

22 September 2025

Dear Stakeholder

Re: Stow Heath Primary School - Proposed Resource Base

The main challenge that the City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) faces, in relation to the organisation of specialist school provision, is ensuring sufficient high quality school places are available to meet the needs of local communities across the City.

Part of the vision in Wolverhampton's SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2022-25 and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2027, is to ensure that children live in an inclusive City and achieve their full potential through education into adulthood. This includes providing environments that can appropriately meet their educational needs.

Demand for specialist school places has risen significantly in recent years and there has been an increase in the number of children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP). Following the Covid pandemic, younger children are presenting with more complex needs and require suitable provision to support their education. At present Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) is the most common primary need for children who have an EHCP and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) continues to be a common primary need.

A resource base is a dedicated area within a mainstream school that supports children with specific special educational needs (SEN). Children in the resource base spend part of their day learning within mainstream classes, and part of their day in the base, where they receive extra help using specialist resources and facilities suited to their needs.

Additional resource base provision is required to meet demand for SEND across the City and is commissioned by the Council and service level agreements (SLAs) are in place with individual providers/schools.

Proposal

As you may already be aware the school is being rebuilt by the Department of Education (DfE) and the opportunity has arisen for the Local Authority to help shape this scheme. It is proposed for a 20 place Resource Base, for Communication and Interaction, be established at the school which will support the increased demand for specialist places.

This includes children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who may have difficulty in communicating with others. Discussions with the DfE have been positive around the inclusion of accommodation within the design of the new school building to house resource base provision.

A contribution of capital funding from the Local Authority would be required for the base as this is not in scope of the Schools Rebuilding Programme.

Stow Heath Primary School is already well-equipped to support pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), demonstrating a strong commitment to inclusion and tailored learning. The school has a team of experienced staff who provide individualised support to meet the diverse needs of students with communication and interaction, including those with SLCN and ASD, ensuring they can thrive academically and socially.

With established strategies, resources, and a nurturing environment, Stow Heath Primary School is an ideal setting for a proposed resource base. The school's expertise in working with pupils requiring additional support, alongside its dedication to fostering an inclusive and accessible learning experience, makes it well-positioned to further develop specialised provision for SEND students. By building on its existing strengths, Stow Heath Primary School could provide even greater opportunities for pupils with additional needs, ensuring they receive the high-quality support necessary for their personal growth and education.

This proposed resource base will provide additional school places in the city for primary children with SLCN and/or ASD, thereby enabling pupils to attend a school near to where they live, give them the opportunity to learn alongside their peers and siblings in a resourced facility within a mainstream school where they can benefit from the expertise of a wider range of educators and support services.

Decision Making Process:

Initial consultation on the proposed Resource Base of Stow Heath Primary School commenced on 22 September 2025 and runs until 26 October 2025.

Following consideration of the outcome of this period of consultation, the Council will determine whether to proceed to a period of Formal Representation which offers stakeholders the opportunity to make formal comments or objections to the proposals. Should the Council decide to proceed to Formal Representation, a 4-week consultation period would commence in January 2026 with a final decision being made by the Cabinet of the Council in March 2026.

Initial Consultation:

The Council welcomes any comments you may wish to make on the proposed Resource Base at Stow Heath Primary School.

You can offer your opinions by visiting:

<https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/education/stowheathprimary>

Alternatively, consultation forms are available from the school. Please return to:

Stow Heath Primary School
Hill Road
Portobello
Willenhall
WV13 3TT

Please note that the deadline for responses is 5pm 26 October 2025. All comments received will help the Council to make a decision on the proposed Resource Base.

Should you have any queries regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact the School Organisation Team at school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

School Organisation
Education Department
City of Wolverhampton Council