

**Formal consultation about our proposal to develop a
special educational needs unit within Delph Side
Community Primary School, Eskdale, Tanhouse,
Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6ED**

Nov 2024

This is a formal consultation about making a prescribed alteration to a school in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.



We are seeking your views about our proposal to create a special educational needs (SEN) unit within Delph Side Community Primary School. We want to assure you that we will give careful consideration to all your comments and opinions.

We have used the feedback that was given during the informal consultation, conducted between 4 November and 22 November 2024, to develop our plans in relation to this SEN unit. This formal consultation is a legal requirement that we need to do in order to make a change like this to the school.

What are we planning to do?

The proposal is to create an SEN unit for twelve children with special educational needs in Delph Side Community Primary School. All of these children will have education, health and care plans. Some of these children will transfer from another school to Delph Side Community Primary School so that they can attend the SEN unit.

Children attending the SEN unit will be taught in the unit for some of the time and at other times when appropriate they will be taught with other children in existing classes.

All children already on roll at Delph Side Community Primary School will still be able to attend the school and this change will not affect current admission criteria and numbers.

Why are we doing this?

To give families more choice about the type of school they would like their child to attend.

To make sure there is specialist support and enough special school places for all children with special educational needs.

Existing pupils, whether or not they have special educational needs, will benefit from the specialist knowledge of staff working with children in the SEN unit leading to an overall improvement in the quality of teaching throughout the school.

There is a particular need for SEN units in the Skelmersdale area.

What have we done so far?

We have discussed this proposal with the headteacher and governors of Delph Side Community Primary School.

An informal consultation took place between 4 November and 22 November 2024 when we asked for the views of families of children and young people attending the school, children and young people who may attend the school in the future, school staff and governors and other members of the local community. A public meeting was also held on 19 November 2024, where a representative from Lancashire County Council attended.



The written responses to the informal consultation were considered by the Executive Director for Education and Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills after the end of the consultation period.

Of the eight responses received to the informal consultation:

- 5 respondents strongly agreed with the proposal; comments included the increasing need for specialist provision, the positive impact on smaller groups of children with special educational needs, the nurturing environment of SEN units and more options for families of children with special educational needs.
- 1 respondent tended to agree, commenting that all children need to understand that each child is different, and to be given an opportunity to help children with additional needs.
- 2 respondents strongly disagreed; comments included that this is a further example of resources being taken away from existing children, that it will reduce the focus on and distract the attention from the mainstream pupils, and that other suitable provisions are already available nearby.

What will happen next?

Careful consideration will be given to all responses that are received on or before 7 January 2025.

These responses will be used to provide information to Lancashire County Council's Cabinet to help councillors decide whether to agree to the increase in school numbers.

Have your say

We would like your views on this proposal to create an SEN unit at Delph Side Community Primary School. For your information and in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government regulations, all written responses may be disclosed to the public and could also be published on our website as background papers to any reports.

We are sorry that, due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on proposals for schools, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period.

If you have any queries or require further information please contact the Inclusion Service by phone: 01772 531597 or email Inclusion.South@Lancashire.gov.uk.

This information can be found on this website www.lancashire.gov.uk/consultations where you will find a link to the [online questionnaire](#). Alternatively, you can fill it in below.



QUESTIONNAIRE

We are proposing to create an SEN unit which will be part of Delph Side Community Primary School to support twelve children with special educational needs

How strongly do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

Please tick one option only

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

Why do you say this?

Please write in the box below

About you

This final section is about you. It is a little more personal but is really useful to us. By answering these questions, you will help us to understand the views of different groups of people. If there are any questions that you would rather not answer, please tick 'prefer not to say,' or leave it blank and go on to the next question.

Are you responding to this proposal as...?

Please select one option only

- Parent/carer of a pupil currently at Delph Side Community Primary School
- Parent/carer of a future pupil at Delph Side Community Primary School
- Member of staff at Delph Side Community Primary School
- School governor at Delph Side Community Primary School



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- Member of the local community
- Other

If other, please write in the box below

Are you...?

Please select one option only

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

What was your age on your last birthday?

Please select one option only

- Under 16
- 16-19
- 20-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

Please select one option only

- White
- Black or Black British
- Asian or Asian British
- Mixed ethnic background
- Any other ethnic background
- Prefer not to say

Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has



a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Please select as many as apply

- Yes, learning disability
- Yes, physical disability
- Yes, sensory disability
- Yes, mental health disability
- Yes, other disability
- No
- Prefer not to say

Are there any children or young people in your household with special educational needs?

Please select as many as apply

- No
- Yes, aged under 5
- Yes, aged 5-11
- Yes, aged 12-15
- Yes, aged 16-17
- Prefer not to say

What is your home postcode?

Please send your completed questionnaire to:
Business Intelligence,
Lancashire County Council,
PO Box 100,
County Hall,
Preston PR1 0LD

Thank you for completing the questionnaire

