



Southwark Diocesan
Board of Education
Multi-Academy Trust

Specialist Educational Needs Base at The Minster Schools BUSINESS CASE

THE MINSTER JUNIOR SCHOOL, CROYDON.

Proposal to Establish a Specialist Resource Provision for Pupils with Moderate Learning Needs The Minster Junior School

Consultation Period:

17 July 2026 to 14 September 2026

Introduction

SDBE Multi Academy Trust is undertaking a formal consultation on a proposal to establish a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for pupils with Moderate Learning Needs (MLN) at The Minster Junior School. The proposed provision will enhance the school's existing inclusive practice by providing specialist teaching and support for children with identified Moderate Learning Needs while enabling them to remain part of the wider school community wherever appropriate.

The Trust welcomes comments from parents, carers, staff, governors, local residents and all other interested stakeholders before any final decision is made.

Public Notice

Notice is given in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that SDBE Multi Academy Trust proposes to make a prescribed alteration to The Minster Junior School.

The proposed alteration is the establishment of a Specialist Resource Provision for pupils with Moderate Learning Needs.

The provision will initially accommodate up to 15 pupils from Reception to Key Stage 1, with a planned opening date of 1 September 2026.

Contact Details

Proposer

SDBE Multi Academy Trust
48 Union Street
London
SE1 1TD

School

The Minster Junior School
Warrington Road
Croydon CR0 4BH

URN: 101790

Ofsted: Good

Statutory Process

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance relating to prescribed alterations to maintained schools.

The consultation forms part of the statutory decision-making process and all responses received during the consultation period will be carefully considered before a final decision is reached.

The Proposal

SDBE Multi Academy Trust is proposing to establish a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at The Minster Junior School from 1 September 2026.

The Minster Nursery & Infant School and The Minster Junior School are two Church of England schools within SDBE Multi Academy Trust, located on the same site in Croydon. Together they share a common vision, values and commitment to ensuring that every child is welcomed, supported and enabled to flourish.

The schools' vision is rooted in the Christian value:

"Let all that you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:14

This vision underpins the schools' commitment to inclusion, dignity, belonging and ensuring that every child is able to achieve their full potential.

The proposed Specialist Resource Provision will be based within existing accommodation known as The Nest, which will be refurbished to provide high-quality specialist learning spaces. The provision will initially offer up to 15 places for Key Stage 1 pupils with Moderate Learning Needs.

The Resource Provision will provide a highly personalised educational environment, combining specialist teaching with carefully planned opportunities for pupils to learn alongside their mainstream peers where appropriate.

Why is the Proposal Needed?

Across England, the number of children requiring additional support for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) continues to increase. Local authorities are experiencing growing demand for specialist school places and are working with schools to expand high-quality local provision.

Croydon's SEND Local Area and Alternative Provision Strategy 2023 to 2026 identifies the importance of increasing specialist provision within inclusive mainstream schools, enabling children to receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time. As a school and a Trust, we want to play our part in meeting the growing needs of our children to ensure they get the best possible education.

The establishment of a Specialist Resource Provision at The Minster Junior School directly supports these priorities.

Providing specialist support within a mainstream school enables children to benefit from highly specialised teaching while remaining connected to their local community, developing friendships with peers and participating in wider school life.

It also reduces the need for some children to travel significant distances to specialist settings and provides families with access to high-quality provision closer to home.

The proposal builds upon the school's existing strengths in inclusive practice and reflects the Trust's commitment to ensuring that children receive support as early as possible so they can achieve positive educational, social and personal outcomes.

The Specialist Resource Provision

The Specialist Resource Provision will provide specialist education for pupils whose Education, Health and Care Plans identify Moderate Learning Needs and for whom the Local Authority determines that this type of provision is appropriate.

Children will benefit from:

- specialist teachers and skilled support staff;
- personalised learning programmes;
- smaller teaching groups;
- structured and predictable learning environments;
- targeted interventions;
- support for communication, independence and emotional development;
- opportunities to access mainstream learning where appropriate;
- close partnership working with parents and carers;
- support from external professionals, including educational psychologists, speech and language therapists and specialist advisory services.

