



Halifax Primary School, Prince of Wales Drive, Ipswich IP2 8PY
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CEO: Mr Alastair Heath-Robinson

5 May 2026

Consultation on Proposal to Establish a SEND Unit at The Willows Primary School

We are pleased to share details of a proposal to establish a new Communication and Interaction SEND unit at The Willows Primary School.

This proposed unit will provide specialist provision for pupils with communication and interaction needs, supporting children to access a highly tailored curriculum within a nurturing and inclusive environment. The unit will initially provide 12 places for pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1, responding to an identified need for specialist provision within the local area. As confirmed through commissioning arrangements with the local authority, pupils will be placed through the local authority admissions process based on their identified needs.

The unit will be based within adapted classrooms in the school's existing standalone block, creating a dedicated space designed specifically to meet the needs of pupils, including its own self-contained area while remaining closely connected to the wider school.

We are proud of our inclusive ethos at The Willows Primary School and believe strongly that all children should feel part of a supportive and welcoming community. Pupils attending the unit will be fully included as members of our school, with opportunities to integrate into mainstream classes and participate in wider school life where appropriate. We believe this balance of specialist support and inclusion will enable pupils to thrive both academically and socially.

Admissions to the unit will be managed through the local authority in line with statutory processes. Places will be allocated based on identified need and eligibility criteria, and applications will be open to families across the local authority area. It is important to note that attendance at The Willows Primary School will not provide any advantage in securing a place within the unit; all applications will be considered fairly and in accordance with the agreed admissions process.

This consultation is being carried out in line with Department for Education guidance on making significant changes to academies.

The consultation will run from Tuesday 5 May to Friday 5 June. During this time, we welcome your views and feedback on the proposal.

We will also be holding a consultation afternoon on **Thursday 21 May at 3:00pm at The Willows Primary School**. This will provide an opportunity to learn more about the proposal, view initial plans and speak with school leaders.

WHERE LEARNING IS UNSTOPPABLE AND ASPIRATIONS HAVE NO LIMITS

If you would like to share your views, you can do so by attending the consultation event or by contacting the school via **office@omat.org.uk** or via The Orwell Multi Academy Trust, 64 Prince of Wales Drive, Ipswich. IP2 8PY. All responses must be received by **Friday 5 June**.

Following the consultation period, all feedback will be carefully considered alongside discussions with the local authority and the Department for Education.

We are excited about the opportunity to further develop our inclusive provision and to support more children with communication and interaction needs within our community.

Thank you for taking the time to engage with this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alastair Heath-Robinson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Alastair Heath-Robinson
Chief Executive Officer