

SEND Hub Consultation

Retrospective Consultation for Development of Provision for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Hubs in Mainstream Schools

St Mary's CE Primary School, part of Initio Learning Trust, was offered the opportunity to develop, in partnership with Dorset County Council, an enhanced provision for children and young people with SEND. We have developed a mainstream SEND Hub (also known as a mainstream SEND Unit as per Annex C of the referenced document[1]) for Key Stage 1 and 2 in our setting, which opened in September 2024, providing enhanced educational support for pupils with SEND who are best educated in a mainstream school.

Scope of the Hub Provision:

For the majority of children and young people with SEND, mainstream schools offer a high-quality education in an inclusive and encouraging environment, where pupils can achieve the best outcomes possible, with access to a rich and wide curriculum. For most children and young people with SEND, being educated in a mainstream setting with enhanced support is the right type of education, and therefore we were keen to develop provision that could meet this ambition.

Dorset County Council has developed, in partnership with us, a new type of provision called a "Mainstream SEND Hub." These provisions are aimed at supporting children and young people with additional needs to be educated and have their needs met in a mainstream school, with enhanced facilities, by knowledgeable and skilled staff. The Mainstream SEND Hub is part of St Mary's CE Primary School, providing an enhanced educational offer for pupils with SEND in the mainstream setting.

The SEND Hub is for pupils with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and provides a level of provision between mainstream and special education. Access to the SEND Hub is through the formalised Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment or EHC plan Annual Review route, managed by the Local Authority. The Local Authority agrees and names the mainstream school through the SEND Code of Practice consultation process, with the designation of a Mainstream SEND Hub



named in the pupils' EHC plan, if deemed the most appropriate type of setting. All pupils are on the school's roll and are included regularly in the school day, in accordance with individual need.

Our hub has capacity for up to 14 places commissioned by the Local Authority via the formalised EHC route.

All Dorset schools were approached with the offer of setting up a SEND Hub, and following a series of discussions, St Mary's CE Primary School was identified as suitable for the first wave of this initiative.

Our school receives funding which covers the full costs of facilitating the SEND Hub, including the following staffing levels:

- Qualified Teachers
- Teaching Assistants
- Enhanced Leadership Time
- Enhanced SENDCo Time
- Additional Midday Supervisor Time
- Additional Learning Resources

The council also funded all capital costs associated with the development of the SEND Hub. Our school is not detrimentally impacted financially with the implementation of the SEND Hub, nor does it impact our ability to meet the needs of children and young people educated in the wider school.

Our school is provided with an enhanced level of training and the offer of specialist support from the council's specialist teacher and Educational Psychology team to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. One wider benefit is that all staff are able to access whole school training opportunities that will benefit all pupils within the school.

The hub has the potential to make ongoing significant, positive change to future provision for pupils with special educational and disability needs across Dorset and in our local community. Please take time to let us know what you think about the ongoing hub provision within our setting.

Have your say

Please visit the school website for more information regarding this proposal at <https://www.stmarybridport.co.uk/> . Alternatively, you can read more about Mainstream SEND Hubs on the Dorset County Council's website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/education-and-learning/support-in-the-early-years-schools-and-settings/how-schools-can-support-children/inclusion-hubs>



We welcome your comments on this consultation, which must be submitted by **Monday, 3rd April 2025**. If you would like to discuss these proposals further before responding, please contact Mrs. Batorska through the school office office@stmaryscephprimary.org

Responses can be submitted by emailing HUBConsultancy@initiolearning.org Please ensure the subject line is 'St Mary's CE Primary School Consultation'.

[1] [Making significant changes to an academy](#)