

Responses to the Lyneham Primary School Resource Base Consultation

Prior to the formal consultation period, in accordance with DfE guidance good practice, a pre-consultation informal information session was held on 17th October 2022. The session was promoted to all Lyneham Primary School parents/ carers, staff and governors. The head teacher, six parent carers and the SEND place commissioning lead attended the meeting.

Key discussion points from the session were:

- Admissions: The head teacher and SEND place planning commissioning lead explained that admissions would be for children with an EHCP, whose needs were a match for the resource base’s communication and interaction designation, and supporting a wider geographical coverage than the schools mainstream catchment.
- Integration with mainstream learners: The head teacher explained that the resource base would be an integrated part of the school and where appropriate children attending the resource base would be supported to engage with mainstream activities and lessons.
- Support for teaching staff: The head teacher explained that the lead and staff for the resource base, with suitable skills and training, had been identified and that the school was ready to launch in January 2023 following preparations that began in February 2022. The head teacher gave assurances that the staff would be well supported.

The formal consultation period ran for 4 weeks from 31st October – 27th November, in accordance with the DfE guidelines. Three responses were received via email, two in favour of the proposal and one apposed, and no hard copy responses were received. The limited number of responses was consistent with previous similar consultations.

This proposal would see an increase in SEN provision available in Lyneham and the North Wiltshire area.

Response	From	Do you agree with the proposal?	Comments regarding response
The governors at Lyneham Primary fully support the proposal to open a resource base provision at the school. We understand that there	Governor, Lyneham Primary School	Yes	Agree

<p>is a need for this specialist provision in the local area and are confident that the school has the capacity to deliver on this. We are committed to the wellbeing and education of all of our children, especially those with a SEN and recognise that opening a resource base will enable the school to continue to grow and further the successes it has achieved in providing education to children in the North Wiltshire area.</p>			
<p>The decision for the resource base seems quite rushed.</p> <p>The school only just experienced changes in its organisational structure (combining year groups)</p> <p>Insufficient staff training and recruitment</p>	<p>Parent carer</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Planning for the creation of the resource base began in February 2022. At the school's request the proposed launch date of January 2023 was agreed, rather than September 2022, to allow fullness of time for all preparations. The headteacher has advised that the school is ready for a January launch.</p> <p>Due to declining mainstream numbers, the school made the decision to combine some year groups for September 2022. The headteacher advises that these changes have been implemented and will not impact the launch of the resource base.</p> <p>The head teacher has confirmed that staff are in place and have received training ready to launch the resource base. The school used some of the additional preparation time</p>

<p>Poor communication about the proposed change</p> <p>Mainstream year groups had been combined in to create space for the resource base</p> <p>It was not easy to access the information meeting</p>			<p>to visit other resource bases to learn from good practice. Further training will be given to staff as required to meet the needs of individual children</p> <p>The communication about the proposed change has been compliant with the statutory guidance for 'Prescribed Alterations, 2018', following advice from legal services. This included an email to all parents and carers, staff and governors of the school; a pre-consultation information session which was communicated to all parents and carers, staff and governors of the school; a notice in the local press; and publication on both the school and council websites.</p> <p>The school's decision to combine some year groups for September 2022 was made taking account of declining pupil numbers independently of the proposal to create the resource base. The resource base proposal was developed following discussion with both the school and the mainstream school place commissioning lead who both advised that Lyneham Primary had excess space at the school that would not be needed by mainstream learners.</p> <p>An email was sent by the school to all parents and carers, staff and governors of the school inviting them to the meeting. All six parent carers who responded to the invite attended the meeting, including the parent providing this feedback. The email inbox was checked and it was confirmed</p>
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<p>Further feedback that did not directly concern the proposal</p>			<p>that all respondents had been invited.</p> <p>The feedback was shared with the headteacher.</p>
<p>We are very proud to be setting up Resource Base provision for children with Communication and Interaction Special Educational Needs. We are an inclusive school and this is a natural next step for us to be taking in delivering high quality educational provision for children in North Wiltshire. We have worked closely and collaboratively with the Local Authority since February, to ensure that we will be in an optimum position to open this exciting new provision in January 2023 and continue our work in meeting the needs of all learners, to ensure every child has the opportunity to be included in education and receive the appropriate support to overcome any barriers to learning that could prevent this.</p>	<p>Head Teacher, Lyneham Primary School</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Agree</p>

Considering the responses to the consultation and the comments regarding response

It is noted that the headteacher and governors fully support the proposal and have confirmed that all preparations are in place for a January 2023 launch.

It is also noted that the concerns raised by one parent carer have been carefully considered.

The creation of the resource base at Lyneham Primary School will provide SEN school places that are required to meet the needs of children in the local area.

The recommendation is to approve the creation of the resource base as per the original proposal.