

**CONSULTATION: Re-designation of the Resource Base at The Alton School, Roehampton**

The Quality First Education (Q1E) Trust is consulting on a proposed change to the Resource Base at The Alton School, Danebury Avenue, Roehampton, London SW15 4PD. The Alton’s Resource Base currently serves up to 20 children with moderate learning difficulties.

Wandsworth Local Authority have been reviewing the availability of school places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). They have identified specific groups of children whose needs cannot be met through a local school offer, notably those on the autism spectrum with associated learning difficulties. The Q1E trust proposes to re-designate The Alton’s resource base, in order to support the local authority and to meet the needs of more children in our community. The proposal is fully supported by The Alton’s headteacher and is now being taken forward through a statutory consultation process.

**What is being proposed?**

It is proposed to change the designation of the resource base at The Alton School to meet the needs of up to 24 children on the autistic spectrum.  In the first instance, this will mean opening a new class for seven children who meet this criteria, from September 2023.  More children will join incrementally over the next few years, to manage the expansion carefully and effectively.

The Alton will no longer take new pupils with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) into its resource base, but the school’s existing children with moderate learning needs will continue their provision, and this change should not affect them.  The Alton will strive to continue the same high quality provision to meet the needs of these children until the end of their primary education.

As with The Alton’s existing resource base provision, the new pupils will receive a curriculum that is differentiated to meet their specific needs. The provision will be delivered in small classes, with a high staff to pupil ratio. The children will have the opportunity to integrate into the mainstream school for some of their learning, according to their individual needs and interests.

These proposals are subject to approval by the Department for Education, and subject to the completion of some minor building adaptations that are required to accommodate the new children. Q1E is working in partnership with Wandsworth Council to plan the building works.

**How to respond to the consultation**

If you have any comments or views to share, please write to the Q1E trust’s director of operations, Charlotte Meade, at charlotte.meade@q1e.org.uk.

You can contact Jackie McCallum, Inclusion Adviser for Wandsworth, if you have questions about the council’s wider plans for SEND provision: jackie.mccallum@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.

