

10th January 2026

Dear Families,

I am writing to share an important update regarding Ivy House School and recent information that some of you may have seen shared online.

Ivy House School has been allocated £1.7 million in funding from Derby City Local Authority to refurbish a building on our school site. This development will create 26 additional places for primary-aged pupils. The proposal was formally approved at Cabinet on Wednesday 7th January 2026. However, there is a mandatory seven-day “cooling-off” period following Cabinet approval, and until this process is completed, we do not have the official ‘green light’ to begin any formal work. This is why we have not shared this information with families sooner.

We are currently working closely with the Derby City SEND Team to prepare a joint statement for both current families and those making enquiries about future places. I appreciate that, as this is public information, news of the funding has already been shared online, and I wanted to ensure you received clear and accurate information directly from me.

I would like to reassure you that, while we are currently providing education for pupils aged 2 to 19, the additional 26 places created through this development will be for **primary-aged pupils only**.

At present, there is **only one other SEND school in Derby City that caters specifically for primary-aged pupils**, although many mainstream schools operate Enhanced Resource Bases to support children with additional needs. Demand for specialist primary provision in the city has increased significantly. Current local data shows that:

- **4.2% of 0–25-year-olds in Derby** have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), compared to **3.6% nationally**
- **5.5% of Derby’s school population** has an EHCP, compared to **5.3% nationally**
- The **largest increase in EHCPs during 2024/25** has been within the **primary age group (ages 5–10)**

Our expansion will help relieve pressure on other schools across the city, which we believe will be greatly appreciated.

Many of you will be familiar with the building that will be refurbished and will know that, at present, it does not reflect the environment we want for our children. Please be assured that it will look very different once the work is completed.

The current plans for the new building include:

- Four classrooms, each with a small multi-use room
- Dedicated toileting facilities for each classroom
- A sensory integration room to support regulation and help pupils prepare for learning



- A soft play room to support the development of gross motor skills
- A kitchen that pupils will use to develop independence and life skills
- Two outdoor playground areas located at the front of the building, where the grassed areas are currently

In addition, we are planning to create additional car parking spaces to support the increase in staffing that will be required once the new provision is open.

The building is currently still in use by Derby Moor Academy. Derby City Local Authority is working closely with Derby Moor Academy to support a planned transition, and it is important that they are given appropriate time to vacate the building before refurbishment can begin.

Once the new building is completed, we plan to move a small number of pupils from the main building into the new provision. This will allow other classes to spread out, helping us to maintain appropriate learning environments across the school.

Any construction work will take place within a **secure, fenced area**, separate from the main school building. This means disruption to current school life should be kept to a minimum, and student safety will remain our highest priority throughout the project.

We have received some initial architectural drawings, and once these have been finalised, I will share them with you so that you can see how the development will look and how it will benefit our students.

I would also like to reassure you that:

- There are **no immediate changes** to staffing, class groupings, or daily routines
- Safeguarding, wellbeing, and the quality of education for our current students remain our absolute priority

As plans progress and key milestones are confirmed, I will continue to keep you informed. Thank you, as always, for your understanding and for the continued trust you place in Ivy House School.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,

George Turner
Headteacher