying for a place at the SRP, as is the case for other children on roll at mainstream schools with autism resource bases.

5.2. School Organisation Principles

5.2.1. Stockport Council has an enduring statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for Stockport resident children. In recommending this proposal to establish an SRP at Tithe Barn Primary School, Stockport Council should have regard to the borough's School Organisation Principles. The principles relevant to this proposal are outlined below.

- **School Changes.** Stockport Council will support viable expansions of popular and successful schools in line with Department for Education (DfE) policy wherever possible. In planning for changes to school organisation such as expansion, amalgamation, federation and closure, Stockport Council will take into account the factors such as popularity, Ofsted rating, condition issues, surplus places, the schools finances, other factors such as ability to withstand significant change focussing on leadership.
- **Quality and diversity.** Stockport Council will seek to ensure that sufficient, attractive, high-quality state-funded school provision is available within the borough to meet the needs of all children. As outlined in One Stockport Borough Plan.
- **School budgets/finances.** Stockport Council will consult with schools prior to the implementation of any changes to funding of maintained schools. The funding will

be allocated in line with the Operational Guidance, School Funding Regulations and endorsed by Schools Forum.

- **Education estate.** Stockport Council will seek to ensure that school premises are well maintained, fit for purpose and meet all relevant national standards for space and health and safety.

6. Project costs and funding

6.1. The approximate budget (pending design and technical works) for the capital works at Tithe Barn Primary School to accommodate the SRP is approx. £1m and will be funded through the Basic Need funding allocation and will be allocated as outlined in the Council's School Investment Plan. The SRP will not remove funding from the mainstream school, as it will be fully independently resourced.

7. Consultation

7.1. A round of public consultation is required as part of the statutory 'representation' stage of the statutory change process. This consultation and supporting documents are available here www.stockport.gov.uk/schools-consultations-and-statutory-proposals

8. Decision-making

8.1. The decision-maker for this proposal is the Cabinet, in the event that no objections are received. A decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of this consultation period.

9. Objections and comments

9.1. Any person or organisation wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objecting to, the proposal is encouraged to engage with the consultation as referenced in section 7. However, you may also do so by sending them to:

School Organisation Team, school.organisation@stockport.gov.uk

9.2. Comments must be received before 11:59pm Sunday 12th May 2024