

28 March 2023



Dear Staff Member, Governor, Parent/Guardian, Pupil

Operational Plan 1 (2022-24): Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools

Consistent with the *Framework for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools* and the *Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision*, and through the associated *Operational Plan 1: 2022-24*, a number of short and medium term workstreams for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools were identified.

The priorities within *Operational Plan 1: 2022-24* are to ensure that there is sufficient capacity as well as seeking to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies, however, there still exists Special Educational Needs pressures and demand for places, as evidenced in setting up temporary resource provisions in September 2022 and also projected need for September 2023 and beyond.

The Education Authority is engaging in consultation as it seeks to regularise temporary resource provision and establish new Specialist Provision (Learning and Social Communication) classes in primary and post-primary schools, including those at your school. Therefore, we are seeking your views on the proposal for approval of specialist provision class(es) at your school in order that we meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs.

We would like to hear the views of parents, staff, governors and pupils in relation to the inclusion of specialist provision classes within your school. A consultation document on the specialist provision in your school is available at:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/area-planning/proposed-specialist-provision>.

The Education Authority welcomes all responses and would encourage you to respond with your views and comments via the MS form available on the above link.

The consultation document should be read in conjunction with the Overview Paper which sets out the background and the context for taking forward Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools in the future.

The deadline for responses to the pilot consultation is **5 pm on Tuesday 6 June 2023**.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Colmer, Area Planning Officer, at Jennifer.Colmer@eani.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Freeburn', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nigel Freeburn
Special Education Area Planning – Lead Officer

“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”

Education Authority

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