

Heather Sandy
Executive Director Children's Services
Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln LN1 1YL

Tel: 01522 552222

Email: HeatherA.Sandy@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Reference: SEND Hub Consultation

Date: 20 January 2025

Dear Parents or Carers, Staff and other interested parties

Consultation on the Proposed Development of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Hubs in Mainstream Schools

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), in partnership with the following schools (and a number of academies who are carrying out their own consultations), is today commencing a consultation on the proposed development of a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Hub at:

- The Meadows Primary School, Lincoln
- St George's Church of England Primary School, Gainsborough
- Caistor Church of England and Methodist Primary School, Caistor
- Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School, Grantham
- The Church Lane Primary School, Sleaford

Proposals

Since 2019, Lincolnshire County Council has been implementing the "Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy", which has provided major improvements to educational provision for children and young people with special additional needs and disabilities, focused on enhancing special school provision. However, the Council also believes that, for some children and young people with SEND, mainstream schools can offer a high-quality education in an inclusive and encouraging environment, where pupils can achieve the best outcomes possible, with access to a rich and wide curriculum. For some children and young people with SEND, being educated in a mainstream setting with enhanced support is the right type of education and the council, in collaboration with a number of schools and Academies, is seeking to develop this opportunity.

Lincolnshire County Council is proposing to develop a new type of provision called "Mainstream SEND Hubs". These provisions would be aimed at supporting children and young people with additional needs to be educated and have their needs met in a mainstream school with enhanced facilities by knowledgeable and skilled staff. The Mainstream SEND Hub will be part of the mainstream school, providing an enhanced educational offer for pupils with SEND in the mainstream setting.

The SEND Hubs will be for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and provide a level of provision between mainstream and special education. Access to the SEND Hub will be through the formalised Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment or Annual Review route. The LA would agree and name a mainstream school through the consultation process, with the designation of a Mainstream SEND Hub named in the pupils' EHC plan if deemed the most appropriate type of setting. All pupils will be on the mainstream school roll and expected to be included regularly in events at the mainstream school, in accordance with individual need.

Each approved host school will facilitate either one or two classrooms within the SEND Hub, with a maximum of two classrooms per school. Each classroom will have capacity for up to 10 places commissioned by the Local Authority via the formalised EHCP route, along with up to 3 places available for the host school to utilise at their discretion.

SEND Hubs are being collaboratively developed with each host school and therefore the offer may vary depending on school preference, capacity within the school and local demand. Hubs may consist of formally agreed provision for Key Stage 1 and 2 within primary schools and Key Stage 3 and 4 within secondary schools, or they may offer only one key stage which will move through the school with the cohort of allocated pupils. This will be decided with the individual school.

All Lincolnshire schools have been approached with the offer of setting up a SEND Hub and following a series of discussions, 11 primary schools and three secondary schools have been identified as suitable for the first wave of implementation. Of the 11 primary schools chosen for this initiative, five are LA Maintained and are therefore subject to this formal consultation.

Host schools will receive funding which covers the full costs of facilitating the SEND Hubs, including the following staffing levels per classroom:

- One Qualified Teacher
- Two Teaching Assistants
- One Intervention Worker
- Enhanced Leadership Time
- Enhanced SENDCo Time
- Additional Midday Supervisor Time
- Additional Learning Resources

The council will also be funding all capital costs associated with the development of SEND Hubs. Schools and Academies will not be detrimentally impacted financially with the implementation of the SEND Hubs, nor will they impact the school's ability or financial capacity to meet the needs of children and young people educated in the wider school.

Each school hosting a SEND Hub will be provided with an enhanced level of training and the offer of specialist expertise to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. A robust training offer has been developed for all host school personnel, aimed at Governors and Trustees, Senior Leadership and Teaching and Non-teaching staff and all specifically working directly with the SEND Hubs. This training has been developed by expertise from the local special school sector.

For further information regarding SEND Hubs, please access [Consultation on the proposed development of SEND hubs in mainstream schools – What we are proposing - Lincolnshire County Council](#)

As part of this process we are proposing to reduce the Published Admissions Number (PAN) at Caistor Church of England and Methodist School from 45 to 30 to ensure that classroom accommodation

remains available for use as a SEND hub and ensure that there are sufficient mainstream school places for children from the local community. All other mainstream schools will retain their existing PAN.

Should this initiative be agreed, we are intending to complete the capital works required to establish SEND Hubs in host schools during the following 12 months. Work would be carefully phased to minimise any disruption to schools and pupils, with main works taking place during school holidays. More information will be published once a final decision is made and more detail is known.

These proposals have the potential to make a significant, positive change to future provision for pupils with special educational and disability needs across Lincolnshire. Please take time to let us know what you think.

Have your say

We welcome your comments on this proposal which will need to be submitted by (insert closing date). If you would like to discuss these proposals further before responding, then please contact the SEND and Inclusion Team using the contact details provided below.

Responses can be either submitted in writing, or through a simple online survey which you can access via [Let's talk Lincolnshire](#). A consultation response form is available on request from the School Organisation Team. Paper response forms should be returned by the deadline to either the school office or directly to the School Organisation Team using the contact details provided.

Further information related to this proposal and the consultation will be published online at [Let's talk Lincolnshire](#).

SEND and Inclusion Team contact details: email Eileen.McMorrow@lincolnshire.gov.uk

School Organisation Team contact details: email schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk, telephone School Organisation Planning Team, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ.

Yours sincerely



Heather Sandy
Executive Director of Children's Services