



Hawes Side Academy

Principal: Mrs C Boothroyd
B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

Johnsville Avenue,
Blackpool, FY4 3LN

(Registration No.8161246)

13th May 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

I am writing to let you know about an exciting development at Hawes Side Academy.

As you know, our work at Hawes Side Academy is grounded in our commitment to ensure that every young person in our community benefits from the same opportunities to thrive and flourish. We are proud to be a school where every child gets the support, they need to play a full part in our school community and to make the progress of which they are capable. At Hawes Side Academy our vision is to be a place where everyone matters, everyone succeeds. Our vision drives everything we do underpinned by our five core values of relationships, respect, resilience, reflection and responsibility which shape every decision we make.

As a result of this commitment, we are now proposing to expand our provision to create additional opportunities for children in our community with needs identified formally through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), where communication and interaction needs, are identified as their primary area of need, to access provision in a new dedicated provision, Mosaic, supported by Blackpool Council. Mosaic at Hawes Side Academy will provide children who are offered places with dedicated teaching and specialist facilities, while providing the opportunity to join mainstream classes, when appropriate.

In developing this provision, we are working collaboratively with the Blackpool Council SEND team, to ensure that this development supports us in providing the highest quality education to all our pupils. Our academy has a strong and proven track record of establishing and sustaining high-quality SEND support, and we are confident in our ability to deliver the same level of excellence within Mosaic.

Consultation

Hawes Side Academy will be making an application to the Department for Education to open a SEND Unit for up to eight pupils with needs identified formally through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), where communication and interaction needs, are identified as their primary area of need. This proposal is subject to formal consultation with all stakeholders, and the outcomes of the consultation will be considered by Blackpool Council and the Department for Education before any final decisions are made.

“Everyone Matters, Everyone Succeeds”

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As set out, the key elements of our proposal are to:

- Open a new dedicated SEND Unit, initially for a period up to 31st August 2027, for up to eight pupils for pupils with needs identified formally through an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP),
- Places at the new provision will be allocated by Blackpool Council to children with an Education Health and Care Plan.
- The SEND Unit will be located within the academy, providing specialist facilities which will support each child's bespoke curriculum.

Stakeholders who would like to respond to the consultation are invited to submit their response to consultation@hawes-side.co.uk by 4.00pm on Friday 5th June 2026.

We look forward to sharing more details about this exciting development with you soon.

Yours faithfully



Mrs. C Boothroyd
Principal

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why does Hawes Side Academy want to open a SEND Unit?

Hawes Side Academy is an inclusive, community-centred school that is committed to meeting the needs of all young people and families within its community. Under our vision to be a place where everyone matters, everyone succeeds we believe that every young person deserves the support they need to thrive, regardless of their starting point.

All special schools across Blackpool are currently oversubscribed, which limits the opportunities for young people in our community to access the provision that they deserve. We see it as our responsibility to work in partnership with Blackpool Council to help address this need and to ensure that pupils with needs identified formally through an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP), can access high-quality, specialist provision close to home.

The development of the SEND Unit will also enable the school to invest in very high levels of expertise in supporting young people with additional needs. This expertise will be shared for the benefit of the full school community, supporting Hawes Side Academy's continued development and ensuring that all pupils benefit from the highest quality education possible.

2. What type of pupils will be placed in the SEND Unit?

The SEND Unit will provide specialist places for pupils who hold an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), where communication and interaction needs, are identified as their primary area of need. Pupils will be aged 4-7 (Years EYFS/KS1).

Placement in the SEND Unit is arranged by Blackpool Council through the statutory EHCP process. Families who believe their child may benefit from a place are encouraged to speak with their SEND caseworker.

3. How will the SEND Unit work in practice? Will pupils be separated from the rest of the school?

No. The SEND Unit is designed to be an integrated provision. Pupils placed in the Unit will be part of Hawes Side Academy and will be included in mainstream school life, wherever possible. The key elements of the model are:

- Our approach is grounded in the principle that inclusion is about belonging and participation, not separation. The Unit is designed to remove barriers so that pupils can access and thrive within the mainstream school environment.
- Pupils will access mainstream lessons alongside their peers for as much of the timetable as is appropriate to their individual needs.
- The SEND Unit will provide a dedicated base, a calm, specialist environment where pupils will receive targeted support, specialist interventions and regulation.
- All pupils will have access to social time, enrichment activities, and wider school life alongside the mainstream school community.
- Provision will be personalised to each pupil's EHCP, with support tailored to their individual communication, interaction, and learning needs.

