SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON ACADEMY

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2nd November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers, Staff, Local Stakeholders, Governors and Trustees,

We are excited to announce a proposed initiative to enhance support for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within our school community. We are pleased to have the opportunity, in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council, to develop a **Mainstream SEND Hub** initially for Key Stages 3, integrated within the mainstream setting at **Sir William Robertson Academy**.

The SEND Hub aims to provide students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) access to high-quality education within their local community school, whilst benefiting from specialist support tailored to their individual needs. The provision will promote independence, resilience, confidence and preparation for adulthood, while ensuring students remain connected to their peers and school community.

At Sir William Robertson Academy, we are committed to ensuring that every young person is supported to achieve their full potential. We believe that inclusion lies at the heart of an outstanding education and that every student deserves the opportunity to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. The development of a SEND Hub represents an exciting opportunity to further strengthen our provision for students with additional needs, creating an environment where all learners can flourish.

To keep you informed about this proposal, we have attached additional information outlining the key features of the proposed SEND Hub, including details regarding admissions, support services, staffing and the planned implementation process.

As we develop this provision, we recognise the importance of working collaboratively with our school community. Your views, feedback and suggestions are invaluable in helping us shape a Hub that meets the needs of our students and families.

We invite you to share your views by completing our short online consultation form, link below. The form provides an opportunity to indicate your views on the proposal and to raise any comments, suggestions or matters that you believe should be considered as the plans are developed. We would be grateful to receive your responses by **Monday 14th December 2026.**

Consultation on Proposed SEND Hub at Sir William Robertson Academy – Fill in form

Should you wish to discuss these proposals further before responding, please contact **Sarah Davies Executive SENCo** by emailing **sarah.davies@swracademy.org**

Thank you for your continued support as we work to enhance opportunities for young people with SEND within our community.

Yours faithfully,

Scott Barlow
Headteacher
Sir William Robertson Academy

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Proposed Mainstream SEND Hub at Sir William Robertson Academy

Information for Parents, Carers, Staff and Stakeholders

Introduction

Sir William Robertson Academy is proposing to establish a Mainstream SEND Hub initially for Key Stage 3 students in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council.

The development of a SEND Hub would provide enhanced educational provision for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who are best placed within a mainstream school environment but require additional specialist support to access learning successfully.

This information sheet outlines the key features of the proposal and how the provision would operate.

What is a Mainstream SEND Hub?

A Mainstream SEND Hub (also referred to by the Department for Education as a Mainstream SEND Unit) is:
"Special provision within a mainstream school where children are taught within separate classes."

The Hub would form an integral part of Sir William Robertson Academy, allowing students to benefit from both:

- Access to mainstream school life and opportunities.
- Enhanced specialist teaching and support tailored to their needs.

Why is this being proposed?

Lincolnshire County Council has identified a need to increase specialist SEND provision within mainstream schools across the county. The aim is to:

- Support more children and young people with EHCPs within their local communities.
- Reduce barriers to education.
- Improve outcomes and life chances for students with additional needs.
- Provide specialist support while maintaining inclusion within a mainstream setting.

At Sir William Robertson Academy, we are committed to ensuring every young person has the opportunity to succeed, belong and thrive. This proposal aligns with our values of inclusion, achievement and aspiration for all.

What would the SEND Hub look like?

The Hub would be located within the existing school building and would include:

- A dedicated classroom space.
- Small class sizes.
- Specialist teaching and interventions.
- A differentiated curriculum tailored to individual needs.
- Regulation and Wellbeing Space.
- Direct access to a breakout or sensory space.
- Opportunities for emotional regulation and sensory support.
- Access to secure outdoor space for learning and wellbeing activities.
- Specialist Resources.

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Lincolnshire County Council would provide funding for:

- Building adaptations where required.
- Sensory equipment.
- Classroom resources.
- Furniture and specialist learning materials.

How many pupils would the Hub support?

The proposed Hub would include:

- Up to 10 Local Authority commissioned places.
- An additional 2 to 3 transitional places for use by the school where appropriate.

This would enable highly personalised support while maintaining opportunities for inclusion within the wider school community.

Who would the SEND Hub support?

The Hub would be intended for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) whose needs can be successfully met within a mainstream environment with enhanced support. These are identified students with EHCP's who have been identified by the local authority as requiring enhanced support within mainstream. These students will have EHCP's for Cognition and Learning Needs or Speech, Language and Communication needs.

The Hub would not be appropriate for students whose needs require specialist school provision or for those whose behaviour presents significant levels of challenge beyond the scope of a mainstream Hub.

How are places allocated?

Places in the Hub would be allocated through the statutory EHCP process. Students would be considered through:

- An EHCP needs assessment.
- An Annual Review process.
- Consultation between Lincolnshire County Council and the school.

Please note:

- Demand may exceed available places.
- A place within the Hub cannot be guaranteed.
- All admissions would follow statutory SEND procedures.

Staffing and Support

Funding provided by Lincolnshire County Council would enable the Hub to be staffed appropriately as well as providing training for staff, Senior Leaders, Governors and Trustees. This would help strengthen inclusive practice across the whole academy.

Benefits of the SEND Hub

The proposed SEND Hub would:

- Increase specialist SEND provision locally and build staff expertise across the entire school. .
- Enable more students to remain educated within their local community.
- Promote inclusion and belonging.
- Provide enhanced support without removing students from mainstream education.
- Improve preparation for adulthood, further education and employment.

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Proposed Timeline

Subject to approval by the Department for Education, the academy's ambition would be to open the SEND Hub for students in a 2027/2028 academic year following consultation, recruitment and any required building works. The school would provide regular updates throughout the development process.

Consultation

Sir William Robertson Academy values the views of parents, carers, staff, governors, trustees, students and members of the local community.

Feedback gathered through the consultation process will help inform the final proposal and ensure the provision meets the needs of young people and families across the area.

Together, we can help create an inclusive provision that enables every learner to achieve their potential and feel a valued part of our school community.