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**Full Proposal For An additional Ten Key Stage 1 Places in ‘The Midford’ – A Resource Base at St Nicholas Church School, Radstock, BA3 3QH**

*‘Building dreams, overcoming obstacles and making a difference to every individual’*  Tammy TA, St Nicholas Church Primary.

**Implementation date**

The date of the proposed additional places in ‘The Midford’ is September 2021.

**Objectives**

* To provide a safe and nurturing environment to enable pupils to access their education and make excellent progress.
* To provide additional places in our resource base that works to support pupils in their emotional development through a bespoke programme, enabling pupils to find their talents and succeed.
* To provide an attachment aware environment where pupils are valued for who they are, firm in the belief that the staff believe they are able to succeed and reach their academic potential.

**Need**

Until September 2019, Bath and North East Somerset did not have specific provision for pupils who have an EHCP for SEMH and specifically for pupils who have experienced early trauma and display attachment difficulties. Provision for pupils aged 4 to 7 is particularly difficult to find even across the borders of the Local Authority. The current places in ‘The Midford’ are all full. Over the next three years only one or two places will become available year on year. The children in September or 2021 will all be of KS 2 age, meaning there is again no provision for KS 1 pupils. We would extend provision so that we could take 10 additional pupils of KS1 age(with the ability to flex to take more year 3 pupils). These children would be accommodated in their own classroom with their own outside space, toilets and break out space.

The SEND team at the Bath and North East Somerset local authority have expressed that they would welcome additional spaces in our resource base offering such provision.

This proposal would give parents a local option in BANES and would prevent children having to travel long distances in taxis.

St Nicholas has a strong reputation for supporting pupils with these difficulties both within a mainstream classroom and in the Midford. Pupils who have entered the Midford have been able to attend full-time school (having only had part-time timetables at previous schools) and are accessing the National Curriculum. The Midford gives pupils the opportunity to have specialist provision but also offers the opportunity of re-integrating back into mainstream at a later date once they have settled into a good routine and are able to regulate themselves with little support.

**Funding**

Funding would continue to come via per pupil funding allocated by the ESFA through the funding for a child requiring specialist resource base provision with additional top up funding through the local authority’s Educational Healthcare Plan. The resource base is not seen as a separate entity in terms of funding. The additional places would be seen as an additional class within our school offering specialist provision. The Midford offers good value for money to the LA as it reduces the number of pupils being educated across the border in other Local Authorities or at an independent special school by a further 10 pupils.

**Impact on other Institutions**

There are no other institutions offering the service in the area so there is no negative impact to other institutions in the area.

**Impact on St Nicholas CE Primary School**

St Nicholas has a long history of being fully inclusive. Opening a further 10 places in the Midford would further embed the schools ethos.  
In September 2021 the school site would have the buildings to accommodate 420 (currently 245 on roll) pupils in the age range 4-11, 45 Early Years children aged 2-4 and 20 SEMH pupils in two classes in the Midford.

The opening of additional places in the Midford would not impact on the education of other pupils as the children will be educated in their own classroom with separate outdoor space.

**Implementation**

Work is currently scheduled for an additional wall to be placed in a cloakroom area and a fence with gate to be installed to separate the outdoor area. No other alterations are needed.

Staffing has already been agreed from internal staff.

It is proposed that the additional places will be introduced in September 2021.

**Staffing**

The resource base will be staffed by 1 teacher and two teaching assistants, until demand means staffing needs to be increased. The SENCO will oversee the resource base closely providing coaching and support. Our inhouse psychotherapist will offer fortnightly supervision to staff. The staff in the additional Wellow class would be supported by the current Midford team.

The local authority supports us through the Educational Psychology service. All teaching assistants in the resource base are given Emotional Literacy training.

The school has a Mental Health Support Worker, therapist two days per week and a psychotherapist two days per week. The majority of the resource base children are supported by our psychotherapist. Both therapists have the capacity to extend their hours should it be required.

**Pupils.**

The additional capacity would be for 10 Key stage 1 pupils**.**

Pupils entering these additional spaces in our resource base will continue to be pupils who have an EHCP which states SEMH as their main difficulty. They are likely to have suffered early trauma and to have attachment difficulties. Any anti-social behaviour will be down to their trauma and difficulties and not due to poor parenting. It is likely that some of the places will be taken by looked after children. Pupils are likely to have repeated at least one year of early years education and are likely to be on part-time time-tables at their current school.

**Local Authority Response**

**The Council has supported the proposal without modification on the grounds that the proposed increased 10 places would:**

* **creates additional provision for KS 1 pupils within a mainstream primary school allowing children with social, emotional mental health difficulties to safely access education and progress within a nurturing environment**
* **will deliver much needed provision within the geographical area, giving parents a local option which will prevent their children travelling long distances to access education**
* **supports an inclusion agenda for parents who wish for their children with SEND to be educated within a high-quality mainstream education environment, therefore promoting diversity of provision for parents/carers**

**Class**

The additional spaces would form a class in a separate classroom with calm down room and separate toilet facilities within our school, known as Wellow class (within the Midford Resource Base). Pupils would be included if, and when, appropriate at whole school events.

Parents would be invited to attend whole school and class events based in the Midford. As many of the children are transported to school by taxi, weekly phone contact is maintained with parents so they do not feel isolated from their child’s education.

**Admissions**

Pupils would be continued to be admitted via the SEND panel. The panel would consult with us, and we would make the decision as to whether we could meet the child’s needs.

We would recommend that pupils applying for the additional places would be in years R to 2 but would stay with us until the end of year 6.

**Transport**

Whilst some pupils will come from the immediate area we expect that many of the children will be travelling a distance that will mean they travel to school by Local Authority transport (usually taxi). The school day will be shortened slightly for pupils in the Midford to allow for low stress transitions.

**Set up and resources**

The room will be set up for learning in a relaxed manner, with soft fabrics, break out areas with relaxing seating and colour choices.

There will be a breakout room designed to help the children become calm when in a dysregulated state.

**Curriculum**

Delivery of the curriculum is bespoke to each child but is based on the National Curriculum.

**Formal Consultation**

**Procedure for responses**

Anyone can support, object to or comment on the proposal. If you would like to submit a representation about this proposal, you can do so in writing to:

St. Nicholas Church School

Kilmersdon Road

Radstock

BA3 3QH

In order to ensure that every representation response counts, please could you state your relationship to the school e.g. parent/carer, member of staff etc.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 your personal details will not be used for any other purpose, will not be made public or shared with any other organisation.

This full proposal is published on St Nicholas Church School website at:

[www.stnicholasschool.co.uk](http://www.stnicholasschool.co.uk)

Copies of the full proposal can be obtained by sending an email to enquiries@stnicholas.bwmat.org or by sending a written request to the above address or by calling 01761432101.

The formal consultation begins on ; 7th June 2021 and will end at 23.00 on 4th July 2021.

**Date representation period ends**

The representation period commences on 7th June 2021 and will end at 23.00 on 4th July 2021.

The deadline for responses to be received is **23.00 on 4th July 2021**.

All responses received by the deadline will be made available to the decision maker. We regret that we will be unable to enter into any correspondence regarding responses received.

**What Happens Next?**

All representation responses received during the representation period will be considered by the decision maker at Bath and North East Somerset Local Authority and they will decide whether to go ahead with the proposal. If the decision is made to proceed ‘The Midford’ will open 7th September 2021.