

June 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Proposed Changes of Commissioned Places for The Mendip School**

The Mendip School is a specialist provision for students aged 4 – 19 with autism and Speech and Language & Communication Needs, staff and governors are committed to and passionate about the learning and progress of our pupils. We have high aspirations for our young people and we aim to provide a high quality, relevant and balanced education for all our pupils that focuses on individual, personal and academic achievement. Students are taught in small groups, usually with more than one member of staff in attendance. There is a happy and positive atmosphere in which young people can fulfill their potential and grow in self-confidence with respect for the people and environment around them.

The Mendip School is a member of The Bath and Mendip Partnership Trust, which is a multi-academy trust (MAT). The MAT also includes Fosse Way School, Hayesdown First School, Nunney First School, Farmborough CofE Primary School, Marksbury CofE Primary School, Moorlands Federation, Abbot Alphege Academy, Weston All Saints Primary, Roundhill Primary School, Cameley CofE Primary School, Chew Magna Primary School and Pensford Primary School. This status allows the school to be more autonomous and to focus on initiatives that raise aspiration and achievement for children and young people.

The total commissioned places for The Mendip School has increased quicker than expected since it opened in 2015. We have reached our capacity two years early from our original business plan and to date we have 126 students attending daily.

The Governors have taken the decision to apply to the DfE to increase and limit our capacity for total commissioned places to 144 with a view to continue to monitor the referrals for places in subsequent years. This will ensure we safeguard our current pupils and staff and continue to offer the same outstanding level of teaching and learning.

In Somerset there is provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in a range of settings including mainstream schools, additionally resourced mainstream school settings, and special schools. Some pupils also attend schools outside of Somerset at a much greater cost to the LA.

## Proposal

The Mendip School is seeking your views on increasing and limiting capacity for commissioned places for children with SEN at 144. This number will be reviewed annually to safeguard the current pupils, any further expansion would require capital investment as physical space would not meet recommended criteria. Staffing levels have grown since opening in line with increasing pupil numbers and the level of complexity around the needs of the pupils.

The consultation timeline	
Consultation starts	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
Consultation ends	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
Outcome of consultation considered by the Governing Body and Trustees	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
DFE informed of results of consultation	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2019

## How to respond

We would like to invite you to provide any feedback on our proposal during this consultation period. Please either complete the attached form or download the form from [www.themendipschool.com](http://www.themendipschool.com) and return it by noon on, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to The Mendip School.

If you have any questions regarding the consultation, please contact the school office at [office@themendipschool.com](mailto:office@themendipschool.com)

We look forward to receiving your views on this proposal.

**Closing date 12 noon on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**

## THE MENDIP SCHOOL CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME	SCHOOL/ORGANISATION
1.	Do you agree to The Mendip School increasing and capping commissioned places for pupils from 120 to 144? (Please tick one of the below options)
Strongly Agree	
Agree	
Disagree	
Strongly Disagree	
2.	Do you have any comments?

Please return to: The Mendip School, Edmund Rack Road, Prestleigh, Shepton Mallet, BA4 4FZ or email [office@themendipschool.com](mailto:office@themendipschool.com)

**Consultation Ends: 12 noon on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**