

## **Discovery Special Academy**

### **Section 10 consultation questionnaire**

#### **Planned provision**

Tees Valley Education Trust (TVED) is currently planning to open Discovery Special Academy as a free special school. The purpose of this consultation is to give anyone who is interested in the proposal the opportunity to express their views about this proposal.

Discovery Special Academy will be a special school, providing 84 places for boys and girls aged 4 to 11 years with severe learning or complex learning needs some of whom will have co-existing needs such as speech and language impairment, communication and interaction needs, sensory impairment and physical/medical needs.

In order to effectively meet the needs of every child who attends the school, Discovery Special Academy will offer all pupils a personalised learning programme addressing and removing barriers to individual progression.

The curriculum will be designed to meet the broad needs of the school's pupil population, recognising the range of pupils' abilities and their additional needs. All pupils will be valued equally regardless of gender, race, ability or disability whilst having due regard for inclusion. We will provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils building on pupils' strengths and needs which will be broad and diverse. Teaching and learning will be based on the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the National Curriculum, differentiated to meet individual need. Strategies will be employed to take account of each individual pupil's style and pace of learning. All pupils will participate effectively in learning and assessment activities by the removal of barriers to learning.

The objectives of our provision for our pupils, all of whom have SEND are:

- to ensure that all pupils receive appropriate small group educational provision, with a high adult ratio, across the day, with opportunities for one to one support;
- where identified pupils will access therapeutic input and pastoral support to achieve outstanding outcomes and make outstanding progress;
- to provide for the learning, physical, social and care needs of all pupils in a supportive environment;
- to encourage pupils to develop independence and seek to avoid an over-reliance on adults to ensure that they have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum

which is differentiated to meet their needs, and allows them to have access to the same opportunities as all;

- to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made to curriculum delivery, equipment and premises to make them generally more accessible to disabled pupils;
- to ensure ongoing, effective monitoring and assessment procedures are implemented, in conjunction with other agencies and organisations where appropriate;
- to ensure that resources available to the school are allocated and used efficiently, effectively, and equitably (including teaching and support staff, within and outside the school); and
- to work actively in partnership with school staff, children, parents/carers and other agencies.

### **Phased opening**

In order to plan for the most orderly and effective opening of the new academy and the move into a new building, in consultation with local authorities, TVED is planning for a phased opening of Discovery Special Academy. For the academic year 2018/19, the school will open for 12 pupils in each of reception, year 1 and year 2. Progression to full capacity will then take place over either a further two or three years depending on when the new school building will be ready.

### **School site**

Although the permanent site for Discovery Special Academy has not yet been finally agreed, the school will be located in Middlesbrough on a site that is easily accessible and pays due regard to the transport needs of these children and their families.

In the first instance, the school will open in temporary accommodation located on the sites of TVED's Pennyman and Brambles Academies. TVED is committed to ensuring that this accommodation is of the highest quality and can fully meet the needs of the children who will attend the academy at this stage. Pupils will also be able to access the excellent specialist provision already available at Pennyman Academy for children who need sensory and therapeutic support.

The purpose of this Section 10 consultation is not primarily about the proposed site and school building. This consultation will take place as an important part of the planning process once the site has been confirmed when those who are interested in the site will be able to give their views.

## **Admissions**

For a child to be admitted, the school must be named, by a local authority, in the child's education health and care plan ('EHCP'). Parents wishing their children to benefit from our provision should ask their local authority to name our school in their child's EHCP. We will work with our local authority partners through the SEND place planning process to ensure timely allocation of places at the academy. The 36 places for the first phase of Discovery's opening in September 2018 have already been commissioned from Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland local authorities.

## **Responding to the consultation**

In accordance with Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010, when establishing a free school, public consultation must occur as to whether the arrangements should be entered into by the Secretary of State. Your responses to this questionnaire will be collated in an independent report to inform the Secretary of State of local views.

Further information about Discovery Special Academy can be found on the academy's web site: <http://discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/>. You can also send any further questions or enquiries to: [enquiries@discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk)

Questionnaires can be completed electronically <http://discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/> or return hard copies to:

### **By post**

FAO Emma Lowe, SEND Inclusion Officer  
Tees Valley Education MAT  
c/o Pennyman Academy  
Fulbeck Road  
Middlesbrough TS3 0QS

### **By e-mail**

[enquiries@discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk)

*Please note, this information is collected on behalf of Tees Valley Education Trust.*

## **1. Funding Agreement**

In order for Discovery Special Academy to open as an academy within Tees Valley Education Trust, TVED will need to enter into a contract (called a Funding Agreement) with the Department for Education (DfE). This is a standard document used by all free schools and academies and is a key legal step towards opening. A copy of the model funding agreement for special free schools can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>

**Do you support the proposal that Discovery Special Academy should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State?**

Yes

No

Unsure

Please add any further comments in the box below.

**2. Admissions**

A copy of Discovery Special Academy's Statement of Provision is appended to this questionnaire. Further information about admissions can also be found on the academy's web site.

**Do you support the admissions statement of provision and related referral and commissioning arrangements.**

Yes

No

Unsure

Please add any further questions or comments about the proposed admissions arrangements in the box below.

**3 Equalities**

**Do you think that the proposed Discovery Special Academy will raise any equal opportunities issues?**

If so, please outline them below



A local community member

A member of staff at a local school/academy

A service provider for special school pupils (*please specify the service*)

A governor/trustee at a local school/academy

A parent/carer of a pupil at a local school/academy

If not listed above, please note \_\_\_\_\_

*If you would like to hear more about Discovery Special Academy in the future, please provide us with your contact information below.*

*This information will be kept confidential*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **Consultation period**

This Section 10 Consultation opens **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018** and closes **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (5pm)**