



8th November 2021

CONSULTATION
DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY
PROPOSAL TO EXTEND SPECIALIST PROVISION INTO A SECONDARY PHASE
AT A LOCATION WITHIN OR AROUND MIDDLESBROUGH FROM SEPTEMBER 2022

Tees Valley Education Multi Academy Trust operates 5 academies in the Tees Valley area. The Trust is in the final stages of building a Primary phase Special Free School (Discovery Special Academy) funded by the Department for Education. Currently operating from a temporary building, Discovery Special Academy will move into a purpose-built, state of the art new build located on Sandy Flatts Lane, Middlesbrough, in September 2022.

When Discovery Academy moves to the new build, it will provide outstanding education and therapies to more than 80 children with complex special educational needs, and an additional 10 place assessment Nursery. It has become more evident, however, from our partnership work with Middlesbrough Local Authority and parents, of the growing need to extend this specialist provision to include a Secondary phase for children aged 11 to 16yrs.

As part of its 5 year SEND strategy and place planning review, Middlesbrough Local Authority has scoped the number of additional specialist places it requires, year on year, across several SEND designations. Tees Valley Education MAT has made a commitment to work with other specialist providers, the Local Authority and Health, to re-shape how specialist local provision for children and young people with complex needs is delivered. The intelligence from the scoping exercise shows there is a clear and urgent need for additional secondary age special school places.

Discovery Special academy has therefore confirmed its intention to expand its provision to a secondary phase, by increasing its number of commissioned places. This will enable more secondary age children with a EHCP for Severe Learning difficulties and/or communication and interaction needs to be educated locally. Under these proposals, Discovery Special Academy would temporarily utilise some teaching and learning areas within the TVED estate for the September 2022 Year 7 cohort, initially up to 10 children, with capacity to increase to around 14. At the same time, the Trust anticipates building and adaptation work will commence, in partnership with Middlesbrough Council and other stakeholders, so that a fully operational secondary age specialist provision will be open with effect from September 2024, at the latest.

As part of this consultation, Tees Valley Education Trust would like to seek the views of Discovery Special Academy parents and other interested stakeholders, on the proposals. The Trust would particularly like to receive responses to the following questions, **no later than 5pm on Monday 6th December 2021**, which is 4 weeks from the start of the consultation.



Question 1 Do you support the proposal for Discovery Special Academy to extend into a secondary phase special provision, with the initial admission of Year 7 pupils from September 2022 (increasing to 70 secondary phase pupils by 2027)?

Comments:

Question 2 Do you support the proposal for Discovery Special Academy to extend into a secondary phase special provision, in temporary accommodation within the Trust estate, until the a permanent building is complete?

Comments:

Question 3 Do you have any further questions you wish to ask Tees Valley Education Trust about the proposals?

Comments:

I would like someone from Tees Valley Education Trust to contact me and my details are:



Consultation responses can be submitted in the following ways:

- Return this completed form to: F.A.O TVE Clerk, Tees Valley Education Multi Academy Trust, Central Offices, c/o Pennyman Primary Academy, Fulbeck Road, Middlesbrough, TS3 0QS.
- Email responses to clerk@tved.org.uk

Further details on the consultation can be found at www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk
Responses to the consultation should be **received no later than 5pm on Monday 6th December 2021.**

Yours sincerely,

Miss K Morley
CEO and Executive Head Teacher

Copies to: Parents of children attending Discovery Academy, Trust Board, Parents 4 Change, Middlesbrough LA, Redcar LA, RSC office, TVED Trust and academy websites.

