

drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust

# Public Consultation Document

June 2025



*Consultation on the proposal to add a specialist base  
at Hob Green Primary School  
An academy primary school*

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Outstanding  
pupil experience

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Excellence  
in education

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Impactful  
teaching

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Effective  
partnerships

# Public Consultation Document

**Consultation on:** **Consultation on the proposal to add a SEND Unit to Hob Green Primary School, an academy primary school.**

**Summary:** Dudley Council has a statutory duty to provide each child in its area with an appropriate school place. There is an identified need within the Dudley area for places for children with Special Educational Needs with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

With the full support of Dudley Council, drb Ignite MAT is consulting on plans to provide an inclusive SEND Unit at Hob Green Primary School, which will meet the needs of up to 12 young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

**Related Proposals:** No current proposals

**Deadline:** All responses must be received by 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Public Access:** Consultations, plans and policies will be published as follows:

drb Ignite MAT website - <https://drbignitemat.org>

**Response to:** [enquiry@drbignitemat.org](mailto:enquiry@drbignitemat.org)  
*Your representations will be co-ordinated by the Trust and responses to those representations will be provided by the appropriate member of the Trust team.*

## Consultees:

Includes, but are not limited to:

- Pupils, parents and staff of Hob Green Primary School
- Centre for Equality & Diversity
- Chairs of Governors of Dudley Schools
- Dudley Councillors
- Dudley Association of Governing Bodies
- Dudley Safeguarding Children Partnership Group - a sub-group of Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership Board
- Headteachers of Dudley Schools
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission
- Worcester Diocesan Board of Education

All responses may be published.

Hardcopies of this consultation, along with **large print versions** and translations into other languages, are available on request to the above address (A maximum of 2 copies per request or individual).

*Lucy Williams*

Lucy Williams  
Headteacher of Hob Green Primary School

# Proposal to add a SEND unit to Hob Green Primary School, an academy primary school.

## Introduction

In September 2025, drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust, with the full support of Dudley Council, will set up a SEND Unit at Hob Green Primary School to meet the needs of pupils with complex communication and cognition barriers outlined in an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This is part of drb Ignite MAT's inclusive education offer and Dudley Council's SEND improvement journey and is also in response to an identified lack of such provision in this part of the borough.

drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust is consulting on proposals to make this SEND unit at Hob Green Primary School. The unit will be a permanent addition to the school. Hob Green Primary School is a one-form entry primary school located in the South of Dudley and takes pupils aged from 3-11. It has a capacity of 210 pupils plus a Specialist Resource Base with a capacity of 18. The proposed unit will increase the school's maximum number to 240 plus Nursery.

Hob Green currently has an established commissioned resource-base for pupils aged 5-11 years with speech, language and communication needs. The provision has a capacity of 18 pupils, where placements are identified through the statutory consultation process via an EHCP.

In 2019, the Council identified that it had a gap in provision to meet the needs of pupils who require high levels of support with an Education, Health and Care Plan. In the last three years, Dudley has established 6 SEND Unit Provisions to provide provision for primary age children with an EHCP with a primary need of Cognition and Learning and/or Communication and Interaction. This has proven to be a successful model and has gone some way to addressing the identified gap, however there is still a shortfall of specialist provision within the borough.

The Council has selected Hob Green Primary School to develop an inclusive provision where pupils will be taught in a dedicated unit by specialist staff with opportunities to integrate into mainstream classes as and when appropriate.

It is anticipated that this will provide an appropriate education for up to 12 pupils and will provide an evidence-based solution for drb Ignite MAT and Dudley Council to support our SEND children across the Dudley Borough, providing the curriculum, environment and staff they need without a move into a specialist setting.

# Proposals

## What changes are we proposing?

drb Ignite MAT is proposing to change the designation of this academy to include a SEND Unit. This will be to meet the needs of pupils with high needs for communication and interaction and cognition and learning with an EHCP. Pupils will be taught in a dedicated classroom environment with support from highly trained staff. Pupils will have the opportunity to access a mainstream classroom as and when it is felt appropriate to do so.

## Why do we want to do this?

drb Ignite MAT is committed to providing an education that enables all children to achieve the highest standard of educational outcomes regardless of circumstance or background. The MAT works closely with Dudley Council which has a statutory duty to provide each child in its area with an appropriate education or school place and to secure the provision specified in Section F of a child or young person's EHC Plan (section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014). In recent years, Dudley has seen a sustained increase in the need for specialist educational provision for primary age pupils who require high levels of support, which has led the Council to conclude that an increase in the amount of specialist provision to accommodate these pupils would be an effective use of Council resources.

## Why has this school been chosen?

Hob Green is a highly inclusive school, proudly recognised as a 'Centre of Excellence' through the Inclusion Quality Mark national accreditation. With over ten years of experience in meeting the needs of pupils with SEND through our Specialist Resource Base, the school has earned a strong reputation across the Local Authority and has consistently achieved positive outcomes for its pupils. The recent Ofsted Inspection (February 2025) highlighted the strengths of our Speech and Language Base and its significant contribution to enhancing provision for pupils with SEND throughout the school. Our spacious site is well-equipped to accommodate additional pupils, with some internal and external modifications.

## How will this affect pupils at the school?

The additional pupils at the school will be educated in a separate designated unit with specialist staff supporting them. There will be opportunities where these pupils are supported to integrate into the mainstream classes when it is appropriate to do so. It is anticipated that the resources placed into this unit will also benefit from strategies already implemented in the school.

## **How will this affect staff?**

There are no anticipated changes which will affect staff at the school, although there may be additional continuing professional development opportunities for staff who wish to be in a more specialised provision.

## **How will this affect the local community?**

Whilst it is not anticipated that this will affect the local community in the long term, there may be some short-term disruption as work is carried out at the school to develop the physical aspects of this project. The local community will also benefit from having more appropriate specialist SEND provision in the heart of the community.

## **Will there be changes to the school building?**

There will be some changes made to the school building to accommodate these additional pupils. These changes are mainly internal modifications to make this a self-contained unit with access to outdoor space. There are no proposed extensions to the building. There are some changes proposed to external space, and this will be completed through a phased approach.

## **Why are we consulting on these proposals?**

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these changes to the school. The MAT is entering the consultation stage during which we are inviting views on the proposal from pupils, parents, staff, all schools, local community, neighbouring authorities, local councillors, members of parliament and professional associations.

## **What will happen if the proposals are rejected?**

If a decision is taken that this specialist provision should not be added to Hob Green Primary School, then the Council's ability to effectively meet the needs of this vulnerable group of pupils will be diminished and the Council will need to reconsider how these additional places can be provided elsewhere. This is likely to mean that some children will have to travel further to attend school and that the costs to meet these pupils' educational needs may be more expensive.

# Consultation on the proposal to open a Special Educational Needs Unit at Hob Green Primary School, an academy within the drb Multi Academy Trust.

Consultation responses  
Executive Support Team - Children's Services  
c/o The Council House  
Priory Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 1HF  
[Children.services@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Children.services@dudley.gov.uk)

Name:

Organisation:

**Do you agree with the proposal to add a Special Educational Needs Unit at Hob Green Primary School?**

Yes

No

No Opinion

Comments:

**Additional Comments:**