



**CHERRY**  
WILLINGHAM  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

## **Cherry Willingham Primary Academy – SEND Hub consultation** **April-May 2026**

### **WHAT IS A MAINSTREAM SEND HUB?**

Mainstream SEND Hubs are defined as “special provisions within a mainstream school where the children are taught within separate classes”.

The Hubs are aimed at supporting children and young people with additional needs to be educated and have their needs met in a mainstream school, with enhanced facilities, by knowledgeable and skilled staff.

You can read more about Mainstream SEND Hubs on Lincolnshire County Council’s consultation pages:  
<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/support-education/mainstream-send-hubs>

### **WHAT WILL THE MAINSTREAM SEND HUB BE LIKE?**

The SEND Hub will be an integral part of our mainstream academy, physically and culturally, with inclusivity and belonging at its core.

It will be a place for young people with SEND to be educated, with access to all of the benefits of a mainstream environment but with enhanced provision – smaller class sizes, specifically trained staff and a bespoke curriculum.

The Hub will consist of a new classroom, alongside other specially designed spaces, to ensure it has the space and resources required to meet the needs of the young people.

It will belong to the academy, be managed by the academy and be staffed by the academy.

Lincolnshire County Council, as our Local Authority (LA), will be responsible for providing funding, making placements, and supporting with quality assurance of the provision.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A MAINSTREAM SEND HUB FOR THE STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY?**

The hubs will strengthen the local community by enabling young people to remain in their local school, fostering inclusive values and relationships.

**EDUCATION:** Personalised curriculum delivery by trained staff with specialist expertise, meeting the needs of pupils with SEND in their local community.

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The Priory Cherry Willingham Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

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**ACCESSIBILITY:** Pupils with an EHCP can access high-quality education close to home, reducing travel time and maintaining connections with their local area.

**INCLUSION:** The reduction in out-of-area placements results in integration into mainstream school activities and promotes socialisation and a sense of belonging.

**EMPOWERMENT:** Tailored interventions and a bespoke curriculum equip young people with the skills, confidence and independence needed to thrive and reach their full potential.

## **WHEN WILL THE MAINSTREAM SEND HUB BE OPEN AND ACCEPTING STUDENTS?**

Our ambition is to have the Hub open by February 2027.

We are expecting the Department for Education (DfE) to make its decision about whether we can have a SEND Hub by the end of the summer term 2026.

If formal approval is granted, we will commence recruitment for the SEND Hub immediately.

We anticipate that we would have staff in position during the autumn term so they can access the specialised training offer and begin transition support for those young people joining the provision.

Any necessary building or conversion works will then be completed during the school holidays to ensure minimum impact on our students and academy.

## **WHO IS THE MAINSTREAM HUB FOR AND HOW IS IT ACCESSED?**

Access to the mainstream SEND Hub will be through the formal Education, Health and Care Plan process, in accordance with the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

As part of either the Needs Assessment or Annual Review process, children and young people will be assessed as needing either mainstream, mainstream with SEND Hub or specialist setting.

If identified as requiring a mainstream SEND Hub, consultation with the nearest Hub will take place. All places will be allocated by the LA within the existing formalised process.

Mainstream SEND Hubs will be best placed to meet the needs of children and young people who could thrive in mainstream with enhanced support and interventions.

Children and young people with a degree of speech, language and communication needs, and those with cognition and learning needs, may be most suited to a Mainstream SEND Hub.

They are not suitable for children and young people with complex needs who require specialist provision, nor for children and young people with behaviour which significantly challenges.

The LA is developing a profile of suitability for mainstream SEND Hubs which will inform the Needs Assessment and Annual Review process, where Hub is identified as a possible option.

## **HOW IS THE MAINSTREAM HUB FUNDED AND STAFFED?**

The LA will be funding all building and renovation works required in the identified area of the school.

The LA will also be funding the cost of “kitting out” the Hub with appropriate resources and supporting the cost of recruitment.

Schools will receive an allocation of funding for each pupil placed in the Hub.

This funding ensures the Hub can provide the following:

One Qualified Teacher

Two Teaching Assistants

One Intervention Worker

Enhanced SENDCo Time

Additional Midday Supervisor

Learning Resources

Staff funding at an appropriate level for those with experience of teaching or supporting children and young people with SEND

We have received assurance from the LA that our academy will not be detrimentally impacted financially with the implementation of the SEND Hub, nor will it impact our ability or financial capacity to meet the needs of children and young people educated in the wider school.

### **HOW CAN WE BE ASSURED THAT STAFF WILL BE APPROPRIATELY TRAINED?**

The LA is providing all host schools with an intensive training package which will cover all areas of working with children and young people with SEND.

This training has been developed by experts in the specialist sector and is part of the wider SEND Workforce Development Strategy which supports Lincolnshire's special schools.

### **HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSED MAINSTREAM SEND HUB?**

If you have further questions and would like to discuss Mainstream SEND Hubs in more detail, please email the Headteacher via:

[cherryenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:cherryenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk)

If you would like to comment on our plans, please email [cherryenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:cherryenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk) (including *SEND Hub Consultation* in the subject field); or write to Miss Megan Rose, Send Hub Consultation, Cherry Willingham Primary Academy, Lime Grove, Cherry Willingham, Lincoln LN3 4BD. We will take on board, and respond as appropriate, to any points you might raise. Please let us have your responses by **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026**.

All responses will be included in our submission to the DfE as part of our request to make this addition to our academy.