

## Consultation on Proposal to add an Autism Base at North Walsham High School, North Walsham, Norfolk, from 1 September 2023

### Our Proposal

Enrich Learning Trust would like to hear your views on our proposal for North Walsham High School **to add a 20 place Autism Base (Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Specialist Resource Base) from 1 September 2023.**

Our Autism Base will be located in the Enterprise Centre building (commonly known as the Annexe, pictured below), within the North Walsham High School site. This proposal will be supported by a Norfolk County Council capital project to re-model the existing building in line with Autism friendly building specifications. This will create an enabling environment for our students in a bespoke accommodation base.



The proposal will also be supported by a recurrent funding agreement to support an agreed staffing structure, including resources, equipment and running costs associated with the Base.

Places at our Autism Base will be agreed through the County Councils' Autism Base Admissions processes and the school will be part of the decision-making process. It will grow to full capacity through this admissions process and it is proposed to look to fill a maximum of 10 places initially, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. The actual opening date is subject to a joint project with Norfolk County Council to consider building adaptations, recruitment of staff and wider operational set up considerations. The base will grow over time to fill the 20 places.

Autism Bases are part of the Specialist Resource Base network and are a key part of Norfolk's Local Offer for children with special educational needs and their families. This has been identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy as a priority for development.

### What is a Specialist Resource Base (SRB)?

Autism bases form part of the Specialist Resource Base programme in Norfolk and are a key component of Norfolk's SEND Local Offer, and of mainstream inclusion support to children, families and the school system.

Autism Bases are areas within a mainstream school with a dedicated lead teacher and high levels of support staff. They are an integral part of the school and provide additional support from trained staff for children with social communication difficulties or a diagnosis of autism.

Autism Bases provide a learning area which is calm and adapted to meet these needs. Children and young people can be taught in the Base or within mainstream classes as required. Pupils are supported to access mainstream classes alongside their peers as much as they are able to. The balance of time spent between the Base and mainstream classes can vary and depends on each student's individual needs.

Placements at the Autism Base are permanent, and pupils will be on the roll of North Walsham High School. These places do not form part of the school published admission number (PAN) and are registered in addition to that number.

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

Enrich Learning Trust and senior leaders of North Walsham High School feel these changes would benefit children and young people because it will:

- support more students with special education needs and disabilities to be educated and thrive in their local school and community;
- enhance students' progress by effectively meeting their individual social communication and interaction needs;
- help facilitate better access to the curriculum and support students to achieve their potential;
- ensure that needs can be met locally avoiding the need for students 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 students with SEND;
- address identified geographical, and age and phase gaps in SRB provision as identified in Norfolk's SEND Strategy;
- support the sharing of expertise and good autism practice as part of our school and Trust. This has benefits to all students.

### **Capital costs**

All capital costs for refurbishment will be funded from Norfolk County Council's SEND and Alternative Provision Transformation Programme to ensure there is the appropriate accommodation.

Please note there will be no major works i.e. noise, planned during exam periods and mock exam periods.

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

The school will be holding a drop-in event on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, between 4.30pm and 5.30pm where you can come and find out more about this proposal.

If you are 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/nwhs-srb>
- Completing the attached questionnaire and returning it to the School Office, North Walsham High School

**We need all responses by 12 noon Monday 12 December 2022.**

### **What happens next?**

Enrich Learning Trust will consider all the responses received during this consultation and decide whether to complete a business case and send it to the Regional Schools Commissioner for a decision.

Date: 14/11/2022

## Consultation on proposed changes to North Walsham High School

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to establish a permanent 20 place Autism Base (Autistic Spectrum Disorder Specialist Resource Base) at North Walsham High School?

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.

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 the Specialist Resource Base at North Walsham High 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 Enrich Learning 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): \_\_\_\_\_

At which school? \_\_\_\_\_

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/nwhs-srb>
- returning this completed form to the School Office, North Walsham High School

**This consultation ends at 12 noon on 12 December 2022**