

Parent/carers FAQs

Which multi academy trust will run the school?

Wellspring Academy Trust is the multi-academy trust which will take on the special free school in Selby.

Wellspring Academy Trust already has a presence in North Yorkshire as it runs The Forest School, a special school in Knaresborough and the Grove pupil referral unit in Harrogate.

You can read about Wellspring Academy Trust [here](#).

When will the school open?

The Government has announced that special free schools in this wave are expected to open from September 2022. You can read more [here](#).

We will continue to keep parents / carers and the community informed about proposed opening dates as the project progresses.

Will children/young people from Selby who are currently attending another special school be expected to move to the new school when it opens?

If a parent/carer of a child from Selby would like their child to remain in their existing special provision, they will be maintained in that provision subject to the usual annual review process. This will be the same if a young person from Selby would like to remain in their current provision. There is no intention to move all children and young people from Selby to the new school.

If a request is made for a child or young person to move this would be considered as part of their annual review and would be agreed wherever possible.

Particular consideration may be given to a move at the end of a key stage or between primary/secondary, secondary/post 16, however parents / carers may request a move to be considered at any point in their child's education through the annual review process.

Once the school is open, if a child or young person from Selby has been assessed as needing that kind of provision, it is most likely to be the school the LA would expect the child or young person to attend.

How will places be allocated to the new special school?

The specification for the school which can be found at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/proposed-special-free-school-selby> shows how many places will be in each year group initially as the school opens.

Children and young people will be placed at the school according to the usual process as part of their Education, Health and Care Plan. This will continue to be managed by North Yorkshire County Council SEND team. Parents / carers are able to discuss their wishes with their allocated officer to support decisions about when to hold an annual review in order to request a place at the school.

What type of needs will the school provide for?

The school will be for children and young people with communication and interaction needs and/or cognition and learning needs.

Communication and interaction needs include speech, language and communication needs and Autism. A child or young person will not need a diagnosis of autism to be able to attend the school.

Cognition and learning needs will include moderate learning difficulties and severe learning difficulties.

Some children attending the school may have social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs associated with their primary need, but the school will not be for children and young people who have SEMH as their primary need.

Some children attending the school may also have physical and / or medical needs, but the school will not be for children and young people who have complex PMLD as their primary need.

It is important to remember that children and young people attending the school will have had their needs assessed through an Education, Health and Care assessment and will have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Children and young people attending the school will have been assessed as requiring that kind of provision. We will consult with the school on the placement of children and young people with a range of needs but we will always try to identify the most appropriate provision to meet the assessed needs of those children and young people. We acknowledge that some children and young people present with a complex range of needs and it is sometimes difficult to identify a single primary need or that this may change over time. Despite this we would always seek to have an open dialogue with any prospective school.

Will the school provide for children and young people diagnosed with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder?

If the EHCP indicates that the school is the right type of provision to meet a child or young person's needs then the school will provide for these needs.

If a child or young person currently receiving home to school transport moves to the school, will they still get that transport if they live nearer the school?

All home to school transport arrangements will follow the local authority policy.

The policy for children of statutory school age can be found [here](#).

The policy for post 16 students is [here](#).

Will children and young people who currently travel further to school have priority for places at the new school?

Children and young people attending the school will have had their needs assessed through an Education, Health and Care assessment and will have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Children and young people attending the school will have been assessed as requiring that kind of provision, following careful consideration during the child or young person's annual review. The LA will take everything into consideration including the current travel distance during the Annual Review process as to whether this school would be the correct one for the individual child.

If the school does not have to follow the national curriculum then will young people who are able to still have the opportunity to take exams such as GCSEs?

Young people will still have this opportunity.

Where is the site for the school?

The proposed site for the school is part of Millfield farm, Hull Road, Osgodby, YO8 5HN.

Will there be opportunity for the school to be extended in future if there is more demand for places?

The school will be built to accommodate the 100 places planned. The site would allow for expansion and we have asked that this is taken into consideration in design but this would be something which would have to be considered in future if required by the Local Authority and the trust running the school.

When will the Local Authority begin to look at admissions to the school?

At the moment we do not know a definite opening date for the school. We will however keep parents and carers and young people informed about progress towards opening the school. Once an opening date is known we will begin to look in advance at admissions.