



Statutory Consultation

Proposal to establish a Communication and Interaction Resource Base at The John of Gaunt School

Introduction

EQUA Multi Academy Trust, in response to a request from Wiltshire Council proposes to create a Resource Base (a Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision) at The John of Gaunt School in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. This proposal has been developed in response to the increased demand for special educational needs provision in the West Wiltshire area.

Should the creation of the Resource Base be agreed, EQUA, the Local Authority and the John of Gaunt School will work together to ensure that all admissions are handled effectively and efficiently.

The Proposal

The Resource Base will be set up with an SEN designation of Communication and Interaction needs to support the needs of children who have an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). Under this proposal the base would cater for up to 10 students over the course of the first academic year. The Resource Base would receive children with SEN from the local area, not limited to the school's mainstream catchment.

The Resource Base would plan to open in September 2023, filling the additional places at a level and rate to ensure the quality and future success of the provision. The Published Admission Number of the school will remain the same and not be impacted by this proposal.

Wiltshire Council have requested this Resource Base to meet the needs of the growing number of children with SEND, particularly in the West Wiltshire area.

The case for expanding the resource base at The John of Gaunt School

Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places for pupils with special education needs (Young people and Families Act 2014) and to ensure that these places provide both high quality provision and value for money. The Local Authority believes that a Resource Base at The John of Gaunt School will support this aim in being fulfilled within the West Wiltshire area and this is fully supported by the Trustees at



EQUA Multi Academy Trust. The creation of the Resource Base at The John of Gaunt School is being proposed for the following reasons:

- Wiltshire Council has identified a demand for Secondary Resource Base provision in the West Wiltshire area
- The John of Gaunt School was judged to be a Good school by Ofsted at their last inspection in May 2018
- EQUA Multi Academy Trust and The John of Gaunt School are committed to inclusion and delivering a high-quality SEND provision and this is an opportunity to further that vision
- Existing, suitable indoor and outdoor space at the school have been identified for the Resource Base with additional accommodation being added to the school in the future
- The John of Gaunt School are fully supportive of the proposal

The Outcomes of the Proposal

EQUA Multi Academy Trust, with the full support of Wiltshire Council is proposing to open a Resource Base at The John of Gaunt School.

We believe that this will:

- Provide additional capacity to manage demand for SEN school places in Wiltshire, particularly in the West Wiltshire area where demand is high
- Support improved educational outcomes for children with SEND
- Provide appropriate opportunities for students to access aspects of the mainstream school
- Support the further development of inclusive provision at The John of Gaunt School and EQUA Multi Academy Trust, benefitting children beyond the resource base

This proposal is not expected to have any limiting impact on other local provision including local schools but will contribute towards parental choice.

Implementation

Following consultation, EQUA Multi Academy Trust and The John of Gaunt School will work with the Local Authority to ensure that all admissions are handled effectively and efficiently. Students will start at the new resource base from September 2023.

The establishment of the Resource Base at The John of Gaunt School is part of a wider plan of increased SEN school place capacity across Wiltshire to ensure countywide SEN school place sufficiency.

Costs and Expenditure



The John of Gaunt School
A Community Academy

The John of Gaunt School will receive SEN place funding for each child placed at the resource base and top up funding for each student, which will vary according to the child's needs identified in their EHCP. The school, with support from the Trust, will be responsible for staffing and resources. The Local Authority and EQUA Multi Academy Trust have worked together to financially model the provision to ensure it is affordable and will not impact upon the mainstream school budget.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with.

