



**THE ST. BART'S
ACADEMY**
TRUST

The St. Bart's Multi-Academy Trust
Belgrave St Bartholomew's Academy
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Consultation on proposals to expand The Avenue, (Specialist Unit for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities) from 1 September 2022.

Introduction

This proposal is made by St Bart's Multi Academy Trust, in conjunction with Stoke on Trent Local Authority.

Stoke on Trent Local Authority has been reviewing High Needs Provision across the city with a view to create more in city placements. One of the objectives is to create specialist places for children with special education needs and disabilities. Our proposal is part of this strategy.

Current provision

Currently, The Avenue is a 25 place Early Years Special Needs Unit which offers places to children from the age of 3 up to 5 years (the Foundation Stage). The current Avenue is part of Belgrave St. Bartholomew's Academy but has its own site and staff. The setting is located in Normacot, in the south of the city but children attend from all over the city. Some of these children are eligible for school transport.

All children who are placed at The Avenue are supported through provision as outlined in an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Children who attend make good progress in language and communication due to the intensive Specialist Support, whether through the use of Makaton, PECS or spoken language

All the children are registered as pupils at Belgrave St Bartholomew's for the duration of their time at The Avenue but transition to a range of settings (mainly special schools) once their time at The Avenue is complete.

Proposal

We are consulting on the proposal to expand The Avenue provision by:

- Opening a second site of The Avenue based at Kingsland C.E. Academy in Bucknall.
- We will provide 25 places at each site for children aged 3-7 with special needs and an EHC.
- The children will be placed at the site closest to their home address to mitigate the distance young children need to travel to their setting and to minimise transport costs.

Please note;

The implementation date of 1st September 2022 is subject to RSC/DFE approval, recruitment of staff and placement of identified children.

The places will be allocated through the SENMAS team at the Local Authority via the Education Panel meetings. The EYILS (Hazel Trees) and the LA SEND advisory team will also be included in discussions around appropriate placements. The Avenue at Belgrave St Bartholomew's Academy will then be named on the children's EHC plans.

What are the benefits of this proposal

The expansion of The Avenue will:

- Support more children aged 3-7 with special educational needs and disabilities to be educated in their local area and community
- Ensure that more needs can be met locally avoiding the need for children to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away. This is better for children and young people and saves the LA and tax payer money in transport costs.
- Provide an increase of places to meet the needs of children with SEND
- Provide specialist support and services to children at the early stage of their journey and ensure that the right provision can be identified for the next phase of the children's education.
- High quality pastoral support for vulnerable SEN children and their families.

How can you have your say

If you would like to comment on these proposals you can have your say by:

- Emailing - theavenueconsultation@sbmat.org
- Accessing our online survey <https://forms.office.com/r/wH03Bfwf1u>

The consultation will close at 1 pm on Tuesday 7th June 2022.

What happens next

The results of the consultation will be analysed and forwarded to DfE for presentation as part of the significant change proposal to the RSC West Midlands Advisory Board.