

Consultation document for a proposal to lower the age range of the SEN Unit for children with EHC plans whose primary needs are in cognition and learning/speech language and communication difficulties at Leighton Primary Academy to include Reception age children.

Consultation period 16th January 2026 to 6th February 2026

This consultation document sets out:

- Information about Leighton Primary Academy.
- Why there is a need for the SEN Unit to admit children of Reception age.
- The proposal.
- How you can give your views.
- What happens after the consultation?
- The consultation timetable.

Leighton Primary Academy

Leighton Primary Academy is part of The Learning Partnership Multi-Academy Trust and is located on Minshull New Road, Crewe. CW1 3PP. The academy comprises of a nursery taking children from age 2 and admits up to 60 children in the reception class in September of each year. Currently the school educates a number of children with a variety of special educational needs and runs a series of interventions and offers support to these children.

The school also had additional classrooms built as a result of having two year groups where they admitted 90 children per year as a result of local need for places and therefore have the physical space to accommodate a SEN unit comprising of two classes of 10 children.

Why is there a need for the SEN Unit to admit children of Reception age?

As their ongoing sufficiency planning for children with special educational needs, Cheshire East have identified that there is a need within the Crewe area to provide places within the SEN Unit at Leighton Primary Academy for children of Reception age with a primary need of cognition and learning/speech language and communication.

There is a growing need across Cheshire East for more specialist unit places and as a result without the provision for Reception children there is a risk that they will have to be educated in schools outside of Cheshire East, meaning that the children will be spending significant amounts of time travelling to and from school at a significant cost to the local authority.

The proposal

If the proposal goes ahead 20 places will continue to be offered to children with a primary need of cognition and learning/speech language and communication across the Reception, KS1 and KS2 who have an EHCP and the resource provision at the school is named as their preferred provision. The allocation of a place in the SEN Unit will be given by the local authority SEN panel.

How can you give your views?

You can:

- Provide written feedback to the school office in an envelope marked 'SEN consultation response'
- Complete the electronic survey via the following link:

What happens after the consultation?

All the feedback will be collated and reported back to the Trustees of The Learning Partnership Academies Trust. They will decide on whether to go ahead with the SEN Unit based upon the feedback. In addition, Cheshire East Local Authority will consider the feedback received in order to approve the funding of the proposal.

If a decision to lower the age range of the SEN Unit is taken, then approval will be sought from the Secretary of State for Education via the Northwest Regional Director, who will consider the proposal and notify the school of their decision regarding the proposal.

Process

1. The school carries out a 3-week consultation with stakeholders including parents/carers, other schools and the community
2. Responses collated.
3. Analysis of responses.
4. Responses to consultation published.
5. Secretary of State approval requested.
6. Approval or rejection for the Secretary of State.
7. The school implements proposed change (if approved).

Timetable

	Event	When
1	Start of consultation	16 th January 2026
2	Deadline for feedback and comments	6 th February 2026
4	Analysis of responses	6 th February 2026
5	Response to consultation published	6 th February 2026

6	Approval from Secretary of State sought	TBC
7	Secretary of State considers proposal	TBC
8	Implementation of proposal	Likely to be 1 st September 2026