



# TARLETON ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mr S Parker

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Endeavour Thrive Consultation

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

As you know, our work at Tarleton Academy and across Endeavour Learning Trust 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. Our ethos of *"igniting excellence and empowering individuality"* drives everything we do, and our five core values of belonging, being people-centred, transformational, togetherness, and individuality 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 autism, communication and interaction needs to access provision in a new dedicated provision, Endeavour Thrive, supported by Lancashire County Council. Endeavour Thrive at Tarleton Academy will offer places to children with autism, communication and interaction needs, providing them 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 Trust's Director of SEND, to ensure that this development supports us in providing the highest quality education to all our pupils. Our Trust has a strong and proven track record of establishing and sustaining high-quality specialist SEND provision at both Northbrook Primary Academy and Wellfield Academy, and we are confident in our ability to deliver the same level of excellence at Tarleton Academy.

### **Consultation**

Tarleton Academy will be making an application to the Department for Education to open a SEND Unit for up to thirty pupils with autism, communication and interaction needs. This proposal is subject to formal consultation with all stakeholders, and the outcomes of the consultation will be considered by Endeavour Learning Trust and the Department for Education before any final decisions are made.

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

- Open a new dedicated SEND Unit for up to thirty pupils with autism, communication and interaction needs.
- Places at the new provision will be allocated by Lancashire County Council to children with an Education Health and Care Plan, with autism, communication and interaction needs, as their primary diagnosis.
- The SEND Unit will be located within the academy, in refurbished accommodation, providing specialist facilities which will support each child's bespoke curriculum.



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Stakeholders who would like to respond to the consultation are invited to submit their response to [consultation@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:consultation@tarletonacademy.org) by 5.00pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

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

Yours faithfully



Mr Scott Parker  
**Headteacher**



Mr David Clayton  
**Chief Executive**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. Why does Tarleton Academy and Endeavour Learning Trust want to open a SEND Unit?**

Tarleton Academy is an inclusive, community-centred school that is committed to meeting the needs of all young people and families within its community. Under the school's ethos of *"igniting excellence and empowering individuality,"* we believe that every young person deserves the support they need to thrive, regardless of their starting point.

All special schools across Lancashire 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 Lancashire County Council to help address this need and to ensure that pupils with communication and interaction needs — particularly those on the autism spectrum — 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 Tarleton 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 — typically associated with autism spectrum conditions — are identified as their primary area of need. Pupils will be aged 11–16 (Years 7–11).

Placement in the SEND Unit is arranged by Lancashire County 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 Tarleton 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 Endeavour Learning Trust's Director of SEND, who provides Trust-wide leadership in quality assurance, compliance with the SEND Code of Practice, and workforce development.

All staff working in and around the SEND Unit will receive comprehensive, ongoing training in areas including adaptive teaching, autism-informed and neuro-sequential approaches, de-escalation, sensory-informed practice, and speech and language strategies. The Trust also has access to an in-house 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 Lancashire County 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.

Endeavour Learning Trust operates a pooled funding model, which provides financial resilience and ensures that all schools have access to the resources they need. The Trust maintains strong financial reserves and has a well-established track record of operating SEND provisions effectively and within their agreed financial arrangements.

#### **6. Where will the Unit be located?**

We are pleased to confirm that we will refurbish and repurpose the Ribble Building 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 dedicated Life Skills room with a fully equipped kitchen and flexible learning zone.
- A sensory room to support regulation and wellbeing.
- Refurbished classrooms designed to create a calm, nurturing learning environment.
- A staff workspace for specialist staff, including space for speech and language therapy and psychology assessments.
- A secure outdoor space with seating, planting, 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. Tarleton 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 Tarleton Academy, not just those within the Unit.

Where pupils from Endeavour Thrive 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. Being people-centred 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@tarletonacademy.org](mailto:consultation@tarletonacademy.org) by 5.00pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 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 Endeavour Learning Trust and Lancashire County Council before any final decisions are made.*