

Proposal to clarify the designation status of Belmont School and Gilesgate Primary School to include an Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP).

Together, Durham County Council, Belmont Community School and Gilesgate Primary School, in line with the Department for Education (DfE) guidance are seeking views on proposals to clarify the designation of the schools to establish Enhanced Learning Provision.

Name of School: Belmont Community School Current Provision

Belmont Community School is located in Belmont, near to central Durham.

It currently offers a variable number of places for children who have either a hearing impairment (HI) or visual impairment (VI), however it is not formally established as having an Enhanced Learning Provision with the school, as recognised by the Department for Education (DfE).

As of November 21, 11 places were filled with children with HI and VI. The majority of the students with HI have transferred with their peers from the Primary HI EMP at Gilesgate, a feeder school for Belmont Community College.

What is being proposed and when?

To ensure appropriate funding to the school as part of the Education for Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), we would like to propose to formally establish the school as having a designation of Enhanced Learning Provision from September 2022.

It is proposed to have 12 places available to support children with HI. To build on the success of an outreach model offering VI for pupils in the primary sector, we propose that from September 2022 we will provide support to VI students using this model and therefore propose to close the VI provision of the current set up at the school. We commit to continuing to provide support to current students who receive VI support.

These places will be funded through a combination of High Needs Block (HNB) funding and formula funding in line with our other enhanced provisions. The specialist input will continue to be provided by the centrally funded Sensory Support Service within Durham County Council.

What is the expected impact of this?

By having this formal designation, we will ensure that we have a mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities between the school and local authority.

By building on the success of the Primary Outreach model, this will increase the local inclusion of children and young people with VI, whilst ensuring access to appropriate specialist support.

We do not expect any impact on other educational establishments in the area.

Name of School: Gilesgate Primary

Current Provision

Gilesgate Primary School is located in Durham.

It currently offers a variable number of places for children who have a hearing impairment, however it is not formally established as having an Enhanced Learning Provision with the school, as recognised by the Department for Education (DfE).

As of March 22, 12 places were filled with children with HI.

What is being proposed and when?

To ensure appropriate funding to the school as part of the Education for Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), we would like to propose to formally establish the school as having a designation of Enhanced Learning Provision from September 2022.

It is proposed to have 12 places available to support children with HI.

These places will be funded through a combination of High Needs Block (HNB) funding and formula funding in line with our other enhanced provisions. The specialist input will continue to be provided by the centrally funded Sensory Support Service within Durham County Council.

What is the expected impact of this?

By having this formal designation, we will ensure that we have a mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities between the school and LA.

We do not expect any impact on other educational establishments in the area.

Have your say

Please give your feedback on the proposals by completing our online survey at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation

If you would like a paper copy of the survey or an alternative format, please email hnb@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 264718.