

Consultation on the expansion of SEN places at Phoenix Academy

Academy Transformation Trust is seeking your views on a proposal to expand the provision of Special Educational Needs (SEN) places at Phoenix Academy, Walsall. This consultation is being conducted in accordance with the Department for Education's non-statutory guidance, 'Making significant changes to an academy; non-statutory guidance on collaborative school place planning and making organisational changes to academies'.

As part of a strategic initiative to address the increasing demand for specialist provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs in our community, Phoenix Academy proposes to create an additional 32 SEN places at its Odell Road site. The building works required for this expansion are anticipated to be completed by September 2027.

Specific Proposal

Academy Transformation Trust Board and Phoenix Academy propose to increase SEN provision by thirty-two places. This will be achieved through the reconfiguration, reconstruction, and refurbishment of existing buildings, including the addition of four new classrooms, interconnecting breakout spaces, and an external play area.

Academy Transformation Trust's Board and Phoenix Academy have considered a number of key factors in deciding to hold a consultation regarding the proposal:

- Walsall Council has requested the provision of additional places through a fully funded building project, as part of its wider strategy to strengthen SEN provision across the borough.
- This proposal aligns with the SEND Code of Practice and Department for Education guidance, which emphasise the need for stakeholder engagement when expanding specialist provision.
- There is currently an identified shortfall in SEMH places within Walsall, and this project seeks to address that gap.
- Your feedback is vital in helping us understand the views of parents, carers, and the wider community, ensuring that decisions are informed and inclusive.
- Consultation provides an opportunity to identify and address potential impacts and concerns at an early stage, supporting a smooth transition.
- By engaging now, we can proactively plan for key issues such as admissions, staffing, and resource allocation before implementation.
- The aim is to deliver timely, targeted support in a nurturing environment, promoting inclusion, reducing reliance on costly alternative provision, and improving life chances for vulnerable children.

- This development will help secure the long-term sustainability of the provision while supporting the Local Authority's commitment to inclusion and equality.

The consultation period

The consultation period will run for three weeks from Monday 8 December 2025, until Friday 26 December 2025.



Natalie Deen
Director of Primary Education, Academy Transformation Trust

Who is being consulted?

The consultation on this proposal is for the attention of the following:

- Parents/carers of children attending Phoenix Academy
- Parents/carers in the local area
- Staff and governors of the academy
- Residents and other interested parties in the community
- All relevant admission authorities within the local area including neighbouring local authorities
- Other schools in the area (mainstream and special) who may be affected

How to respond

Academy Transformation Trust and Phoenix Academy welcome your views on this proposal, and you can engage in the following ways:

Email: consultations@attrust.org.uk with the subject header **Phoenix SEN Expansion**

In writing: Karen Robson, Academy Transformation Trust, Unit 4, Second Floor, Emmanuel Court, Reddicroft, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6AZ