

5 October 2023



**To Staff Members, Governors, Parents/Guardians, Pupils**

Dear Staff Member, Governor, Parent/Guardian, Pupil,

**Operational Plan 1: 2022-24 Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools**

Consistent with the *Framework for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools* and the *Special Education Strategic Area Plan 2022-27: Planning for Special Education Provision*, and through the associated *Operational Plan 1: 2022-24*, a number of short and medium term workstreams for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools were identified.

The priorities within *Operational Plan 1: 2022-24* are to ensure that there is sufficient capacity as well as seeking to address geographical, sectoral and linguistic inconsistencies, however, there still exists special educational needs pressures and demand for places, as evidenced in setting up resource provisions in September 2023 and also projected need for September 2024 and beyond.

The Education Authority is engaging in consultation as it seeks to establish/change specialist provision (Specialist Provision for Early Years and Foundation, Learning and Social Communication) classes in nursery, primary and post-primary schools, including those at your school. Therefore, we are seeking your views on the proposal for approval of specialist provision class(es) at your school in order that we meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs.

We would like to hear the views of parents, staff, governors, and pupils in relation to the inclusion of specialist provision classes within your school. A consultation document on the specialist provision in your school will be available on 5 October 2023 at:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/area-planning/proposed-specialist-provision>.

The Education Authority welcomes all responses and would encourage you to respond with your views and comments via the MS form available on the above link.

The consultation document should be read in conjunction with the Overview Paper which sets out the background and the context for taking forward Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools in the future.

The deadline for responses to the pilot consultation is **5.00 pm on Thursday 7 December 2023**.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Colmer, Area Planning Officer, at [Jennifer.Colmer@eani.org.uk](mailto:Jennifer.Colmer@eani.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Freeburn', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Nigel Freeburn**  
**Special Education Area Planning – Lead Officer**

“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”

**Education Authority**

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