

St. Laurence Catholic Primary School



PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH NEW SEND PROVISION AT ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE

Proposal:

Our Lady of Walsingham MAT is consulting on creating a new Special Educational Needs (SEND) Enhanced Resource Base (ERB) for primary aged children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, at St. Laurence Catholic Primary School in Cambridge,

The ERB will cater for up to 8 primary age children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where SEMH is the primary need. The ERB will also offer short stay places for 2 children without an EHCP but are at risk of placement breakdown due to their SEMH needs.

Places at the ERB are in addition to the places at the school and access to places at the ERB will be subject to a separate admissions process. Subject to planning approval, the proposal is for the ERB to be operational from 15th April 2024.

School details:

St. Laurence Catholic Primary School, Arbury Road, Cambridge, CB4 2JX.

The school currently offering 315 places for primary age children and is part of the Diocese of East Anglia. The school was judged Good by Ofsted at its most recent inspection in 2018.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand:

The SEND census data (see table 1 below) shows that the number of children with an EHCP in Cambridgeshire rose by 68% between 2018 and 2022. Table 2 shows the increase in the number of children and young people with primary diagnosis of SEMH. This has risen by 121% in the same period. The LA is implementing a SEND Strategy to address the deficit in demand for specialist support for children and young people with SEND and EHCPs.

Table 1 – Total number of children and young people with an EHCP

School Year	Total Age 1-3	Total Age 4-10	Total Age 11-15	Total Age post-16	TOTAL
2018/2019	0	1437	1419	1283	4139
2019/2020	0	1647	1563	1430	4640
2020/2021	0	1959	1704	1558	5221
2021/2022	0	2251	1965	1802	6018
2022/2023	55	2422	2440	2055	6972

Table 2 – Cambridgeshire SEND Forecast Model 2023 Primary Diagnosis SEMH

School Year	Total Age 1-3	Total Age 4-10	Total Age 11-15	Total Age post-16	TOTAL
2018/2019	0	151	294	223	668
2019/2020	0	226	359	272	857
2020/2021	0	293	407	300	1000
2021/2022	0	341	469	389	1199
2022/2023	0	382	584	511	1477

While many children and young people with SEND will be able to successfully access education provision in mainstream schools, a small proportion of them have a higher level of need which requires specialist support in order to gain the benefits and remain in attendance within a mainstream school. The LA must ensure that those children and young people receive a level of support which will help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes.

In order to maintain mainstream education for this group of children and young people, CCC recognises the need to provide additional resources and creative solutions to meet their particular needs and promote inclusion across

the county. To achieve this, CCC is establishing new primary phase ERBs for children with SEMH needs and for children with Autism.

There is currently one primary school age ERB in operation in Cambridgeshire which supports children with Autism. It is proposed to establish a number of new ERBs in mainstream schools. St. Laurence Catholic Primary School's proposed ERB is one of two ERBs to be established in primary schools in the first round of implementation for children with SEMH needs.

This consultation is looking at:

Establishing a new ERB provision at St. Laurence Catholic Primary School for up to 10 primary age children with SEMH needs. This will help CCC meet the rising demand for enhanced provision within a mainstream school setting for children with SEMH needs either with an EHCP or at risk of placement breakdown due to their SEMH needs.

The underpinning rationale for this proposed change to the school

- Establishment of the ERB aligns with our Catholic ethos and further supports the school in meeting its values by supporting the educationally disadvantaged.
- The number of children in Cambridgeshire with EHCPs has risen steadily over the last seven years. The proposed change is part of a wider expansion strategy to address the growing demand for specialist educational places.
- The proposed ERB at St. Laurence is expected to be one of several ERBs to be established for primary age children with SEMH or Autism.
- The school has available accommodation that can be used for this purpose.

St. Laurence Catholic Primary School's Governing Body and the Diocese of East Anglia are aware and have confirmed their support for the proposal to establish the ERB.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

- To support the LA in providing specialist places in a mainstream primary school for children who require more specialist support for SEMH needs to enable them to gain the benefits of and remain in a mainstream school.

- To support children at the ERB to make a successful transition to their next stage of education with opportunities to integrate fully into a mainstream setting where appropriate.

The effect on other educational institutions within the local area

Schools across Cambridgeshire are seeing growing numbers of children and young people with increasingly complex SEND. This is putting pressure on mainstream resources and physical space which, if not addressed, has the potential to impact on educational outcomes. It is also resulting in children and young people requiring places in special schools, where a mainstream education would have been preferable had the appropriate support been available.

The proposed new primary phase ERBs will ensure availability of a graduated response, meaning that children and young people will be able to access the right level of support, in the right setting at the right time. This will in turn ease pressure on both mainstream and specialist provision.

Project costs and indications of how these will be met

The ERB provision at St. Laurence Catholic Primary School will be accommodated in two existing classrooms which are currently vacant with an enclosed outdoor space. The bike shelter will also be relocated to accommodate the extension of the car park. Capital costs for the works will be covered by CCC. Once completed, the school will continue to maintain these areas to ensure ongoing compliance and quality of the accommodation.

Other considerations

Admissions

Places at the ERB are in addition to the number of the places at the school and access to places at the setting will be subject to a separate admissions process. Admissions to the ERB will to be subject to an agreed entry criteria and process managed through Cambridgeshire County Council's SEND panel process and taking account of parental preference.

Access to the curriculum

The ERB will be on the school site, and pupils will have access to mainstream classes as appropriate, based upon their individual needs. Additional bespoke curriculum delivery will be delivered within the ERB as deemed appropriate for

each individual. Start and finish times at the ERB may differ slightly to those of the mainstream school.

Children placed at the ERB:

- Will have an SEMH diagnosis or clear evidence of severity and frequency of need, with a requirement for sustained intervention.
- Will aspire to achieve up to 80% attendance in mainstream lessons, though we recognise that this will take time and will not be appropriate for all ERB pupils.
- Will work towards achieving the outcomes detailed and described in their EHCPs. The school is responsible for monitoring the appropriateness of the outcome and, in partnership with the Local Authority, are able to adjust the outcome.
- For pupils without an EHCP who are offered a short stay placement, an intervention agreement will be created which will include times and provision at the ERB.
- Will make a successful transition to their next stage of education with opportunities to integrate fully into a mainstream setting where appropriate.
- Will have the opportunity to celebrate success and achievement of outcomes, subsequently reducing the level of support required and in some cases cessation of the EHCP

Staffing, HR and training:

The school will be responsible for the recruitment of staff at the ERB and adherence to safer recruitment practice and guidance and continued professional development. Staffing of the ERB will be managed by the school. There will be a Teacher-in-Charge and Teaching Assistants and/or Learning Support Assistants. The ERB will be staffed at all times during the school day to appropriate ratios to meet the children's needs.

Governance:

Governance of the ERB will be the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body of St. Laurence Catholic Primary School. The

establishment and review of the ERB is subject to a Memorandum of Understanding and Finance Agreement signed by CCC and the school.

Implementation plan:

As part of the decision-making process, a consultation on the proposed changes will run for a period of 4 weeks from 06/12/23 to 05/01/24 and will seek the views of all interested parties. The school and Trust will carefully consider all comments received during the consultation period before reaching a decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

If the proposal is agreed, it is proposed that it would come into effect from 15th April 2024, subject to planning approval for the work required.

How can you ask questions, or get more information or comment on the proposal?

If you have any questions, would like more information or wish to make a comment on this proposal please email office@stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk or write to us at FAO Headteacher, St. Laurence Catholic Primary School, Arbury Road, Cambridge, CB4 2JX, marking it “ERB”.