Face to face meetings

As part of this process and to enable us to discuss what is set out in this document and answer questions in a more interactive way we have identified three face to face sessions for different groups which you may like to attend:

Session 1: Staff of The John of Gaunt School Friday 28th April

**Session 2: Parents and carers of The John of Gaunt School Friday 28th April
3.30pm In Wingfield Hall**

 office@jogschool.org  01225 762637  www.jogschool.org

The John of Gaunt School, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 9EH

The John of Gaunt School is a Limited Company registered in England - Company Number 7990655
Registered Office - Wingfield Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 9EH



Headteacher: Mr B. Rhodes



Appendix 1: Consultation Process Indicative Timeline

Stage	Publication	
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal will be published on The John of Gaunt School and EQUA Multi Academy Trust websites for 4 weeks from 01/04/2023 until 29/04/2023 A copy of the proposal has been sent to the Local Governors of The John of Gaunt School and the Head of School The John of Gaunt School will ensure that the information is released through a circulated update (this may be a paper or electronic newsletter or update) and sent directly to all parent/carers of all registered students Copies of the proposal will be available via the school, by contacting: snichols@jogschool.org Comments can be made via E-mail or letter to: Email contact: snichols@jogschool.org <u>Address for written communication</u> The John of Gaunt School, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 9EH <p>Comments must be received by no later than the 29/04/2023 to be considered in the decision-making process.</p>
Stage 2	Representation (Formal consultation)	The period of consultation will run from 01/04/2023 until 29/04/2023
Stage 3	Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the representation period, we expect to have a decision by the end of the academic year through the Regional Schools Commissioner and Regional Headteacher Board



		<p>The proposal can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Accepted○ Rejected○ Or accepted with modifications by the proposer <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The decision will be published within one week of the decision and;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ published on the same sites as the publication○ sent to every registered pupil○ and sent to the local governing body
Stage 4	Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● If approved, the new resource base will open from September 2022 but with likely intake starting from October 2022.● If the proposal is accepted the council and the school will work together to ensure that all admissions are handled effectively and efficiently.



Appendix 2: Responses

Comments can be made via E-mail or letter:

Email contact: snichols@jogschool.org

Address for written communication

The John of Gaunt School,
Wingfield Road,
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire
BA14 9EH

If you choose to respond via letter, please use the consultation response template below:

Consultation Response:				
Please circle your role:	Student	Parent/carer / family	Governor	Member of staff
Do you agree with the establish a Resource Base at The John of Gaunt School?		Yes	No	Not sure
Please Comment:				
Do you think there are other options that should be explored? (Please describe)				
Are there any other comments you would like to make?				



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Please note that all comments must be received by **29/04/2023**.



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Appendix 3: Further information and FAQs

This guide aims to explain what a resource base is and how it will operate as an integral part of The John of Gaunt School and EQUA Multi Academy Trust

Provision – What is a resource base?

The Resource Base at The John of Gaunt School will provide specialist provision for a group of 10 students who have Communication and Interaction needs. Over the next two years, this number could increase to up to 20 students. Students who attend resource bases are often those who need provision that is higher than they would be able to access in a mainstream school, but who do not need to attend a special school. The students who will attend the Resource Base will have Communication and interaction needs and may also have a range of other needs alongside this.

Admissions

Admissions to the Resource Base are entirely separate from places in the main school, and are made through Wiltshire's Special Educational Needs Discussion and Decision groups. The Resource Base needs to be named on a student's EHCP for them to have a place at a Resource Base. This is separate from the school's admission processes

Admissions Criteria

- EHCP
- Diagnosis of ASC or Social Communication as primary need
- Wiltshire agreed provision
- Parental preference
- Acceptance at resource base sign off by Head of School/ Trustee
- Students who may benefit from some exposure to mainstream classes

Who runs the resource base?

The Resource Base is staffed and managed by The John of Gaunt School with support from EQUA Multi Academy Trust. The Resource Base staff will work closely with The John of Gaunt School staff to manage students' integration into the main school.

Resource Base Team

Assistant Headteacher and SENDCO: Vicky Marshall

Headteacher: Ben Rhodes

Assistant Headteacher student support and DSL: Helen Kerr

CEO EQUA MAT: Paul Skipp



Additional staff as a result of the proposal

- Resource base Teacher
- 2x resource base TAs

This may include other staff across the Trust to support approaches and processes as are relevant and appropriate.

Other Professionals

The Resource Base also has other visiting school support professionals who work with students in a range of ways, which include both direct and indirect input. This enables targets to be completed throughout the school day to young people's access to their education.

