

# Proposed Primary Resource Base at Noremarsh Primary Academy

March 2026

This paper has been published by Ascend Learning Trust and relates to Noremarsh Junior School, Clarendon Drive, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon, SN4 8BT. The School is part of Ascend Learning Trust and is a primary phase school.

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## Foreword

This paper has been produced to seek the views of parents, staff and other stakeholders on the proposal to develop a new resource base provision at Noremarsh Junior School for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

This proposal aims to increase the resource base provision in North Wiltshire, catering for primary aged children with special needs who are unlikely to be able to access the mainstream curriculum and require bespoke/individualised support to meet the goals and targets outlined in their EHCP.

This provision will cater for pupils with Communication and Interaction SEN

## Introduction

Nationally, there has been a significant increase in pupils being with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), often resulting in an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) being created for a pupil with specific learning needs. This increase nationally has been reflected in Wiltshire. In response to the growing demand, Wiltshire Council is working with schools to increase the number of High Needs SEN School places and has approached Ascend Learning Trust and Noremarsh Junior School about developing a Resource Base.

This proposal aims to increase specialist provision available locally for children with an EHCP and Communication and Interaction Needs as directed by the Local Authority.

## Background/school context

Noremarsh Junior School already has 10 pupils with an EHCP and a further 30 SEND K pupils.

A resource base will allow the school to meet the needs of students with additional learning needs of communication and interaction within a mainstream setting as determined by the Local Authority. This provision is not for students currently at Noremarsh Junior School. There is currently very limited provision for this learning need within the North and East of Wiltshire.

The Resource base also supports the school's commitment to inclusion, ensuring every child can access education that suits their needs.

The young people attending the resource will have access to specialist support on-site, such as targeted interventions, therapies and adapted learning programmes.

Having this support in school avoids disruption caused by travelling to alternative provisions and creates consistency of care.

The resource base also strengthens whole-school SEND practice. A resource base naturally lifts the expertise of the entire school. Teachers gain professional development strategies for supporting diverse learners and access to specialist advice. This improves teaching and learning for all students, not only those within the base.

The resource base also supports Wiltshire's Local Authority SEND Strategies.

The Local Authority decides which children would benefit from this support. Noremarsch Junior School is well placed to develop the proposed provision for the following reasons:

- The School has an Ofsted Good rating
- The school has a culture of inclusive practice and removing barriers to learning.
- Pupils are well prepared for transition to their next destination.
- SEND policy and practice is carefully monitored and adjusted, as appropriate.
- The school has strong support from Ascend Learning Trust and specifically through the Trust Inclusion Lead
- Evidence-based approaches are embedded in practice.

## Vision for the SEND Provision

Pupils admitted to the new SEND provision are unlikely to be able to access the full mainstream curriculum and instead will require bespoke or individualised support to meet the goals and targets outlined in their EHCP.

The intended designation of the provision will include specific learning difficulties linked to their communication and interaction needs.

Pupils in the provision may initially spend the majority of their time there but this will be dependent on need. It is anticipated that they will attend mainstream classes for lessons, such as PE, for assembly or for lunch.

The school will receive full funding from the Local Authority specifically for the purpose of the provision. The school's budget will not be subsidising this provision.

Pupils will be placed in the provision, by the Local Authority, after careful consideration of the most appropriate placement to meet the pupil's needs set out in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Pupils placed in the resource base will be through the Council's Discussion and Decision (DaD) Group and via consultation with the school.

Noremarsh Junior School meets the following criteria to incorporate new specialist SEND provision:

- a shared vision in practice and culture for children who need extra support to flourish
- has the ability to refurbish existing spaces which are not being utilised within the school footprint to support SEND provision accommodation financed by the Local Authority
- has the ability to recruit additional leadership capacity funded by the Local Authority through the resource base budget, to deliver SEND provision effectively as part of the school
- is within one of the identified priority locations

The SEND provision will cater for up to 10 pupils in year 1 and it is anticipated this will grow to circa 20 pupils.

## Financial considerations

Revenue funding will be allocated to the Provision in accordance with a Service Level Agreement and associated banding/funding formula. The Resource Base will be fully funded by the income the school receives for the provision.

Adaptation to the school building to support the Resource Base will be paid for by High Needs capital funding allocated to Wiltshire by the Department for Education.

It's important that all interested individuals and groups have the opportunity to comment on the proposed Resource Base at Noremarsh Junior School.

### Information sessions

- To find out further information, parents/carers of children at Noremarsh Junior School, prospective parents and other members of the local community are invited to attend an online meeting on Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

A link to this meeting will be sent out to all parents/carers prior to the meeting.

Should anyone wish to ask any questions before this meeting please email the Headteacher, Hilary MacMeekin at [hmacmeekin@njs.ascendlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:hmacmeekin@njs.ascendlearningtrust.org.uk)

All feedback need to be sent by the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026.