

Summerseat Methodist Primary Academy

Consultation on establishing up to a ten-place resource base at Summerseat Methodist Primary Academy, part of Epworth Education Trust.

Context

This consultation relates to Bury Council's proposal to make a prescribed alteration at Summerseat Methodist Primary and Nursery School by adding a SEN provision.

There is clear evidence nationally that ~~of~~ the Covid pandemic has considerably increased the level of special educational needs in children and young people. This has been identified nationally. Most local authorities have reported very significant increases in requests for assessment and the proportion of children identified with SEND is likely to rise significantly. In Bury, year on year there has been an +8.1% increase in EHCPs from December 21 to December 22. It is predicted that by 2025 we could have in the range of 2500 EHC Plans maintained by Bury if the figures follow similar trends over the next few years. This is a 22.7% increase.

As communicated in its [recent letter](#) to schools, the Department of Children and Young People is committed to transforming Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision in Bury, as part of its improvement journey in all areas of delivery to the Borough's children, young people, and families. As a Local Area for SEND, the council revised its Local Area Strategic Action Plan and published its Project Safety Valve (PSV) agreement.

[12-october-2021-item-8a-bury-safety-valve-send-transformation-update-october-2021](#)

[18-january-2022-item-6-project-safety-valve-schools39-forum-report \(bury.gov.uk\)](#)

One of the key developments which is aimed at transforming practices and systems not just recovering the deficit is to address unprecedented demand particularly for primary special. There is a £3.8m Capital Program aimed at developing as many provisions and places in the borough as possible. Bury has historically been under-provided with its own specialist provision, with only two Special Schools, both of which have been expanded significantly in recent years. Therefore, the council have placed a high priority in the PSV programme on increasing our specialist SEND capacity, both with new Special Schools and with new Resourced Provisions.

Summerseat Methodist school already has a high proportion of SEND children at this school and has already set up the Blossom room to help accommodate the needs of these children. Following a discussion with Bury Council, the council wishes to formalise this provision, making a SEN provision base offering up to 10 places at the school and for capital funding to support the school to provide the appropriate accommodation.

It is proposed that, with effect from 1 April 2024, a designated resource base is set up at Summerseat to enable up to 10-pupils with communication and interaction and / or cognition and learning and / or social, emotional, mental health-needs to be supported.

This consultation will be open for comments from 8th February until 11.59pm on 14th February 2024

Why do we want to add a resource base to the existing provision at Summerseat Methodist Primary and Nursery School?

A Specialist Resource Base provides places for children with special educational needs and disabilities who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) within a mainstream school. Children are taught in smaller groups with additional staff within the resource base, but also have access to mainstream classes and wider school life as their individual needs allow. The resource base at Summerseat Methodist Primary and Nursery School, would be for children with communication and interaction and / or cognition and learning and / or social, emotional, mental health-needs and will offer up to 10 places for pupils aged 5 to 11.

This important new provision will both support Bury's Council to ensure that there are the necessary specialist places across the borough to meet need and demand, and increase opportunities for younger children to gain early access to the specialist support and interventions they need.

Burys Project Safety Valve plan identifies the need to develop additional resourced provision across the borough to meet the needs of pupils identified as requiring enhanced provision but not a special school place.

Targeted provision is provision that is more specialist than mainstream schools, providing a higher level of support for children and young people with SEND, but not a special school. This may be shorter term provision to support a child into the most appropriate provision, or a longer-term placement attached to a mainstream school. Bury resource bases do not all provide a longer-term option for placement, which means that children and young people may move straight from

mainstream to special school when their needs could be met in a longer term targeted mainstream placement. This is a gap in the borough's provision.

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At Summerseat Methodist Primary School, the school aims to provide a broad and stimulating learning experience which caters for the needs of all children through an exciting and balanced curriculum. The school know that it is important to provide all children with the necessary skills which will enable them to become lifelong learners. Summerseat Methodist aims to create an ethos of high expectation, aspiration and teamwork. The school recognise that everyone learns best when they are valued and they strive to ensure that all children receive the care and guidance they need.

What are specialist facilities?

Specialist facilities are located within a mainstream school and provide specific support to a limited number of pupils with an education and health care plan (EHCP). Pupils within the resource base are on roll of the mainstream school and are in addition to the published admission number of the school. The Published Admission Number at Summerseat Methodist Primary School is currently 15.

The school receives additional funding to support pupils' needs. Placements are commissioned by Bury Council according to clear criteria. Pupils in the resource base will have their special educational needs reviewed regularly in discussion with parents/carers and professionals to ensure that the facility remains the most appropriate placement to meet these needs.

What will be the impact of the changes to the resource base on other pupils in the school?

We expect the establishment of a resource base at Summerseat Methodist Primary and Nursery School will have a positive impact on provision at the school. Specialist staff would work with pupils in the resource base and also work with teaching staff across the school to develop skills and expertise in responding to SEND needs and creating an inclusive environment.

Why we are consulting on the above proposal?

We have a responsibility to consult with the wider community on any prescribed alteration or significant change to the organisation and structure of the school. The Department for Education set out how the consultation should run, and we will be following those guidelines.

How can you have your say?

You can have your say by;

Writing your response and handing into the school office; or alternatively you can complete this online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/C5dyyFvJ6S>

How long is the consultation period?

The consultation period will be open on 8th January 2024 and it will run until 11.59pm on 14th February 2024.

If you have any further questions regarding the process or proposal, please do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher Julie Whittaker via email Head@summerseat.epworthtrust.org.uk or telephone – 01706 823427