

4 January 2024



THE PRIORY
LEARNING TRUST

Queensway
Weston-super-Mare
North Somerset BS22 6BP

Tel: 01934 511411
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Dear Parent/Carer/Stakeholder

Additional SEND Resource Base at Priory Community School Academy (PCSA)

As a member of the school and/or another local community provision, you have a perceived stake in the future of PCSA. Therefore, we are writing to consult you on a proposed new SEND Resource Base covering Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) within the school from September 2024.

The Trustees and Academy Council of the school needs to consult on the proposed changes in line with the 2022 Department for Education 'Making significant changes to an open academy' guidance, which is available [here](#).

We wish to receive the views and comments of all perceived stakeholders involved with the school. The consultation period runs for four weeks from **Thursday 4th January to Wednesday 31st January 2024** and all comments received during this time will be considered.

The proposal

A new Resource Base which will provide places for 10 students with ASD and anxiety to be sited at PCSA. This will support the ASD work already being carried out at, for example Mendip Green Primary School for the primary phase and enable ASD students to transfer to PCSA when moving onto secondary education.

Why is the school proposing this change?

This Resource Base is a funded provision by North Somerset Council as part of their SEND strategy and will allow students with ASD to be taught in a mainstream school, whilst still receiving support for their social and educational development.

The benefits

- Students transitioning from primary to secondary school will be able to access a local, safe and secure provision within Weston-super-Mare.
- This locally funded and resourced provision will also be accessible to students with ASD who are not currently within the defined catchment area of PCSA.
- Students will also be able to access mainstream classes and be fully part of the school community.
- Teachers at PCSA will gain more expertise in teaching students with SEND, and in particular autism.
- Staff will improve their practice which will also benefit their other students across the school.

The Priory Learning Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with company number 07698707.
Registered office address: Priory Community School, Queensway, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS22 6BP



What happens next?

The consultation will be for a period of four weeks, commencing on **Thursday 4th January to Wednesday 31st January 2024**. At the end of the consultation period, all comments/submissions will be considered by the school and Trust 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: paula.higginson@theplt.org.uk

Letter: Mrs Paula Higginson, Priory Community School Academy, C/O The Priory Learning Trust, Queensway, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 6BP

If you require clarification on any of the points raised, please contact us on 01934 511411 or by email to the address above.

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

Yours faithfully,



William Roberts
Chief Executive Officer



Katie Dominy
Chair of Trustees