

Stakeholder Consultation

Wellspring Academy Trust is proud to be part of the exciting proposals put forward by Kirklees Council for special school provision in the district. These proposals form part of the Council's plans to ensure every child in Kirklees can access specialist provision in a high quality learning environment in their local area.

To realise this vision, Wellspring Academy Trust and Kirklees Council are seeking your views on the following proposals:

- 1. We are proposing that the age range at Joseph Norton be expanded to accommodate pupils in KS1 and KS5.**
- 2. We are proposing that the number of places at the school increases from 63 to 132.**
- 3. We are proposing that Joseph Norton be moved to a new site in Deighton.**

Consultation

The consultation period will run from 20th September until 17th October. To contribute to this consultation you can express your views online, by email, or in person at a consultation event. Once the consultation has finished, next steps will be shared on the school's website.

Joseph Norton Academy

Joseph Norton is an oversubscribed special school catering for 63 pupils in Key Stages 2-4 with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties.

It is a specialist nurture school and has an unrelenting focus on safety, enjoyment and pupil progress. The school's mission is to ensure that every pupil leaves with the knowledge, skills and understanding to lead a safe, healthy and fulfilling life. The school is an important part of the Kirklees Continuum of Provision and operates as part of the graduated approach.

Since 1965, the school has operated from a site in Scissett. The pupils enjoy the semi-rural location and the curriculum has been enhanced by the addition of a school farm but the buildings are not fit for purpose and the children travel a significant distance to attend school.



Age Range and PAN

Due to the size and condition of the current premises, Joseph Norton is only able to accommodate 63 pupils. This means that the Local Authority has no special school places for children in Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 5 and a high number of children take up out of area places at significant cost.

Location

To identify an appropriate location for the school, the Local Authority commissioned a detailed, independent study. This study looked at a number of locations and found the following:

- **It would be possible to build a new school on the current site, but pupils at Joseph Norton Academy live in a wide area and the school would benefit from a more central location.**
- **Rebuilding on the current site would be extremely difficult as it would bring major disruption to pupils while the work was being done.**
- **A site was identified in the Deighton area of Huddersfield, around two miles from the town centre. This site is big enough for a newly-created Joseph Norton Academy, is well suited to a special school and has scope for Joseph Norton to meet the growing demand for places by increasing its pupil numbers.**

The council then looked into key areas such as highways issues and ease of development. It also confirmed that the site was an excellent location to serve all of the district, had good access and would be able to offer vital outdoor learning. The most important aspect was whether the Deighton site could provide everything that is needed for children and young people with SEMH.

As a result, Deighton was put forward as the preferred option for the rebuild.

Social Emotional and Mental Health

We are not proposing to make any changes to the profile of pupils admitted to the school. All children admitted to Joseph Norton have undergone a statutory assessment and have an EHCP that identifies social, emotional and mental

health difficulties that are significantly impacting on their ability to maintain emotional well-being in all aspects of their life. Their complex needs have been identified as requiring specialist, long term support in relation to:

- **Building relationships with significant adults in order to address attachment needs**
- **Working towards independent self-regulation**
- **Developing positive social interaction**
- **Acquiring the skills that will lead to independent living and positive engagement in the community**

However, despite their difficulties, the pupils are school ready, attend well, can operate as part of a designated nurture group and have the cognitive capacity to access the national curriculum.

Admissions Process

We are not proposing to change the school's admissions process. Children who attend Joseph Norton have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), which identifies social, emotional and mental health difficulties as their primary need. Prior to naming the school on a child's EHCP, the LA must consult with the school over the admission of the individual child and carefully consider the school's response, parental views and whether the school is suitable for the child given their age, ability, aptitude and SEND and whether the admission would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education at the school or the efficient use of resources.

When the school is consulted over a proposed placement, it generally takes the following approach:

- **The school's SENDCO reviews the child's EHCP and the information listed in Section K to assess whether the school can meet their needs and what impact the admission will have on existing pupils.**
- **The Head of School and/or Executive Principal reviews the proposed funding to assess whether the level of funding is appropriate given the needs of the child and the cost of provision required.**

- **Where appropriate, an observation of the child in their current setting will be undertaken in order to inform the school's response to consultation.**
- **In considering the school's position prior to responding to the Local Authority, the school will take account of the class size and learning area into which the child would be placed. Once a decision has been reached a letter advising of the outcome of the consultation process is sent to the LA.**

Transition

If all approvals are given and work proceeds as planned, we believe the new school could be ready no later than the end of 2024. The exact process of growth and development will be discussed and agreed with the Local Authority with a more detailed timeline set out in advance of September 2024. We will work closely with the wider school community, including pupils and families as our plans develop.

Have Your Say

To contribute to this consultation you can express your views online, by email, or in person at a consultation event.

Online: You can take part in the consultation by completing the online consultation form on our website at <https://forms.gle/w2PKdzF164DAeBQR6>

Email: You can send emails to consultation@josephnorton.co.uk

In person: You can find out more about the proposals by attending one of the consultation drop-in sessions. Details of these events will be published at www.josephnorton.co.uk/consultation



Rip and Return

Please make sure you respond by 17th October 2022 to ensure that your views are heard.

1. **Do you support the expansion of Joseph Norton Academy?**
 Yes Maybe No
2. **Do you support the addition of KS1 and KS5?**
 Yes Maybe No
3. **Do you support the relocation of Joseph Norton Academy?**
 Yes Maybe No
4. **Do you have any other comments to make about the proposals?**

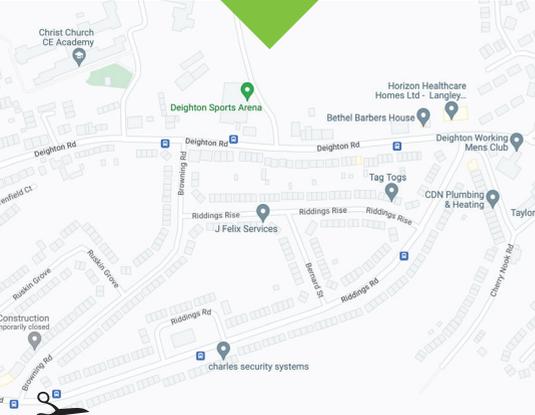


Please respond
by 17th October
2022

Consultation Events

Official public consultation meetings will take place as follows:

- **Thursday 22nd September, 5pm – 7pm**
Joseph Norton Academy
- **Thursday 6th October, 5pm – 7pm**
Deighton Leisure Centre



Wellspring's Vision 2025

Looking to the future and planning ahead is central to the way we do things at Wellspring. That's why we are proud to introduce **Vision 2025**, our ambitious new programme for the next five years.



Joseph Norton Academy

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WELLSPRING

We Make A Difference

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