

30 October 2023



## **Consultation on a proposal to establish an 8 place Early Intervention Base at King's Park Infant School, Dereham, Norfolk from 1st September 2025.**

### **Our proposal**

Unity Education Trust would like to hear your views on our proposal for King's Park Infant School, Kings Park, Dereham, NR19 2AH to establish an 8 place Early Intervention Base (EIB) from 1 September 2025.

We are very keen to provide this support in our schools, so we can ensure that earlier support is made available and more families can benefit. By accessing the Early Intervention Base and its support, it will allow those children with associated needs to be effectively supported in a mainstream setting with access to our curriculum, enrichment and other opportunities.

This has been identified in Norfolk's Local First Inclusion Programme as a priority for development. The additional places will be allocated through Norfolk County Admissions processes will grow up to full capacity through this admissions process.

The local authority, Norfolk County Council is responsible for all admissions to Bases. Referrals are considered by a County panel, and placements of pupils with or without an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are made using eligibility criteria for pupils and assessing these against needs and appropriateness of referral.

The Base may not be full from 1 September 2025, but will grow up to full capacity through this admissions process.

### **Our proposed Early Intervention Base (EIB)**

Our EIB will involve building a new classbase to provide an 8 place EIB provision. This will incorporate a new classroom, flexible spaces, along with a secure external area and formalised parental drop off area.

All capital costs for the refurbished accommodation will be funded from Norfolk County Council's Local First Inclusion programme, to ensure there is the appropriate accommodation.

This base will be managed by the school's Academy Head, supported by the Trust's central team. Unity Education Trust's Trustees fully support the development of Bases in Trust schools and contributing to the availability of places for pupils with SEND in Norfolk.

### **What is an Early Intervention Base?**

A Base is a bespoke accommodation base, providing an enabling environment for learners, in a mainstream school, where children are taught by specialist staff.

A panel of professionals would continue to admit pupils to the Base, not only from the local area, but also across a wider area. Pupils at the Base not only benefit from smaller classes with favourable pupil-staff ratios, but also benefit from being in a mainstream school and being included

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in many learning opportunities with their peers, with additional support from specialist staff. In addition, the Base would have access further resources and expertise from a Specialist Partner and wider professionals.

### **What are the benefits of this proposal**

The main driver for Norfolk County Council and the governors at King's Park Infant School, is to meet the increased demand for specialist educational provision within our area, to best meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners. We feel our proposal would benefit children and young people because it will:

- support more pupils with special education needs and disabilities to be educated and thrive in their local school and community;
- enhance pupils progress by effectively meeting their individual social, emotional and mental health needs;
- help facilitate better access to the curriculum and support pupils to achieve their potential;
- ensure that needs can be met locally avoiding the need for pupils to spend unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away. This is better for young people and saves the taxpayer money in transport costs;
- increase the availability of places to meet the needs of pupils with SEND;
- address identified geographical, and age and phase gaps in Base provision as identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy;
- support the sharing of autism expertise and good practice as part our school and Trust.

### **Capital costs**

All capital costs for the refurbished accommodation will be funded from Norfolk County Council's Local First Inclusion Programme.

### **How can you have your say?**

Unity Education Trust will be holding an online consultation event (via Teams) on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 4 – 5pm, where you can find out more about this proposal. If you would like to attend this online event, please email [consultation@unityeducationtrust.uk](mailto:consultation@unityeducationtrust.uk) to ask for the meeting joining details.

If you unable to attend this event but would like to comment on our proposal, you can have your say by:

- Accessing our online survey; <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/kingsparkeib>
- Returning the completed form to the school office at King's Park Infant School.

**We need all responses by 24 November 2023.**

### **What happens next?**

Unity Education Trust will consider all the responses received during this consultation and decide whether to complete a business case and send it to the Regional Director, for a decision.

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**Let us know what you think of our proposal.**

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to establish an 8 place Early Intervention Base at King's Park Infant School, Dereham, Norfolk from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025?

**Please tick a box.**

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

**Why do you say this? Please write in the box below.**

**Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision and in planning for the future provision for children? Please write in the box below.**

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We would like to hear from many different people as your views help us to decide whether we make these changes. We will also use any personal information to understand how different groups of people feel about our proposal to establish this Base at King's Park Infant School.

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679), the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Academy Trust's data protection policy and guidelines. This means that Unity Education Trust will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation.

We won't identify individuals when reporting back our findings and, under our record management policy, we will keep this information for five years. We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else. However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation, including any personal information. We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

**Please tell us who you are (tick all that apply):**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> School governor       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Carer                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Parent Teacher Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Local business        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Local sports group    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community group |

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Which school are you linked to: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your postcode? \_\_\_\_\_

Your views will help us decide if this proposal goes ahead. You can tell us your views by;

- Completing the online survey; <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/kingsparkeib>
- Returning this completed form to the School Office at King's Park Infant School.

**This consultation ends on 24 November 2023**