



Our School is working alongside Suffolk County Council to develop additional specialist education places. Across Suffolk there is a shortfall of specialist places available. This can mean that some pupils have to be educated away from their local communities.

As part of a SEND capital programme an additional 168 new specialist placements will be available for children and their families across Suffolk from September 2020. This is on top of existing specialist provision. Suffolk County Council has undertaken a commissioning process, where by schools who were interested, provided information on how the Unit would be run and supported by the School. Schools who were successful in this process, like ours, are currently working with the council to ensure the appropriate infrastructure and support is in place to enable these new units to be open in September 2020. These places will be offered as part of a dedicated Unit, with specially trained staff. It will give more children the opportunity to be educated in their community, closer to home. The funding for capital works to our School is being provided by Suffolk County Council.

SET Ixworth will be offering 18 places to support children who require support with Communication and Interaction. These places will be in addition to our current PAN (Planned Admission Number). This means that there will not be a reduction in the number of places available in the usual admissions round. Allocation of specialist places will follow a separate admissions process.

Why:

*As a Trust our vision states that 'we believe in each and every young person'.*

*Our current Schools are established in areas where there is a significant deficit in Specialist SEN Education, which means that students are spending a significant amount of time each day travelling across or out of the county to access education. Currently in Lowestoft 21 students; in Bury 45 students; in Ipswich 37 students all with an EHCP where the primary need is communication and interaction aren't able to be educated in their local area.*

*The opportunity therefore to continue to provide the best educational experience for 'each and every young person' and to further develop and extend our work with the most disadvantaged in a different educational setting, but with the same vision and ethos is the reason that we are consulting on the opening of a new Key Stage 3 and 4 'Communication and Interaction' Specialist Unit at SET Ixworth School.*

*As a Trust we believe that having a specialist offer as part of a mainstream school benefits the whole school community. All teachers have access to specialist knowledge and skills to support them in their classroom practice and pupils gain from being part of a fully inclusive community.*

*The aim will be to establish:*

- *A culture that supports and challenges learners to become confident, successful and independent adults*
- *An ethos of respect, a flexible and personalised approach which ensures that each learner makes progress in all areas of their learning.*
- *A challenge to the traditional ways of working, pushing boundaries with regard to intervention and support for all students.*
- *A network of support and partnership between students, parents/carers, other schools, specialists and external agencies to provide opportunities for individual needs to be addressed.*
- *A responsibility to all learners, where individuals have a sense of belonging and where they can integrate successfully into mainstream and then into Post-16 education.*
- *A Specialist Units that 'feels' like a SET School, ensuring that the same ethos and expectations are maintained throughout all our provisions. They will be attached to the main school where students in the 'Provision' will mirror the timetable of the school.*

*We see this as a real opportunity to work alongside Suffolk in a clear partnership to help support and to deliver Suffolk's SEND Priorities for 2017-2020 in a positive and collegiate way, by ensuring that students have access to the most appropriate, yet also excellent SEND provision, that is linked to a mainstream school, so also offering a continuation of the SEND Journey and the best chance possible to achieve success/positive outcomes and an opportunity to progress onto an appropriate Post 16 provision.*

*Consultation question:*

1. Do you support the School's plans to create a Communication and Interaction Unit?

Yes

No

Reasons why

2. Do you have any additional comments to make?