

When a request for a place in a hub is received, the SEND team will consult with both Haughton School and the mainstream school that has been requested. Visits to observe the pupil will be carried out, by those schools, and further discussions will take place with parents. This information will then be discussed at a meeting, held by the Local Authority, which considers all requests for placement in specialist provision. All decisions are made in partnership with the schools, however, the Local Authority is responsible for either approving or declining the request.

### Can children who currently attending a special school move into a specialist hub?

This is possible, as is a move from a special into a mainstream school, but if this is being considered a lot of discussion and work will happen between the special school and parent before it takes place. Children will not be moved without agreement from parents. All school placements for children with an EHC plan are reviewed yearly, as part of the annual review.



**Further information about specialist hubs, including entry criteria, can be found at on the local offer**

**[www.telfordsend.org.uk](http://www.telfordsend.org.uk)**

**Or contact**

**01952 385399**

**[sendandinclusion@telford.gov.uk](mailto:sendandinclusion@telford.gov.uk)**



## **Development of Specialist Hubs in Telford & Wrekin Schools Information for Parents/Carers**



The majority of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) attend, and do really well, in mainstream schools. For some, more specialist provision is required and Telford & Wrekin Council is developing new school provision, called specialist hubs, to help bridge the gap between our current offer of either a mainstream or special school placement. Our aim is to provide greater choice for parents, where specialist provision is considered necessary.

### What is a specialist hub?

A specialist hub is an adapted classroom situated within a mainstream school. Hubs provide an opportunity for children identified as having more complex SEND to be included and educated alongside their peers in a mainstream setting, enabling them to join in with mainstream activities.



### Where will the specialist hubs in Telford & Wrekin be?

In the first instance, hubs will be developed at Hollinswood Primary School & Nursery and Old Park Primary School. These will be managed in partnership with Haughton Special School. The children will be on roll at Haughton School but will wear the uniform of the mainstream setting so that they feel part of the school community. The hubs will open by 2019 Autumn half term at the latest. It is expected that a hub for secondary aged pupils will open during the academic year 2019/20.

To begin with, the hubs will be aimed at pupils in Key Stage 2 i.e. year groups 3, 4, 5 and 6, as this is where we know the greatest demand for specialist provision currently is. Each hub will eventually have about 10 children but it is anticipated that they will open with much lower numbers and then increase over time.

### What SEND will the hubs cater for?

The hubs are aimed at those children with complex interaction and communication needs, including Autism and associated cognition and learning difficulties. Children will not require a diagnosis of a condition (for example Autism or ADHD to qualify for entry).

Where criteria for entry into hub provision is met, discussions will take place with parents/carers about which school placement would be best. This will take account of distance from home, the needs of the other children in attendance and available place numbers at the preferred setting. All children will need an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan in order to attend the hubs.

### If I want my child to attend a hub what do I do?

Discussions with parents/carers about a child's placement in a hub should be carried out as part of the EHC needs assessment process or the EHC annual review process. Places are limited and subject to change.