

COMPLETE PROPOSAL

**PRESCRIBED ALTERATION
TO STOW HEATH PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

FROM 1 JANUARY 2028

**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL**

PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO STOW HEATH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introduction

The City of Wolverhampton Council (the Council) as the Local Authority for Wolverhampton is consulting on a proposed change to Stow Heath Primary School (the School). This document describes what is being proposed and why.

Local Authority Information

City of Wolverhampton Council

Contact: School Organisation Team, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL. Email: School.Organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk

School Information

Type:	Community Primary School		
Name:	Stow Heath Primary School	DFE Number:	336/2066
Address:	Hill Road, Portobello, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 3TT		
Ward:	East Park		
Age Range:	3 - 11 years		
Gender:	Mixed	Current Capacity:	420
Last Ofsted:	March 2023	Rating:	Good

What changes are proposed?

The Council is proposing to carry out the following change to the School:

- A 20 place Communication and Interaction Resource Base (CIRB), designed to support children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) AND Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), to be established at the school.

Please note throughout this document the CIRB will be referred to as a Resource Base.

Why do we want to do this?

Background:

In July 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) announced the second round of the School Rebuilding Programme and Stow Heath Primary School was included in this tranche. As the school was being rebuilt the opportunity arose for the LA to help shape the scheme. It was agreed that the design of the new school build could accommodate space for a Resource Base.

Evidence of Demand:

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) that require specialist provision. Following the Covid pandemic, younger children are presenting with more complex needs and require suitable provision to support their education.

The number of pupils of statutory school age with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has increased by 58% from 1,549 in June 2020 to 2,453 in June 2025. Total EHCP's Reception to Year 11 is projected to rise significantly, with a 26% increase in EHCPs expected between 2025 and 2030, equating to an average annual increase of 118 EHCPs.

When will these changes happen?

Following this consultation period, if the proposal is approved by the decision maker the changes will be implemented from 1 January 2028. Please note that the original implementation date of 1 September 2027 has been revised to 1 January 2028.

Will there be any effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area?

There are not expected to be any adverse effects on other mainstream or special schools, as the proposed Resource Base will provide specialist provision that is currently in demand. There is a need for additional places for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) AND Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and there is no evidence to suggest that existing providers will be negatively impacted. The proposal is likely to have a positive effect by creating new places, consequently freeing up capacity in other schools.

The Council remains committed to ensuring that future school places are developed in areas where they are most needed, enabling children to attend schools closer to home and within their local communities. The proposed Resource Base at Stow Heath Primary School will increase the number of places for pupils requiring SLCN and ASD provision at a 'Good' school and provide greater choice for parents.

How will this affect pupils at the school?

The introduction of a 20-place Resource Base will result in a modest increase to the overall pupil population, which current pupils may notice in day-to-day school life. To maintain educational continuity and ensure that all pupils continue to thrive, the school may choose to adapt its organisational structure—such as timetabling, use of shared spaces, or staffing arrangements—but these decisions will be made by the school leadership in response to the evolving needs of the school community. Importantly, the resource base is designed to complement existing provision, and its presence is expected to enrich the learning environment by fostering greater understanding, diversity, and collaboration among pupils.

How will this affect staff at the school?

As a result of the proposed Resource Base, the School will need to appoint additional staff trained to support the needs of the pupils allocated to the provision. It is acknowledged that the implementation of a Resource Base at the school will have an impact on all staff members, who may have questions or concerns regarding the changes and any potential disruption to the school environment.

While staffing levels are expected to rise in line with the expansion, the responsibility for the future organisation, deployment and duty of care for staff rests with the Headteacher and the Governing Body.

Travel and Transport:

It is recognised that car parking and traffic congestion in the vicinity of schools is a sensitive issue and can cause disruption for residents. In response, the proposed plans for the Department for Education's rebuild of Stow Heath Primary School include a range of measures aimed at mitigating these issues. Subject to approval, the development will include dedicated access routes and an extended drop-off zone specifically for the SEND Resource Base,

helping to streamline arrivals and departures. Additional staff parking will also be provided, alongside improved traffic management features such as the separation of pedestrian and vehicle pathways and a one-way circulation system through the car park. These enhancements aim to reduce disruption, improve safety, and support the smooth operation of the school site.

As part of any associated planning applications, the Council's Highways Team would consider the impact of any proposed new build and may make some recommendations or impose certain requirements.

Will there be changes to the school building?

The school is being rebuilt as part of the Department for Education's Schools Rebuilding Programme. The Resource Base provision will be included within the design of the new school building.

What are the project costs for this proposal and how is it funded?

The funding for the proposed expansion will come from the Local Authority's High Needs Budget. The school is being rebuilt by the Department for Education under the School Rebuilding Programme, the addition of the Resource Base will require a contribution from the Local Authority of £1.2 million. The ongoing maintenance and running costs for the building will be the responsibility of the school and will be funded from the school's budget.

Will this definitely happen?

There is a statutory process to be followed when making these sorts of changes to schools. Following this statutory consultation, the proposal will be presented to the Council's Cabinet on 18 March 2026; they are the decision maker for this type of proposal.

It is only after a decision and right of referral period (whereby certain bodies have a right to appeal the final decision) has taken place will we be able to say with certainty whether the proposal will be implemented. The decision will be published on the Consultation Portal on 16 April 2026 and stakeholders will be notified.

What will happen if this proposal is rejected?

If the proposal for the 20-place Resource Base is not approved, alternative and additional places would need to be sourced from other schools, which could have a negative impact on pupils out of school and on travel arrangements to other provision.

How do I comment on this proposal?

We welcome any responses to consultation and interested parties are invited to object to, support or comment on the proposal in one of the following ways.

Any responses must be received no later than 8 February 2026

You can comment online via:

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

You can write to us:

- By email: school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk
- By letter:
Mrs S Bradley
School Organisation Officer
City of Wolverhampton Council
1st Floor Civic Centre
St Peter's Square
Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL

What happens next?

The dates set out below meet the government requirements for the Council to consult fully with the people affected by the proposal.

Key Dates

Action	Date
Statutory notice published	12 January 2026
Start of 4-week consultation period	12 January 2026
End of 4-week consultation period	8 February 2026
Final decision deadline	18 March 2026
Publication of decision	16 April 2026
Changes implemented	1 January 2028

Stakeholders consulted:

Stow Heath Primary School: governors, staff, parents/carers and pupils
Local Councillors
Members of Parliament
Local Diocesan Authorities
Other/Neighbouring Local Authorities
Trade Unions

