



Consultation on Proposal to Establish Specialist Inclusion Bases within the Wade Deacon Trust

To all stakeholders, parents/carers, staff and members of the local community at

- **The Grange Academy**
- **Wade Deacon High School**
- **Weston Point Primary Academy**

Introduction

The Wade Deacon Trust, in partnership with the Local Authority, is undertaking a formal consultation on proposals to establish **three specialist SEND Inclusion/Base provisions** across schools within the Trust. These proposals are intended to enhance local inclusive provision and meet growing levels of need identified within the local area.

The consultation is seeking views on the proposal only; no final decisions have yet been made.

Background

Key SEND Proposals -The Government white paper titled, *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*, focuses on reforms to ensure that more children with SEND are supported within mainstream schools. Central to this is the development of inclusion bases in all schools over time. These bases are intended to provide structured, evidence-based support for children with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities.

In March 2025, Halton Council received notification from the Department for Education that it would be allocated a further circa £1.2M of capital funding (High Needs Provision Capital Allocation) to support the provision of new places or to expand existing provision for pupils and students with high needs.

In the autumn term 2025, the Council wrote to all schools to seek expressions of interest from them in offering new or additional SEND provision at their school, based against the required need as set out in the most recent SEND Sufficiency Strategy.

Overview of the Proposal

The Trust is consulting on the establishment of the following provisions:

| School | Phase | Area of Need | Planned Capacity | Number of Current Base |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|------------------|------------------------|
| Wade Deacon High School | Key Stage 3 & 4 | Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) / Cognition and Learning | Up to 16 pupils | None |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Weston Point Primary Academy | Key Stage 1 | Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) | 8–10 pupils | 1 (8 pupils) |
| The Grange Academy | Key Stage 3 & 4 | Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) / Cognition and Learning | Up to 16 pupils | 5 (3 x KS1&2 (23 pupils/ 25 spaces) and 2 x KS3&4) (11 pupils/ 16 places) |

Each provision will operate as a designated inclusion base within a mainstream school, supporting pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) whose needs can be met within a mainstream setting with enhanced specialist support.

Background and Rationale

Inclusivity and high aspiration sit at the heart of the Wade Deacon Trust's ethos. Across Halton and the wider North West region, there has been a sustained increase in the number of children and young people with EHCPs, particularly relating to:

- Speech, Language and Communication needs
- Cognition and Learning needs
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs

Current local provision does not fully meet demand, resulting in:

- Pupils being placed out of borough
- Long travel times
- Increased pressure on specialist and independent provision

These proposals aim to strengthen local, high-quality, inclusive options within mainstream schools, enabling pupils to remain within their communities while receiving targeted, specialist support.

Description of the Proposed Provisions

1. Wade Deacon High School

- **Phase:** Key Stage 3 and 4
- **Primary Areas of Need:** Speech, Language and Communication & Cognition and Learning
- **Capacity:** Up to 16 pupils
- **Current Provision:** None

The provision will support pupils with EHCPs who require:

- Small group teaching

- Adapted curriculum pathways
- Targeted interventions for communication and learning
- Supported inclusion within mainstream lessons where appropriate

2. Weston Point Primary Academy

- **Phase:** Key Stage 1
- **Primary Area of Need:** Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)
- **Capacity:** 8–10 pupils
- **Current Provision:** 1 base KS2 8 pupil (SEMH)

The SEMH base will:

- Provide an early intervention offer for younger pupils
- Focus on emotional regulation, social skills and readiness to learn
- Support reintegration and inclusion within mainstream classes where appropriate

3. The Grange Academy

- **Phase:** Key Stage 3 and 4
- **Primary Areas of Need:** Speech, Language and Communication & Cognition and Learning
- **Capacity:** Up to 16 pupils
- **Current Provision:** Up to 25 pupils KS1&2 (Autism Spectrum Condition ASC), up to 16 pupils KS3&4 (Autism Spectrum Condition ASC)

These inclusion bases will mirror the inclusive principles outlined for Wade Deacon High School, offering:

- Specialist staffing and environments
- Structured transition support
- Flexible access to mainstream curriculum and social opportunities

Staffing and Support

Each provision will be:

- Led by experienced practitioners with SEND expertise
- Staffed to reflect small group sizes and appropriate adult-to-pupil ratios
- Supported by Trust-wide SEND leadership and external agencies where appropriate

pupils will be on the roll with each school and continue to participate in wider school life in line with their needs and readiness.

Admissions to the Resource Bases

- Admission will be through the Local Authority EHCP consultation process
- Places will be allocated by the Local Authority in consultation with the school and Trust
- The overall mainstream Published Admission Number (PAN) of each school will not be affected

Implementation

It is intended that any new provision will be implemented in a phased approach during the 2026/27 Academic Year.

Impact on Other Schools and Provision

The proposals are not expected to have a negative impact on other schools. Instead, they aim to:

- Reduce reliance on independent and out-of-area placements
- Improve equity of access to specialist support
- Strengthen mainstream SEND capacity across the local area

Capital Works and Funding

Any adaptations required to support these provisions will be:

- Funded through High Needs Capital or Local Authority allocations (subject to approval)
- Delivered in line with statutory procurement and value-for-money requirements

Consultation Process

This consultation invites views on:

- The principle of the proposed inclusion bases
- The identified areas of need
- The proposed scale and distribution of provision across the Trust

All feedback received will be considered and shared with Trust leadership, the Local Authority and relevant decision-making bodies. Individual responses will not be issued.

How to Respond

Procedure for Responding to this Proposal Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, i.e. by 15th June 2026, any person wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objecting to the proposal may do so by using one of the following methods:

- the online consultation response form for:
 - The Grange Academy at <https://forms.office.com/e/X8NjxG4xTK>
 - Wade Deacon High School at <https://forms.office.com/e/dwHer3DKXE>
 - Weston Point Primary Academy at <https://forms.office.com/e/WMRxKsXagr>

Email - please mark the subject as: Consultation response and the name/s of the schools you are responding to.

- trust@wadedeacontrust.co.uk

In writing – please mark the envelope “Consultation response” to:

- Consultation response, c/o Wade Deacon Trust, Birchfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7TD

The Wade Deacon Trust values the views of all stakeholders and welcomes your feedback on these important proposals.