

## **Consultation document regarding the planned expansion of Nailsea School's specialist Resource Base, planned for September 2026**

The Resource Base within Nailsea is part of our School's core value of inclusiveness, and in striving to ensure that all students 'Aspire, Believe and Succeed'. The Resource Base provides a smaller, nurturing environment for pupils in Years 7-11, with high functioning Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), who for part of their timetabled curriculum have time in mainstream classes, with support in Year 7, and with the ultimate aim of fully accessing mainstream teaching in Key Stage 4.

The Base has been a formally part of our establishment, as a 10 place Resource Base since September 2020, and has been over the planned Pupil Admission Number (PAN) each year since opening, reflecting the local demand and need. This consultation is to expand the current provision to a 25 place Resource Base, in liaison with North Somerset Council. This is in line with the Council's review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Alternative Provision within its district, with the intention of having adequate and relevant provision for SEN students with autism to be educated within Resource Bases attached to Mainstream schools. The expansion of this existing, successful provision will assist in achieving this outcome.

Nailsea School has both the physical and organisational capacity to create the extension to the permanent ASD Resource Base on the school site, building on the current good practice and reputation it has grown in this area, whilst not compromising the main school facilities. This provision is in addition to these existing facilities. It may also release spaces at other Special Schools in North Somerset who will be able to focus on the needs of the children that would not be suitable for a place in mainstream classes. This proposal fully supports the school's wish to support its local North Somerset population and the authority's principal of 'local schools for local children.'

To accommodate this, the proposal is to create a single storey extension to the front of the school to extend the existing Resource Base. This will be created during a phased build period over a six-month period, starting during the Easter holidays, causing minimal disruption to existing school operations. This extension and remodelling of spaces will not only provide appropriate and specialised classrooms for Resource Base students, but will also ensure that the main school students continue to have access to suitably resourced and located facilities.

The current SEN area will allow for smaller classrooms and therapy spaces to be created from a non-teaching area, where educational interventions and physical needs of students can be met, thereby supporting individual student's needs and optimising the use of school facilities. This in turn enables full sized, mainstream classrooms to be freed up to accommodate the growing demand for places at Nailsea School.

It is planned that, subject to consultation and Department for Education approval, the new 25 place Resource Base provision will be open from September 2026.