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Striving for **Excellence**
Empowering Achievement
 Shaping **Learning**

CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons), PGCE
Chair: John Barton

Monday 13th April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Stakeholders,

ACET Response to the Consultation linked to the Proposed Opening of a SEND Resource Unit at Shirebrook Academy, from September 2026

The Trust Board would like to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who participated in the consultation exercise prior to the Easter break. In total, there were 12 responses to the consultation, which are outlined below and where appropriate, a response from the Trust has been provided.

Consultation response	ACET response (where appropriate)
School is good with my children.	
I believe this would be a fantastic unit for children with SEN speaking from experience as a mum with a child with SEN there is a lack of support and facilities for children with SEN who dont meet the criteria for specialist provision but need more support than a mainstream	
I agree that children with a ECHP have some kind of disability but being a parent to a child that went to shirebrook academy and then was moved to stubborn wood and now in landmark college that maybe you should invite the parents into helping out as my son used to lie for the attention even if it got him into trouble I hope that this works for the children and includes CHAMS and Mental Health Services as I've found at least 50% of teachers don't understand the children with ECHP and each child is different and not only would it help the child but it would also help the parent to understand how there child support is being used also another point is the children that attend your school with siblings that are disabled or have ECHP in place could help as my daughter for example as lived her whole life helping and supporting her brother in many ways who is ADHD and autism and I'd gladly let her help another child feel welcomed in school many thanks	<p>Shirebrook Academy will continue to develop its SEND provision. Staff are increasing well trained to deliver a graduated response that enables us to meet the needs of all students.</p> <p>Parental support and partnership working is very important to us at ACET, and we continue to develop strategies to work with all our families.</p> <p>At Shirebrook Academy, we operate an open-door policy and welcome parents/carers to work with us in identifying how best to meet the needs of every child.</p>

<p>Thanks for sending the planned changes over. I can see there is substantial benefit to the wider community.</p> <p>The largest concern that I have is whether or not this will impact any current facilities and support that is given to Shirebrook academy children. If this is going to be a venue which is controlled overall by Derbyshire council will Shirebrook academy have the ability to give necessary support to children without recognised Ehcp plans who do require assistance?</p>	<p>This provision will not detract from the mainstream Shirebrook provision. The staffing, resource and premises costs will be met through a funding stream that is separate to the funding for Shirebrook Academy.</p> <p>Shirebrook Academy students without an EHCP will still receive support through the SEND structures and provision within the academy.</p> <p>While places will be decided through a panel process led by Derbyshire County Council, this provision is for students within the Shirebrook Academy catchment.</p>
<p>I think this is a good idea for pupils that are struggling with every day school work</p>	
<p>This would be amazing and just what sen kids need</p>	
<p>Will there be extra staff to support with this? I have a child who has struggled throughout school with maths and english as well as reading so would you carry all the necessary assessments out before the children start secondary school unlike my child as they was failed and lost in the system back at primary as well as promises in secondary school. How will you be able to support a child if they didnt have an ehcp and their learning capacity was below the standard curriculum and really struggled with learning due to their diagnosis. Would you actually be able to have the staff trained for this resource and be able to actually meet a child's needs with or without an ehcp.</p>	<p>Yes, additional specialist staff will be employed for this provision and this will include specialised training for staff working in the Enhanced Resource.</p> <p>We will continue to develop our provision for all students, with or without an EHCP. This will always start with developing a sound understanding of a child's needs and their attainment levels.</p> <p>Over recent years, the academy has implemented strengthened systems for SEND at the point of transition from primary to secondary in order that no children are 'lost' in the system. This also ensures that staff are fully aware of the level children are working at in terms of the National Curriculum.</p>
<p>My child 100% needs this. This could be the line between him leaving school or getting kicked out with no education or having something like this and having a chance to shine and show he can and will do this with the right surroundings and support.</p>	
<p>In 2026, the UK government has started a major overhaul of the SEND which includes changes EHCPs. EHCPs will likely be limited to the most complex needs. Many children with SEN will fall into the IPS group. An ISP would set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the child's needs - what adjustments the school must make - how progress is reviewed - who is responsible for support <p>Examples of support a SEN kid might receive through an ISP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seating adjustments 	<p>Shirebrook Academy SEND provision will continue to be developed to meet the increasingly wide range of complex needs that present within each cohort of students.</p> <p>Staff are increasingly well trained to deliver a graduated response that enables us to better meet the needs of all students. Over recent years, SEND provision at the academy has been significantly strengthened and this was recognised in the Ofsted inspection in April 2025.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quiet or alternative assembly arrangements - sensory regulation breaks - modified behaviour expectations - safe space or regulation area - movement breaks - flexibility around uniform / sensory issues - staff awareness of ADHD/ASD triggers <p>These are reasonable adjustments schools are already supposed to provide under the Equality Act 2010 however Shirebrook academy does not. While this is great for children that requires special educational provision that cannot reasonably be provided from the school's normal resources this does not help SEN kids who are currently in shirebrook and are struggling under the blanket policy's and frameworks.</p>	<p>Any parents/carers who have concerns about their child's SEND provision are encouraged to meet with the academy SENDCo to discuss this in the first instance.</p>
<p>How will it be determined out of the 6 children per 100+ student year group who is going to benefit from this service? There is hundreds of EHCPs written yearly across Derbyshire schools so how can it be a fair system with just 6 being chosen? Instead why aren't you offering time increments per child in need per year group. Even if it's a period of a schooling in the day per student per week to have that inclusion time? Surely that would be a fairer system so that a sen child in need isn't losing out on a chance to have the support they need.</p>	<p>Derbyshire County Council (DCC) will allocate places through a panel of experts considering the needs of each student on a case-by-case basis. This provision will be solely for students in the Shirebrook community whose needs will be best met by this provision. Through partnership working with DCC, the approach to allocation of places at an Enhanced Resource will be consistent across the Local Authority and compliant with the SEND Code of Practice.</p>
<p>I feel that the proposal of a SEND unit for our young students is a step in the right direction and I support this proposal.</p>	

An application has now been made to the Department for Education (DfE), requesting for the approval of a SEND Resource at Shirebrook Academy. We expect to have a decision from the DfE before the end of the summer term and will communicate this with you as soon as we have an outcome to share.

Yours sincerely,



Lindsey Burgin
Principal



Rebecca Scutt
CEO