# Bath and North East Somerset Council logo

# B**&NES Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Capital Program - Briefing & Consultation Document – Update September 2023**

## What is the SEND Capital Program?

The SEND High Needs Capital Fund Program is a joint funded approach to increasing educational placements for children with SEND in the local area by developing existing provision in mainstream schools, special schools and colleges. This work began in 2017.

**Where is funding for these additional school places coming from?**

### The Local Authority has been awarded £5.9 million by the Department of Education over 2 years. In 2022-23 the LA received £2.6 million and in 2023- 2024 will receive £3.3 million. In addition there is funding from the previous grant of £727,000. The funding must be spent to increase provision and school places for children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). For more information in the document published by the Government regarding SEND capital funding please follow the link below:

To support this work the Local Authority has also allocated an additional £800k to the development of this capital program. The Local Authority will also be looking to invest additional funding to enable us to complete our plans.

## What have we done?

The Local Authority has carried out work to understand the needs and growth of our local population of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). In particular we have been keen to understand what additional educational capacity we need for children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

This work has been led by Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) in conjunction with the Premier Advisory Group. This analysis, along with an extensive self-assessment and feedback from parents and carers has helped us develop our strategic priorities to ensure we can meet the needs educationally of our growing population of children with EHCPs within B&NES. Our plan is to continue to provide the best support and education placements for children with SEND are captured in our [Education Strategy](https://livewell.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-11/SEND%20Education%20%20Strategy%202021%20-%202024.docx).

## What have we selected to support our strategic needs?

Based on our needs analysis and through planning with local providers we are working on the following projects below to develop additional SEND school places within B&NES. In particular we are mindful of the need to increase EHCP places for children with Autism (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH) Speech and Language Needs (SLCN). We are also considering places for children with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD), Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and a Hearing Impairment (HI).

The plans include continuing to support the needs of children in mainstream schools through the addition of Resource Bases and creating additional capacity within our Special Schools. We have also developed our post 16 options to ensure that we are able to provide provision that supports young people to continue their education, training and employment within their local area.

The following list describes projects that have either been completed, are underway or at the planning stage. If a school is not named in the list it is because the relevant statutory consultation to formalise the development has not yet been carried out by that school/multi-academy trust to enable us to provide exact details of the provider at this stage.

This document outlines the developments that the Local Authority is supporting or is proposing to support.

Each project when it is being proposed and then developed has to go through a process of consultation in order to either expand or be developed. This process is governed by the Department of Education and there are different procedures depending on whether they are academies, maintained schools, or a college.

## Completed project, projects underway and proposed developments – September 2021

### Post 16

**Bath College** – Completed development of existing site on the Midsomer Norton campus. This has created an additional 53 SEND Post 16 Places for children with EHCPs focusing on life skills and employability. This provision opened in September 2018.

Further adaptations have been carried out at the College in 2023 to enable young people with ASD, Learning Difficulties and Physical Difficulties to attend a local mainstream college.

### Mainstream Schools

**St Nicholas Primary School, Norton Radstock** **– Resource bases Midford and Wellow** - Development of a resource base for up to 10 children with SEMH aged 5 -11 – This provision opened in September 2019. In September 2021 the resource base increased from a total of 10 places to 20 places.

**St Martins Garden Primary School – Margaret Coates SEND Unit, Bath** – We have supported the school to provide an interim solution to increase capacity from 23 to 29 for 5 years. During this time we will look at site options to create a permanent solution, we will also look at the possibility of a secondary pathway for this SEND Unit.

**Midsomer Norton Primary School – Resource Base Comet** – We have supported the academy to provide an additional 10 mainstream primary spaces for children with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) with EHCPs. This was completed and opened in September 2023 with an initial intake of up to 6 increasing to the full capacity of 10 by September 2024.

**Westfield Primary School – Resource Base Star-** we are supporting the school to provide an additional 12 mainstream primary school spaces for young people with Speech and Language difficulties with EHCPs. The planned completion for the base is Spring 2024.

**Peasedown St John Primary** – we are supporting the school to provide a 12 place specialist resource base for children with Autism and an EHCP. The planned completion for the base is Autumn 2024.

**St. Mark’s Academy (Secondary)** – **Resource Base Orchard Lodge** - We have supported the academy to provide an additional 7 mainstream secondary school spaces for young people with moderate learning difficulties with EHCPs. This was completed and opened in September 2020. The base expanded from 10 to 17 in September 2021 and then from 17 to 20 from September 2022.

**Oldfield Secondary School** – **Resource Base** Completed the development of a Resource Base for 10 young people with EHCP’s aged 11-18. The provision has been developed to support young people with Autism with a focus on those young people with aspirations to complete A – Level study. The base opened in September 2021.

**Hayesfield Girls’ School** – we have supported the school to convert selected classrooms to acoustically acceptable rooms to support the young people attending he school with a hearing impairment. The nature of these rooms also aids those with sensory issues.

**Ralph Allen Secondary School** – we are funding a new specialist resource base at Ralph Allen School in Bath. The new facility will accommodate up to 16 pupils with an EHCP to receive additional specialist support. The resource base will support pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

**Somervale Secondary School** – we are funding and delivering a new build specialist resource base on the Somervale School site to accommodate up to 20 pupils with an EHCP to receive additional specialist support. The resource base will support pupils with emotional and anxiety issues and provide the specialist support they need.

**St Gregory’s Catholic College** – we are funding and delivering a new build Resource Base at St Gregory’s School to accommodate up to 20 children and young people with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and/or Hearing Impairment (HI) to attend a local mainstream school who will be able to provide the specialist support they need.

### Special Schools

**Aspire** **Special School** – The expansion of this school is completed. The school has expanded into the Studio School building with some additional building works that were completed in December 2021. The school expanded to a maximum of 84 places throughout 2021/22 and then will continue to expand to a maximum of 100 places in the academic year 2022/23. This expansion included the addition of 6th form provision making this an all through age school. The remit is Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) but also included from September 2021 SEMH with Autism and/or social communication difficulties.

## Future Developments

The Local Authority is committed to providing all through Alternative Provision on one site and the work to look at this is underway. A pre-application for the current wave of Free Schools for AP has been submitted.

The Local Authority has been successful in a bid to the DfE to open a new 120-place generic free special school catering for ages 4-19. This will be a new build and the aim is to open in 2026.

The Local Authority has been successful in a bid to the DfE to open a small SEND residential school for children and young people aged 11-16 who have complex needs – ASD with learning difficulties and social and emotional difficulties.

The Local Authority will continue to work with Academies, maintained schools and Bath College to further develop provision to meet the needs of the CYP with SEND in the local area.

To lead on this work the Local Authority have allocated the resource of the Head of Inclusion (Capital & Strategy).

## How do I provide any comments I might have on these developments and proposals?

Please email any comments on our plans to - Education\_Commissioning@BATHNES.GOV.UK