

Consultation for a SEND Base at Rufford Primary School from September 2024

Dear Families,

I am writing to you about the exciting opportunity we have to add a SEND Base to our school.

We are very pleased to inform you that we have been successful in our bid for an LA SEND Base to support children who have an Education Health Care Plan, as there is a gap in provision within Dudley for these children. We would like to gather your views through consultation.

Our plans are that the specialist Base will initially be located within school but, going forward, the former caretaker's house will be converted into a bespoke space that will be home to our SEND Base. The changes to this building will be funded by the Local Authority and we are hopeful that they will be completed by Christmas.

Our SEND Base will support children to overcome their barriers to learning, to build relationships with peers and staff, and to be integrated into a mainstream setting wherever possible, so they can achieve their potential. The Base will be part of our school and all the staff will be members of our Rufford school team. Placements at the Base are permanent, and pupils will be on the roll of Rufford Primary School.

What are the benefits of this proposal?

The main driver for Rufford, and for Invictus Education Trust, is to meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners and the increased demand for specialist educational provision within our area. We feel our proposal would benefit children in such areas as:

- Ensure that needs can be met locally avoiding the need for children to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away. This is better for young people and saves the taxpayer money in transport costs
- Enhance children's progress by effectively meeting their individual needs

How can you have your say?

We will be holding a drop-in event at Rufford Primary on Thursday 6th July between 2:30pm and 3pm where you can come and ask individual questions.

You can also send in written responses by post or by email. There is further information about how to do this in the consultation document.

Your sincerely

Erica Tilley