4. Who will be responsible for the SEND Unit, and what expertise will staff have?

The SEND Unit will be led by a dedicated SENDCo, with strategic oversight provided by a team of senior leaders, each with strategic oversight of SEND and Inclusion. This leadership structure ensures that specialist expertise is available at both an operational and strategic level.

The school also benefits from the support of the Blackpool SEND team, who provide leadership in quality assurance, compliance with the SEND Code of Practice, and support with workforce development.

All staff working in and around the SEND Unit will receive comprehensive, ongoing training in areas including adaptive teaching, de-escalation, sensory-informed practice, and speech and language strategies. The academy also has access to Educational Psychologist and speech and language therapy provision, ensuring that pupils receive timely, high-quality specialist support.

5. Will the school be financially disadvantaged because of the resources required to support pupils in the SEND Unit?

No. The school will receive additional funding from Blackpool Council to provide the appropriate support for pupils within the SEND Unit. Budget scenarios have been carefully modelled across different levels of occupancy to ensure that the staffing structure is fully sustainable. Under all scenarios modelled, the income generated by the SEND Unit is fully utilised for the benefit of pupils without negatively impacting the school's financial position.

6. Where will the Unit be located?

We are pleased to confirm that we will repurpose a vacant lower floor classroom to create a purpose-built, high-quality SEND Unit. This will not reduce the space available to mainstream pupils; rather, it will bring underutilised space back into productive use for the benefit of the whole school community.

Our plans for refurbishment include:

- A sensory room to support regulation and wellbeing.
- Refurbished classrooms designed to create a nurturing learning environment.
- A secure outdoor space with appropriate interactive and sensory features.

All spaces will be designed in line with best practice for SEND environments, including high-performance acoustic ceilings, dimmable and adaptive lighting, and low-stimulus colour palettes, to ensure a calm, inclusive and supportive setting.

7. Will opening a SEND Unit change the admissions arrangements or reduce places available for mainstream pupils?

No. Hawes Side Academy will continue to offer the same number of mainstream places as currently. The SEND Unit makes use of underutilised space within the school building and will not require any reduction in the number of mainstream places available. The PAN (Published Admission Number) and overall capacity of the school for mainstream admissions will remain unchanged.

8. Will mainstream pupils be affected by the opening of the SEND Unit?

We are confident that the opening of the SEND Unit will have a positive impact on the whole school. Rather than reducing provision for mainstream pupils, it will enhance it. The investment in specialist SEND expertise, staff training, and high-quality inclusive teaching approaches will benefit all pupils at Hawes Side Academy, not just those within the Unit.

Where pupils from Mosaic may access mainstream lessons, they will be appropriately supported to do so. Our whole-school commitment to inclusion means that all staff are trained to support pupils with a range of needs, ensuring that classrooms remain positive, productive environments for everyone.

9. How will you work with the families of pupils placed in the SEND Unit?

Partnership with families is central to our approach. Building relationships is one of our five core values, and we recognise that sustainable progress for young people with SEND is only achieved when schools and families work together closely and openly.

Families of pupils placed in the SEND Unit will be closely involved in reviewing their child's progress, shaping their individual provision, and contributing to the development of the Unit more broadly. We will maintain regular and transparent communication, and we will always work collaboratively with families, external agencies, and the Local Authority to ensure that each child's needs are met effectively.

10. How can I find out more or provide feedback on this proposal?

We welcome feedback from all stakeholders. If you would like to respond to this consultation, please submit your response to consultation@hawes-side.co.uk by 4.00pm on Friday 5th June 2026.

We are happy to discuss any questions you may have and look forward to hearing your views.

The outcomes of this consultation will be considered by Hawes Side Academy and Blackpool Council before any final decisions are made.

