



**THE WHITEOAK ACADEMIES,**  
**HANNAH MORE INFANTS AND GROVE JUNIORS**  
WHITEOAK WAY, NAILSEA BS48 4YZ  
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Headteacher: Mr Duncan Cook, BSc Hons



*"Planting Dreams. Nurturing Hearts. Growing Minds."*

Dear Parent/Carer/Stakeholder,

### **Additional Speech and Language Resource Base at The Whiteoak Academies of Hannah More Infants and Grove Juniors in Nailsea**

We are seeking your views on our proposal to open a new SEND Resource Base covering Speech and Language Difficulty (SLCN) within our family of schools from September 2024. We are consulting on making this change to the school in accordance with the 2022 Department for Education [‘Making significant changes to an open academy’ guidance](#).

There is a growing population of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) across the North Somerset Local Authority. Furthermore, there are limited places available within Special Schools and alternative provision to support children with Speech and Language difficulties (SLCN). The creation of a Resource Base will provide a suitable setting for children that do not require a Special School placement but are currently struggling in a mainstream setting. It is anticipated that this will reduce the number of children that access costly resources beyond the local authority; therefore, there is both a moral and financial duty to support children to access education near their home.

The Whiteoak Academies of Hannah More Infants & Grove Juniors are suitably placed to offer such a facility with spacious grounds and shared knowledge and expertise across the school and Lighthouse Schools Partnership. The strength of this proposed Resource Base is the fluid nature of provision where children can access mainstream classrooms and activities, where appropriate, but still benefit from precise, bespoke support in a purpose-built Resource Base. It is anticipated that children from the Resources Base will access mainstream classes (with support) on an ever-increasing basis, working towards full-time integration back into a mainstream setting.

Having federated in 2012, The Whiteoak Academies of Hannah More Infants & Grove Juniors are located in Nailsea and have been at the heart of education in the local area for over 200 years. The schools currently educate approximately 400 children with capacity for up to 420. The surrounding area is currently undergoing significant change with the building of new housing developments across and around Nailsea. The schools joined the Lighthouse Schools Partnership in 2018 and are well known in the local area and across North Somerset for their caring and inclusive ethos.

We wish to receive the views and comments of all perceived stakeholders involved with the school.

The consultation period runs for five weeks from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and all comments received during this time will be considered.

#### **The proposal**

In support of North Somerset Council and our local community, we wish to open a Resource Base for 10 children with Speech and Language difficulties (SLCN). The aim of the Resource Base is to provide bespoke support for children with an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) stating Speech and Language (SLCN) as their **primary need**. The proposal includes:

- A new specialist Resource Base building which will provide places for 10 children with Speech Language and Communication needs.



Lighthouse Schools Partnership. Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR  
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- In all cases, the children will have an Education Health Care Plan with the primary need of Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN) named. A Speech and Language Therapist will also already be involved with each child.
- The Resource Base will provide intensive interventions to support these children in developing effective communication skills so that they can access learning and school life in a mainstream school.
- Children attending the Resource Base will increase the percentage of learning completed in mainstream classes as their skills and knowledge progress over time.

### **Why is the school proposing this change?**

This Resource Base is a funded provision by North Somerset Council as part of their SEND strategy. This means that the school will receive additional funding to manage the provision. The Resource Base will not take away any funding from the mainstream school.

The school will be able to support children with a Speech, language and Communication need to be taught within a mainstream school, whilst still receiving intensive support for their specific learning needs. This is a beneficial approach for many pupils with SEND needs.

### **The benefits**

- Children will benefit from a new specialist provision specifically designed to support SLCN.
- Children will also be able to access some mainstream classes and therefore be fully part of the school community.
- Teachers and support staff at Hannah More and Grove will gain more expertise in teaching and supporting pupils with SEND, and in particular SLCN. This will benefit a wider number of pupils in the long term.

### **What happens next?**

The consultation will be for a period of five weeks, commencing on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October and running until to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. At the end of the consultation period, all comments/submissions will be considered by the school governors and Lighthouse Schools Partnership trustees and a decision will be made as whether to proceed with the next stage of the process as outlined in the Department for Education's guidance.

### **How can I make my views known?**

Your views are important to us and we value your opinions. You can send your comments to the following:

Email: [school@hannahmoreandgrove.co.uk](mailto:school@hannahmoreandgrove.co.uk)

Letter: Mrs Elizabeth Wines, Clerk to Governors, The Whiteoak Academies of Hannah More Infants & Grove Juniors, Whiteoak Way, Nailsea, BS48 4YZ.

You can also visit our Consultation Drop-In Session on Monday 6 November 2023 6.30-7.30pm in the Grove Junior School Hall.

If you require clarification on any of the points raised, please contact us on 01275 841396 or by email to the address above.

Thank you for your interest; we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,



Duncan Cook  
Headteacher



Gary Lewis  
Chief Executive