



## Consultation for the development of a Park Specialist Inclusion Base at St Mary's Catholic Academy

*"We grow together, we learn together, we will achieve our best together." (PCA mission statement)*

*To provide an outstanding whole-person education through which all are challenged to grow in wisdom, understanding, self-esteem and closeness to God. (St Mary's mission statement)*

### 1. Introduction

Park Community Academy (PCA) and St Mary's Catholic Academy are proposing to work in partnership to create a **Specialist Inclusion Base** in Blackpool.

This document sets out the proposal and invites feedback from:

- Young people in Blackpool
- Parents and carers
- Local residents
- Staff and governors
- Community stakeholders

Your views are important in helping us shape a provision that meets the needs of children and the local community.

## 2. Why is this needed?

Blackpool has a **higher-than-average number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)**, and demand for specialist placements currently exceeds capacity.

This can lead to:

- Children travelling long distances for school
- Increased school absence or anxiety
- Some pupils moving into home education or alternative provision
- Pressure on mainstream schools to meet complex needs without specialist support

The move from primary to secondary school is a particularly vulnerable time, and many pupils need additional support to succeed.

## 3. What is being proposed?

We propose a **small, specialist SEND satellite provision** located on the St Mary's site and led by Park Community Academy.

### Key features

- Initially supporting **10 Year 7 pupils** in its first year
- Growth to a maximum of **24 pupils over three years**
- Designed for pupils with needs such as:
  - Autism (ASD)
  - Moderate learning difficulties (MLD)
  - Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)
  - Other additional needs

The provision is planned to open from **September 2026**.

## 4. How will it work?

This will be a **hybrid model** combining specialist and mainstream education.

Pupils will:

- Receive **targeted teaching and support** in a small, structured environment
- Access **mainstream lessons and activities where appropriate**
- Benefit from **therapeutic and pastoral support**

Pupils will remain on roll at Park Community Academy, ensuring:

- Specialist oversight
- High-quality provision and accountability
- Strong progress monitoring

## 5. What are the benefits?

### For pupils

- A **safe, supportive environment** at a crucial transition stage
- Improved confidence, attendance, and engagement
- Access to both specialist and mainstream opportunities
- Better long-term outcomes

#### **For families**

- Provision **closer to home**
- Reduced need for travel
- Greater confidence in support and communication
- Clear transition pathways into secondary education

#### **For schools**

- Access to **specialist expertise and shared training**
- Reduced pressure on mainstream SEND systems
- Stronger inclusive practice across both schools

#### **For the local authority**

- A **cost-effective alternative** to out-of-area placements
- Increased local SEND capacity
- Reduced demand for high-cost specialist provision

### **6. Location and Facilities**

The provision will be located on the **St Mary's site**, using a **modular facility**.

#### **Planned features include:**

- Two classrooms
- Toilets and a small kitchen
- Outdoor play/activity space
- Dedicated access and secure fencing
- Parking for up to four vehicles

The facility will be located on an area currently used as an **overflow car park at the front of the school**.

All buildings will meet **health, safety, and accessibility requirements**.

### **7. Impact on Local Residents**

We recognise that local residents will want to understand how this proposal may affect them.

#### **Potential impacts**

- Changes to use of part of the school site
- Limited additional traffic at drop-off/pick-up times
- Minor building works during installation

#### **How we will manage this**

- Careful planning of transport arrangements (led by the Local Authority)
- Small cohort size to minimise disruption
- Clear communication with neighbours
- Safe site design with appropriate access points

## 8. Staffing and Expertise

The provision will be staffed by:

- Specialist SEND teacher(s) from Park Community Academy
- Trained support staff from Park Community Academy
- Leadership oversight from both schools
- Access to external professionals where needed

All staff will be experienced in delivering **high-quality SEND provision and therapeutic support**.

## 9. How to Share Your Views

Your opinions regarding this are very important to us and we would like to hear from as many people as possible in the coming weeks so that we can address any questions that you might have and act on feedback to ensure our provision is the very best in can be.

You can:

- Complete a consultation survey: [[Consultation on the Proposed Park Specialist Inclusion Base at St Mary's Catholic Academy – Fill out form](#)]
- Email: [admin@park.svt.org.uk](mailto:admin@park.svt.org.uk)

The consultation will run from 8.06.26 to 29.06.26 at 12 noon. Your feedback is very important to us.

We will record all views that are shared with us during the formal consultation window.

## 10. Conclusion

This proposal aims to:

- Improve outcomes for vulnerable young people
- Provide high-quality provision locally
- Strengthen inclusion across Blackpool schools

By working in partnership, we believe this SEND Base will provide a **sustainable and impactful solution** for children, families, and the wider community.