

The proposed Selby special free school – parent/carer and community group views

Parents and carers and representatives from community groups in Selby have provided the following views about the proposed special free school for the Selby area.

How would we like our children and young people to benefit from the special free school?

We would like all children and young people to benefit from an excellent education and to be supported in developing appropriate behaviour. All staff in the school should have relevant experience and knowledge and be able to have training which keeps them up to date about children and young people's needs.

It is important that our children and young people reach their full potential. We include in this their potential in learning but also in other areas of development.

We would like children and young people to benefit from meaningful assessment which is specific to each child or young person's needs, to identify how they are progressing and what are the next steps. It is important that this is detailed and clear for parents and carers.

A vocational and life skills approach to the curriculum is also important. We would like to see the school have established links with local employers. These links should provide different opportunities for young people with different needs. We would like children and young people to develop transferable skills which will support them in life – for example if they are learning to prepare a meal using equipment in one place, will they still be able to do this at home? There should be early planning for preparation for adulthood and genuine opportunities for children and young people after they leave school.

For children and young people of secondary age and in post 16 provision we would like there to be social spaces and opportunities for them at school. We would like there to be whole school opportunities (e.g. assemblies) for children and young people, which will probably need to be split into primary and secondary/post 16.

It is important that there are opportunities for an enhanced curriculum including day and residential trips. There should be appropriate risk assessments for these and the right support provided for children and young people.

We would like the school to recognise the achievement of all children and young people, but in a way that helps all pupils to understand and benefit from this.

It is essential that the school works with other agencies and professionals to meet children and young people's needs. There must be adequate and appropriate space for therapy delivery incorporated in the school.

How would we like the school to work with parents/carers and the community?

We would like the school to have excellent, regular communication with parents/carers. This should include dedicated home/school liaison staff and a key working/lead worker approach.

We would like there to be opportunities for before/after school (wraparound) provision and holiday activities e.g. breakfast club, sports and creative clubs, play schemes, youth clubs and social groups. Ideally these should be inclusive community opportunities offering to a wider groups of children and young people including siblings. This provision does not need to be organised by school but other groups could provide it from premises, working in partnership with the school. Parents and carers are willing to pay reasonable costs. Such provision may give opportunities for young people to develop life skills and be part of their vocational curriculum.

Parents and carers would welcome groups and social events organised by the school, as well as training and support for parents and carers.

It is important that the school makes meaningful relationships with all schools and colleges in the Selby areas.

What do we want trusts to know about our area?

A large number of CCGs and health providers cover the Selby area – the school needs to take this into account.

There are existing, well established parent/carer and community groups in Selby. Parents and carers particularly are involved with Parent Power and Bee-able (<https://www.bee-able.co.uk/>)

The Selby area is very rural which can have benefits and challenges. However parents, carers and community representatives are keen to point out that people are very friendly and there is a close community. There are lots of businesses (many of them small) which would be open to opportunities for life skills and vocational work.