

20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Subject: Proposed SEND and school reform - What it means for your child**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will no doubt be aware, there has been considerable discussion in the media in recent weeks around proposed changes to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support and the wider school system. We wanted to write to you to share a little about what has been proposed, how we are responding as a Trust, and to offer some reassurance in the face of what can feel like a great deal of speculation. As always, we are committed to ensuring that every child in our care has the opportunity to achieve and thrive.

In February 2026, the Government published two significant documents: the Schools White Paper, [Every child achieving and thriving - GOV.UK](#) and the SEND Reform consultation paper, [SEND reform: putting children and young people first - GOV.UK](#). Together, these set out a vision for a reformed, more inclusive education system - one where support is available to children as soon as their needs are identified.

We understand that news of system wide reform can feel unsettling. So, the most important thing we want to share with you today is this: there is no need for any immediate concern. These reforms are being introduced gradually, with legislation not expected until September 2029.

**What this means for your child**

- **No immediate changes:** For children with an existing Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), transitions to any new system will not begin until September 2030.
- **Natural transition points:** Even after 2030, changes will only occur when your child moves to a new phase of their education — for example, moving from primary to secondary school.
- **Stability in specialist settings:** If your child currently attends a special school, they can remain there for the duration of their education unless you choose otherwise.
- **EHCPs remain:** Under the proposed reforms, EHCPs will continue for children with the most complex needs.

**Our ongoing commitment to inclusion**

While the national system undergoes this review, our Trust's core mission remains unchanged. We believe that inclusion and high standards are two sides of the same coin. Our focus continues to be on:

- **Belonging:** We are dedicated to creating environments where every child feels they belong to their school community, learning alongside their peers close to home.
- **Our Universal Offer:** We continue to develop our Universal Offer, ensuring high-quality, adaptive teaching is the foundation for all pupils. We are constantly working to identify and remove barriers to learning as soon as they emerge.
- **Collaboration through our SENDCo Network:** Our SENDCos meet regularly through our Trust networks, where they share proven strategies, resources and the very latest thinking on inclusive practice. Insights and updates are then passed on within each school, meaning that every

classroom benefits from collective expertise. This ensures that high-quality, inclusive practice is not left to chance but is a consistent feature across our Trust.

- **Resourcing:** A core principle of the reforms is that every setting should be resourced to meet common and predictable needs. This reflects our own commitment - we continue to develop our schools' capacity so that where support is needed, it is in place early and without unnecessary barriers.
- **Partnership:** True collaboration includes you. We remain committed to an ethos where schools, external services, and most importantly families work as one team. Your insights as parents are the most valuable tools we have in helping your child succeed.

### **We are in this together**

Both the White Paper, 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving', and the SEND consultation, 'Putting Children and Young People First', align closely with the values we already hold as a Trust. Much of what these reforms are calling for - adaptive teaching, early identification of need, strong SENDCo leadership, and genuine parental partnership – this is work we are already doing and investing in.

We will continue to share updates with you as these national proposals develop. Our priority remains, as always, the well-being and progress of your child.

If you have any questions about how these national updates might relate to your child's specific journey, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school's SENDCo.

### **Further information for parents**

Further information about the SEND and schools reform can be accessed via the following [Every child achieving and thriving and SEND consultation supporting information - GOV.UK](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Yours sincerely,

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