

## Proposed Primary Resource Base FAQs

### 1. Why is a resource base being proposed at Noremarsh Junior School?

Response:

Wiltshire Local Authority approached the Trust due to a lack of suitable provision for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), particularly those with communication and interaction needs who cannot fully access mainstream education but do not require a specialist school. Noremarsh Junior School was identified as having both the space and the inclusive culture to support a resource base.

### 2. Will this take funding away from the main school or existing pupils?

Response:

No. The resource base is fully funded by the Local Authority through the High Needs Budget. No money is taken from the school's mainstream budget and the school is not subsidising the provision in any way.

### 3. Will the resource base reduce the number of places available in the main school?

Response:

No. The pupil admission number for the main school remains unchanged. Pupils in the resource base are additional places funded separately by the Local Authority.

### 4. Who decides which pupils are placed in the resource base?

Response:

Placements are decided by the Local Authority. Pupils must have an EHCP. The school cannot accept parental requests directly and cannot prioritise siblings. The school is consulted on suitability, but final decisions rest with the Local Authority.

## 5. What numbers are involved?

Response:

The resource base would initially support approximately 5–6 pupils, with capacity potentially increasing to around 10 pupils by the end of the first year. Numbers would then increase gradually on a year-on-year basis to a maximum capacity of approximately 20 pupils. The provision is intentionally designed to remain small in scale.

## 6. Where will the resource base be located on site?

Response:

The provision will be based within an existing, currently unused classroom. As there is no change of use, planning permission is not required. The Local Authority will fund the refurbishment of this classroom

## 7. Will pupils from the resource base mix with mainstream pupils?

Response:

Most learning will take place within the resource base. Limited integration (e.g. lunch, assemblies, PE or other lessons) may happen gradually and only where appropriate, supported by staff. There is no expectation of routine mainstream lesson attendance.

## 8. Will the presence of the resource base negatively impact mainstream pupils?

Response:

Based on experience at Wellington Academy, the Trust reports only positive outcomes and no negative impact. There have been no issues with disruption or stigma. If any concerns were to arise, they would be addressed through existing behaviour and anti-bullying policies.

## 9. What are the benefits for Noremarsch Junior School?

Response:

- Access to specialist SEND staff who can advise and train mainstream staff
- Improved SEND expertise across the school
- Investment from the Local Authority in school facilities
- Strengthened working relationship with the Local Authority
- A wider moral and community benefit of supporting local pupils with additional needs

## 10. Can existing Noremarsh Junior School pupils access the resource base or its funding?

Response:

No. The provision and funding are ring-fenced for pupils placed in the resource base via EHCPs. However, mainstream staff can seek advice and guidance from the specialist team.

## 11. Is the resource base an alternative provision or for pupils excluded from other schools?

Response:

No. It is not alternative provision and is not designed for pupils with behavioural needs or exclusions. It is specifically for pupils with EHCPs relating to communication and interaction needs.

## 12. What happens if the majority of responses are negative?

Response:

The final decision rests with the Department for Education (DfE). All feedback is submitted as part of a statutory 'significant change' application. The Trust does not make the final decision.

The Trust is committed to transparency and ongoing engagement. Parents and stakeholders are encouraged to submit any further questions and to contact the school directly regarding individual concerns.