



*“Inspiring a love of lifelong learning”*

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22nd May 2026

## **Proposal to open a Designated Unit (DU) at Charville Academy School from September 2026**

### **Introduction**

- Charville Academy is a primary Academy in the London Borough of Hillingdon for pupils aged 3 - 11. It has a ‘Good’ rating from Ofsted from the most recent inspection in May 2023.
- A Designated Unit (DU) can be defined as ‘a mainstream school teaching space where places are reserved for children who have a specific type of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) which requires an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and who are taught mainly within in separate classes with specialist staff.’

### **The Proposal**

- To establish a DU for children requiring additional support for Autism (ASD) at Charville Academy
- The DU will build up its pupil numbers over a time frame (to be confirmed with the local authority), up to a capacity of 10 children  
Children will have an EHCP, and can be admitted in addition to the school's PAN
- All pupils will be on the school roll of Charville Academy
- The DU will be located in specialist, dedicated accommodation within the Charville Academy building. This will consist of dedicated classrooms, a therapy room and external space. The school has identified an area of its site that can be used for this facility without a negative effect on its current educational offer
- The DU will have a member of staff designated as the leader. The structure of the staff will develop as the unit grows. Ultimately the management and responsibility will lie with the Headteacher
- The governors of Charville Academy will have oversight of the DU.

### **Rationale**

- In the local authority of Hillingdon there is a rising number of children with an EHCP which specifies Autism (ASD).
- Current provision within the local authority requires expansion to ensure the needs of these children are fully met.



## **Finance and Resourcing**

- The local authority will then provide on-going revenue funding to pay for the costs of staffing and resourcing the DU through top up funding for each student place
- Charville Academy will recruit additional staff for the DU, using this funding
- The specialist staff employed to lead the DU will also provide CPD to the school's overall staffing and will help to provide additional expertise to enable all staff to provide the best, inclusive education to pupils in the school.

## **Consultation, approvals and timescales**

- The proposal is that the DU opens at Charville Academy on 1st September 2026. The proposed change requires a period of consultation, the publication of Statutory Notices and the agreement of the local authority if the proposal is to proceed.
- The consultation will open on Friday 22nd May 2026 and will run for three weeks until noon on Friday 12th June 2026. During this period, Charville Academy will publish a Statutory Notice and share its proposals with local schools including head teachers and chairs of governors, partner agencies, local residents and with the staff and parents of Charville Academy.
- The consultation will include a dedicated postal address and email address for comments.
- Following the consultation process, the feedback will be summarised as part of feedback to the local authority and the governing board. This line needs to move over please

## **Key Information**

If you have any comments about this proposal, please submit them by email to:  
[office@charvilleacademyschool.org](mailto:office@charvilleacademyschool.org) with the subject 'DU Consultation 2026' or in writing to:

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