



Consultation on a Proposal to add a Communication and Interaction SRB at Lingwood Primary Academy, from 1 September 2026

22 September 2025

Our Proposal

Unity Schools Partnership is committed to inclusive education and ensuring that every child has access to the support they need to succeed. As part of this commitment, we are proposing the development of a 10-place Communication and Interaction Specialist Resource Base (SRB) at Lingwood Primary Academy, with a planned opening date of 1 September 2026. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to working in partnership to meet the diverse needs of learners across our communities, ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.

The SRB will be situated within the current school premises, using modified facilities to establish a secure, supportive, and inclusive setting for students with communication and interaction needs. This base will be developed to promote confidence, engagement, and academic progress through personalised support and specialised interventions.

To ensure the provision is sustainable and impactful, it will be supported by a funding agreement from the Local Authority. This funding will enable a specialist staffing structure, including experienced teachers and support staff, and will cover the cost of resources, equipment, and day-to-day operations of the SRB.

The Communication and Interaction SRB will admit children, in line with Norfolk County Council's strategic plan to expand inclusive and alternative provision across the county. Placement decisions will be made collaboratively through local partnership meetings, involving Norfolk County Council advisers, leaders from supported schools, and Lingwood Academy staff and Unity Schools Partnership.

What is an Assessment Base Centre (AB Centre)?

In Norfolk, an SRB stands for a specialist Resource Base which is a specialised unit within a mainstream school designed to provide extra support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

These bases offer tailored help for specific needs, such as communication and interaction helping students develop skills to access the mainstream curriculum and achieve independence.

Key Features of Norfolk's SRBs:

Integration with Mainstream Schools

SRBs are hosted within mainstream schools, allowing children to access the main curriculum and social environment while receiving specialized support.

Not Dependent on an EHCP:

Children do not require an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan to attend an SRB.

Focus on Independence:

A primary goal is to help children develop the skills and confidence to manage their challenges and thrive in a mainstream setting.

Flexible Curriculum:

The curriculum is adapted to individual needs, providing focused learning, pre-learning, and repetition to build skills but remains ambitious and aligned to the National Curriculum

The Base will provide additional placements to the published admission number for Lingwood Academy. It will be run and managed by the academy.

What are the benefits of this proposal?

Opening a specialist provision at Lingwood will:

- Provide consistency of and access to appropriate provision for pupils and families.
- Provide additional support for students at KS2 who would benefit from a more bespoke provision
- Ensure that needs of pupils are met locally avoiding the need for unnecessary time travelling to an appropriate school further away. This is better for children and young people and saves transport costs.
- Be part of a Norfolk network of SRB's providing opportunities for partnership working, professional development and training.

Capital costs

All capital costs for refurbishment will be funded from Norfolk County Council's capital programme to ensure there is the appropriate accommodation.

How can you have your say?

On the next sheet is the consultation question. Please return responses to the school or to Specialist Provision Consultation, Unity Schools Partnership, Homefield Road Haverhill CB9 8QP or to specialistprovision@unitysp.co.uk by 9am 20 October 2025.

What happens next?

Unity Schools Partnership will consider all the responses received during this consultation and decide whether to complete an application for significant change.

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from 01 September 2026**

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

How far do you agree or disagree with our proposal to establish a Communication and Interaction Base at Lingwood Academy?

Please tick a box.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Strongly agree | ☐ Agree | ☐ Neither agree or disagree |
| ☐ Disagree | ☐ Strongly disagree | ☐ Don't know |

Please write any additional comments the box below.

This consultation ends at 9am on 20 October 2025