



The
Bulmershe
School

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Consultation on Proposed Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for Cognition and Learning provision at The Bulmershe School for September 2026.

The Bulmershe School are proposing to build a new Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for students with cognition and learning needs at The Bulmershe School. This provision will support students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) who require targeted interventions alongside mainstream education. The students who are part of the base will spend approximately 50% of their time in the SRB and 50% in mainstream classes.

Why is this change proposed?

The proposed SRB aims to address the growing need for specialist cognition and learning provision in the local area. It will ensure that students can access mainstream education while receiving tailored support to meet their individual needs. By creating this inclusive environment, we seek to enhance integration and improve outcomes for students with SEND, enabling them to thrive both academically and socially.

This provision will help to meet local need and allow The Bulmershe School to accommodate students currently in similar bases at local primary schools. It will also allow the school to enhance our SEND offer to our current students more generally. The establishment of an SRB is supported by the school, governors and our Trust and we believe this proposal offers a significant opportunity for our school community, however we also welcome your views.

How will the new building be funded?

The SRB will require a new build, the capital costs of this are subject to a successful Local Authority bid.

The purpose of the Consultation

This consultation is required under Section 10 of the Academies Act and will run for a minimum of three weeks, including at least two weeks during term time. We invite feedback from parents, carers, staff, local schools and community stakeholders.

How do you respond to this Consultation?

The consultation period for the above changes begins today, 2nd December 2025 and will run for 5 weeks, closing on 6th January 2026. Should you wish to make any comments or have any queries, please complete the form here: [Bulmershe SRB Consultation Response Form](#).





Alternatively, you can email your thoughts and questions using the following email address:
SRB@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

Some frequently asked questions:

1. What is a Specialist Resource Base (SRB)?

An SRB is a dedicated provision within a mainstream school for students with specific special educational needs - in this case, cognition and learning needs. It provides targeted support while enabling students to access mainstream education for part of their timetable. At Bulmershe, the Resource Base students will spend approximately 50% of their time in the SRB and 50% in mainstream classes, supported by specialist staff.

2. Who is the SRB for?

The SRB is designed for secondary-aged students (Years 7–11) who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that specifies the need for specialist cognition and learning support. These students typically experience significant difficulties with memory, processing and problem-solving, and require structured interventions alongside mainstream opportunities.

3. How many places will be available?

The SRB will have up to 25 places, phased in gradually:

- Year 1: 5 pupils (Year 7)
- Year 2: +5 pupils (Years 7 & 8)
- Full capacity reached over 5 years (Years 7–11).

4. Will students in the SRB be part of the school's normal admissions process?

No. Places in the SRB are only allocated by a **local authority SEND Panel** as part of the statutory EHCP process. These students will be admitted outside the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) of 240 per year group. Therefore, any child with an EHCP would have to apply via a Local Authority SEND panel process.

5. How will students be supported in mainstream lessons?

SRB students will attend mainstream classes for around half their timetable, with additional adult support (e.g. specialist teaching assistants) and adapted learning materials. Staff will use evidence-based techniques such as strategies recommended by the Education



Endowment Foundation (EEF), e.g. chunking information, using visual aids and promoting metacognitive skills.

6. What specialist facilities will the SRB have?

The SRB will include:

- Quiet rooms for small-group work and emotional regulation.
- ICT resources with assistive technology.
- Sensory equipment for calming and focus.
- A life skills kitchen and horticulture area for practical learning.
- Access to therapeutic spaces for speech and language or occupational therapy.

7. How will the SRB help students feel included?

The proposed SRB would be built next to the PE block, near the main school buildings to ensure students are still part of the wider school community. SRB Students will join mainstream lessons, social activities and extra-curricular opportunities, supported by staff who understand their needs.

8. How is the SRB funded?

Funding for operational costs comes from the Dedicated Schools Grant and the High Needs Block. The capital costs are subject to a successful Local Authority bid.

The financing of the main school will be unaffected.

9. Will this affect our current mainstream students?

No. The SRB is designed to enhance inclusion without reducing opportunities for mainstream students. It will bring additional expertise and resources into the school, benefiting all staff and students through improved SEND awareness and training.

10. Will the SRB impact the SEND offer from Oasis to our mainstream students?

No, the staffing for the SRB will be separate to our Oasis staffing. The Oasis SEND offer to our SEND students in our mainstream school will remain.

11. How will staff be trained?

All staff, regardless of whether they are in the mainstream school or working in the SRB will receive whole school SEND training, focusing on cognition and learning strategies. SRB staff will have specialist qualifications and ongoing CPD. Training will be delivered through a mix of in-house sessions and external providers (e.g. Wokingham SEND team).