The provision will operate as an integral part of the school rather than as a separate school within a school. Pupils will be supported to participate in the wider life of the school wherever appropriate, including assemblies, enrichment activities, worship, educational visits and social opportunities.

Educational Benefits

The Trust believes the proposal will bring significant benefits for children, families and the wider school community.

Benefits for pupils accessing the Resource Provision

Children placed within the Specialist Resource Provision will benefit from:

- specialist teaching tailored to their individual learning profile;
- access to a curriculum carefully adapted to meet their needs;
- improved confidence, communication and independence;
- opportunities to develop friendships with both Resource Provision and mainstream pupils;
- increased participation in school life;
- high aspirations and carefully planned pathways towards future success.

The combination of specialist provision and inclusion within a mainstream school enables children to develop academically, socially and emotionally within a nurturing and ambitious environment.

Benefits for all pupils attending The Minster Schools

The proposal will also enhance opportunities for children across the wider school community.

The presence of the Specialist Resource Provision will further strengthen the school's inclusive culture and provide opportunities for pupils to develop empathy, understanding and respect for difference. Learning alongside children with a range of abilities helps prepare all pupils for life in diverse communities and reflects the school's Christian vision of valuing every individual.

The additional specialist expertise developed through the Resource Provision will also benefit mainstream pupils. Staff across the school will have increased opportunities to develop their knowledge of inclusive teaching, adaptive practice and SEND, strengthening classroom practice for all learners.

Benefits for families considering joining the school

The proposal further strengthens The Minster Schools as an inclusive family of schools where every child is welcomed and supported to flourish.

Families seeking a school with strong inclusive values will benefit from increased specialist expertise, experienced staff and access to high-quality SEND provision within a mainstream setting. Parents can be confident that the school is continuing to invest in inclusion and developing the capacity to meet an increasingly diverse range of needs.

The Resource Provision also enhances the school's ability to identify needs early, provide timely intervention and work closely with families to secure the best possible outcomes for children.

Benefits for the local community

The proposal supports Croydon's ambition to increase specialist educational provision within the borough.

Creating additional specialist places locally will reduce reliance on more distant placements, strengthen local educational capacity and enable more children to be educated within their own community wherever possible.

Impact of the Proposal

The Trust does not anticipate any adverse impact on existing pupils or the local community.

In particular:

- no school buildings or land will be sold;
- no pupils will be displaced;
- there will be no reduction in mainstream school places;
- children will continue to be educated on the existing school site;
- existing travel arrangements for mainstream pupils will remain unchanged.

The proposal is expected to reduce the number of children who need to travel outside Croydon to access suitable specialist provision.

Staffing

The proposal does not require any changes to existing staffing structures, terms and conditions of employment.

Staff employed by SDBE Multi Academy Trust will remain employed by the Trust.

The development of the Specialist Resource Provision will create opportunities to further develop specialist SEND expertise across the school and provide enhanced professional development for staff. The Trust anticipates this will strengthen recruitment, retention and career development over time.

No staffing restructures are proposed as part of this project.

Financial Implications

The Local Authority will provide revenue funding for pupils attending the Specialist Resource Provision in accordance with agreed funding arrangements.

The proposal is therefore financially sustainable and will not reduce funding available for the school's mainstream provision.

The Local Authority is also funding the refurbishment of the accommodation required for the Resource Provision. Consequently, there are no significant capital costs to be met by the school or the Trust.

Consultation

The consultation will run from 17 July 2026 until 17 August 2026.

The Trust welcomes comments, questions and representations from all interested parties.

Responses may be submitted by:

Online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VLSNBH8>

Email: office@minsterschools.co.uk



Post:

The Minster Schools

Warrington Road

Croydon

CR0 4BH

All responses must be received by 14th September 2026.

Decision Making

Following the consultation, all responses will be carefully considered before a final decision is made in accordance with the statutory process governing prescribed alterations to maintained schools.

Stakeholders will be informed of the outcome once the decision-making process has concluded.

Availability of this Proposal

Copies of this proposal are available from:

- The Minster Schools website
- SDBE Multi Academy Trust website
- The school reception

Paper copies are available on request.