

Academy Transformation Trust is consulting on the creation of a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at the academy. An SRP is a dedicated area within the mainstream academy that supports a small number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) who require a higher level of specialist support. Pupils remain on the school roll and are included in mainstream education where appropriate, with access to specialist teaching, facilities and interventions. Placement is agreed through the local authority EHCP process.

The provision will be with effective from 1 September 2026, initially with 8 pupils and then with a further 8 pupils from September 2027. The provision will be for Key Stages 3 and 4.

The consultation and subsequent decision-making will be completed in line with DfE non-statutory guidance, 'Making significant changes to an academy; non-statutory guidance on collaborative school place planning and making organisational changes to academies, October 2024, updated February 2026'.

The provision of these places is at the request of Walsall Borough Council. Analysis of forecasted need against current commissioned capacity highlights a significant and increasing shortfall over the next five years. Without targeted capital investment to grow the number of places available for children with EHCPs, there will be insufficient places available to support these children. Based on forecast there will be an increase in the next 5 years for SEND places in Walsall from 1749 to 2117.

Specific Proposal

The Academy Transformation Trust's Board and Pool Hayes Academy are proposing to create a Specialist Resource Provision with effect from September 2026.

Impact of the proposal

The proposal does not change the age range of the academy, and admissions for the mainstream pupils would continue to operate in accordance with the School Admissions Code and the academy's published admissions arrangements. Places for the SRP will be via referrals from Walsall Borough Council and will be above and outside of the published admissions number.

The Trust and the academy will continue to work with Walsall Borough Council and other local partners to consider any wider implications of the proposed increase, including pupil place planning and the use of the site.

Academy Transformation Trust's Board and Pool Hayes Academy have considered a number of key factors in deciding to hold a consultation in regard to the proposal:

- Requested Local Authority demand for specialist places, with forecast data showing increasing numbers of pupils requiring EHCP-led specialist support that cannot be met through existing provision

- Improved access to specialist staff, targeted interventions, and structured support for pupils with defined needs
- No reduction in mainstream places; SRP pupils are in addition to PAN.
- No negative impact on staffing; additional specialist staff will be recruited for the SRP.
- The outcome of this formal consultation

This consultation is being undertaken to seek the views of stakeholders before any final decision is made. All responses received during the consultation period will be carefully considered by Academy Transformation Trust and Pool Hayes Academy, and the outcomes of the consultation will inform the Trust Board's decision making in relation to the proposal.

The consultation period

The consultation period will run for three working weeks from 13 April 2026, until 04 May 2026. There will be an opportunity to meet with academy leaders on Monday 20 April 2026 at Pool Hayes Academy at 5pm.

Who is being consulted

The consultation on this proposal is for the attention of the following:

- Parents of children who attend Pool Hayes Academy
- Parents/carers in the area
- Residents/people in the local area with an interest in the proposal
- All other relevant admission authorities within the local area
- The local authority
- Neighbouring local authorities

How to respond

Academy Transformation Trust and Pool Hayes Academy welcome your views on this proposal, and you can engage in the following ways:

Email: consultations@atrust.org.uk with the subject header **PHA SRP consultation**

In writing: Karen Robson, Academy Transformation Trust, Unit 4, Second Floor, Emmanuel Court, Reddicroft, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6AZ

Next steps

Following the close of the consultation period, the Trust will review the feedback received and determine whether to proceed with the proposal, amend it, or take no further action. Subject to the outcome of the consultation and the Trust Board's decision, the Trust would then proceed in line with the Department for Education's process for making significant changes to an academy.



Lisa Macey
Head of Academy



Neil Harding
Associate Trust Principal