- Speech and Language Therapists (SALT)
- Occupational Therapists (OT)
- Educational Psychologists
- CAMHS
- Specialist SEN Service

The Role of The John of Gaunt School Staff with the Resource Base

The aim of the resource base is to provide a specialist provision which is well supported and staffed but will only thrive with support and where appropriate integration with the wider John of Gaunt Team. The resource Base will offer specialist provision to meet the needs of the students and there will also be opportunities for students to be included in the wider school community. Staff from the resource Base and The John of Gaunt school will work co-operatively to develop the opportunities available to students in the Resource Base.

What about children at The John of Gaunt School who would benefit from specialist teaching?

Children at The John of Gaunt School will not automatically be able to attend the Resource Base as this is not the named provision on their EHCP. The usual method of EHCP admissions must be followed, and therefore all requests for places at the Resource Base must go through the child's SEND Lead Worker during their Annual Review.

All decisions about Resource Base places are made by the Local Authority and school staff do not have any influence over this. By attending The John of Gaunt School, it does not increase the chance of getting a place in the Resource Base. Only when the Resource Base is named as the child's provision in their EHCP, will they be able to have a place in the Resource Base, and not beforehand.

However, as part of our collaborative working, Resource Base staff and The John of Gaunt School staff will share their expertise and knowledge with all staff across the school and the EQUA Multi Academy Trust. This is to continually review and improve our high-quality inclusive teaching that all students will benefit from.



If/ when students who are at the Resource Base begin to thrive beyond the Resource Base and show the ability to succeed long term in mainstream school, this would be discussed and agreed as part of the annual review process where the appropriate setting would be identified. This would not necessarily be the school where the base is sited.

Teaching and Curriculum

As the provision is for pupils who have Communication and Interaction needs, which often includes a diagnosis of Autism, the Resource Base is designed to provide a structured environment that is welcoming and inclusive. The staff team will strive to give the students the maximum level of independence that they can achieve.

All students will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which includes the core subjects (Maths, English and Science)). These lessons will be taught in the Resource Base by their teacher. At Key Stage 4, the curriculum will consider Students' skills, interests and future plans. This will be discussed at the students' year 9 annual review.

The method of teaching within the Resource Base will be adaptive, responsive to need and will be research based and evidence lead. The students will be taught from The John of Gaunt School Curriculum, using a differentiated approach adapted to the individual needs. Break times and lunchtimes will be seen as learning opportunities for the children to develop their social communication skills and will be supported by their teachers and TAs to do this.

Break and Lunchtimes

Again, the approach is dependent on the needs of individual children but where this is appropriate and possible, they join in opportunities at break and lunchtimes, as and when this is right for each child. There will, however be separate space and supervision as well.

Access to mainstream lessons

The John of Gaunt School is committed to adopting an inclusive approach in all aspects of its work. We believe that, where it is suitable for an individual learner in the Resource Base, access to mainstream classes can help to promote independence and social awareness. This takes several forms: shared break times, lunchtimes, assemblies, and trips, as well as participation in selected mainstream lessons, performances, and clubs. All learners will have the opportunity to be included in this way across the school.

Assessment

Regular teacher assessments will take place, which allow for close monitoring of the students' academic progress, social and personal development. These will be undertaken by the Resource Base Teacher.



How will we know if this is successful?

- All students will feel a sense of belonging in our school community
- All students will achieve strong academic and social success relative to their starting points
- Collaborative planning and learning will enhance the skills of staff in both settings
- Staff confidence will increase – both for The John of Gaunt School staff in supporting pupils with SEN and for Resource Base staff in developing curriculum for students who will be able to access mainstream provisions.
- Everyone will practice respect, tolerance and understanding.
- There will be a greater awareness and understanding of Communication and Interaction needs amongst the community and use of high-quality practice in supporting this
- Staff training opportunities will increase and are impactful in both settings
- Staff, students, and parents/carers will feel a shared sense of purpose and inclusivity