

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) when opening a specialist provision in a mainstream school

1. What is a Resourced Provision?

Resourced Provisions (RPs) are either managed by a school (Resourced Provision School Led-RP-SL) or by the Local Authority (Resourced Provision Local Authority Led – RP-LA). The provisions are within a mainstream school, designed to provide specialist and targeted support for children and young people with an EHCP. Children accessing a RP will be on the roll of the mainstream school and will be fully supported by the specialist staff and the staff of the mainstream school working in partnership.

An RP provides highly trained staff to support young people in their mainstream lessons and enable them to engage in every aspect of school life.

Some children and young people need more support to access a mainstream curriculum, therefore the Resourced Provisions provide a safe environment for them where they can access specialist interventions, precision teaching, social interaction, small group teaching, and a bespoke curriculum (to match their individual needs). This support is to enable them to take part in their mainstream learning environment, access a full broad and ambitious curriculum and to access the whole school mainstream experience and an inclusive offer. Some children and young people may feel too anxious to access a full mainstream curriculum; support needs are matched to the individual with the ambition that the young person will be able to access some, if not all, of their mainstream classes over time. The RPs have dedicated space within the school which is for the use of the young people accessing the provision. Therefore, at social times this is a place where children and young people will feel safe to communicate or express themselves in confidence, supervised by trained staff. Some RPs have additional sensory rooms to support regulation and learn about their emotions and feelings.

It is important to understand that they are not separate to the school; they are not special schools or units. Their purpose is to offer specialist support to access a mainstream education.

2. Will children be disrupted when they are trying to learn?

Most people are naturally concerned that the children from the Resourced Provision will affect the learning of other children as they might witness different behaviors. The whole ethos of a RP is to prevent this.

A child in the RP will be supported by specialist staff enabling access to mainstream school activities

RP teaching staff will discuss all individual children's needs with the school SENCO and class teacher to ensure effective strategies are put in place to support all children's learning

3. How will the school fund this?

The Local Authority will fund any adjustments / building work needed to develop the Resourced Provision. The school will receive an amount of funding to provide the 12 places required in the Resourced Provision.

4. How will this be staffed and who will pay for this?

The proposed resourced provision will be led and managed by the local authority. The local authority recruits, manages and pays experienced teachers and teaching assistants with specialist knowledge of working with children with SEMH.

The responsibility of the staff deployed to the Resourced Provision rests with the Local Authority.

The school will receive an amount of funding for every child on the school roll.

5. Is this provision part of school life?

All pupils will be on roll of the school and have access to both mainstream and the Resourced Provision, dependent on individual needs.

This means if a child with SEMH is able to access some or all of the school day they will with the appropriate support, however if they are unable to access lessons and learn effectively sometimes, then the child will access time and be taught within the Resourced Provision.

Over a period if children are unable to access any mainstream provision, then a review of the child's EHCP would be called to see if this is the best provision to meet their individual need.

6. Will children in the RP use the dining hall and other facilities?

The children are on the roll of the school and will, wherever possible, be supported to be part of the full school life.

7. How are children allocated a place in a Resourced Provision?

Children with an EHCP are allocated a place in a Resourced Provision by a Local Authority central panel and in consultation with the host school. Parents must request a Resourced Provision when naming a placement in their child's EHCP. Children within the host school cannot be allocated a place without going through this process first.

8. My child has an EHCP can they get a place?

If a child at the school already has an EHCP for SEMH they will not automatically qualify for a place in the RP. However, if the school and parents feel a RP place may benefit their child this needs to be discussed with the school SENCO and go through the allocation process above.

9. What are the benefits of having a RP to our children and the school?

There will be specialist staff in the RP that are experienced and specifically trained in all areas of SEND. The specialist staff will also have access to professional training around a specific need, in this case SEMH.

The specialist staff are able to share this knowledge with the whole school, to develop a shared whole school approach to:

- SEMH
- Inclusion
- Managing behaviour

All children in the school may benefit from using some of the additional facilities that a resourced provision can offer, such as a sensory room.

10. Will this mean less places at school for the community?

The Resourced Provision will be for up to 12 places across all the year groups
The published admission number will not be affected

11. Once the provision is open will it be reviewed?

The RP will be reviewed by the Local Authority and the School to ensure that they are offering good quality provision.

12. Once it is open can it be closed?

In order to make significant changes to specialist provision reserved for pupils with SEND, the School would need to undertake a statutory process – prescribed alteration and would need to seek approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner.

13. What happens once the consultation is finished?

After the consultation has closed we will consider the responses and a decision will be made to go to the next stage. This will be published on the school website.

The school cannot make the decision to open new provision this will be made by either the Council Executive, for maintained schools or the Regional Schools Commissioner for Academies.