Consultation on Proposal to Establish an Autism Specialist Resource Base at St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, St Teresa of Calcutta Multi-Academy Company

Introduction

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi-Academy Company (MAC) is seeking the views of parents, carers, parish communities and local residents on a proposal to establish an Autism Specialist Resource Base at St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, Vauxhall Grove, Birmingham, B7 4HP.

We are committed to working openly with our community, and this consultation gives you the opportunity to share your views before any final decisions are made.

Our Proposal

We are proposing to establish a 14-place Autism Specialist Resource Base at St Vincent's Catholic Primary School.

Subject to consultation and approval, the Resource Base would open during the 2026–27 academic year, with pupils admitted gradually from Spring 2027 to ensure the provision is well-established and of high quality from the outset.

Why Are We Proposing This?

Across Birmingham, there is a growing need for specialist provision for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Many families currently face long journeys or limited local options to access the right support for their child.

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School has a strong reputation for inclusion and partnership with families. The school was the first primary school in Birmingham to achieve the Silver Co-production Award, recognising its commitment to working closely with parents and carers. In its most recent Ofsted inspection (2023), the school was judged to be Good.

By developing a specialist Resource Base at St Vincent's, we aim to:

- Support more children with autism to be educated locally
- Enable pupils to remain part of a mainstream school community while receiving additional specialist support
- Reduce unnecessary travel for families
- Strengthen inclusive practice across the school

Although St Teresa of Calcutta MAC is a Catholic organisation, our schools welcome children of all faiths and none, and the Resource Base would be open to any child placed through the Local Authority.

What Is an Autism Specialist Resource Base?

An Autism Specialist Resource Base is a specialist provision within a mainstream school. It is designed to support children who may find it difficult to access learning in a typical classroom environment without additional strategies and support.

The Resource Base would:

- Provide a calm, structured and supportive environment
- Be staffed by trained teachers and specialist support staff
- Support pupils with social communication, emotional regulation and learning
- Enable pupils to spend time both in the Resource Base and in mainstream classes, depending on their individual needs

Children placed in the Resource Base would be full members of St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, taking part in school life as much as possible alongside their peers.

Where Would the Resource Base Be Located?

The proposed Resource Base would be located in the former Nursery building on the St Vincent's school site close to Erskine Street/Vauxhall Road. This space:

- Has its own entrance
- Includes access to outdoor space
- Is connected to the main school, allowing pupils to feel part of the wider school community

Some adaptations would be required to ensure the environment is suitable for the needs of pupils who attend the Resource Base. Any building works would be carefully planned, subject to the relevant approvals, and carried out in a way that minimises disruption to the day-to-day running of the school and the local community.

How Would the Resource Base Be Run?

The Resource Base would be managed by the Headteacher and Local Governing Body of St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, overseen by the St Teresa of Calcutta MAC Trust Board.

It would operate as an integral part of the school

Staffing would include teachers and support staff with specialist training in autism

The school would work closely with external professionals, such as Speech and Language Therapists and other SEND specialists

Children would be placed through Birmingham City Council's admissions process for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

What Are the Benefits of This Proposal?

We believe this proposal would:

- Increase access to high-quality local provision for children with autism
- Support children to achieve their potential socially, emotionally and academically
- Reduce travel time and disruption for families
- Strengthen inclusive practice within the school and the wider community
- Support the city's approach to meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND

How Can You Share Your Views?

We welcome your feedback on this proposal.

You can have your say by:

- Completing our online consultation survey: Consultation on Proposal to Establish Autism Resource Base at St Vincent's Catholic School – Fill out form

- Submitting written comments via email: consultation@stocmac.org.uk
- Submitting written comments via the school office

This consultation well remain open for 4 weeks from Friday 5th June 2026. All responses must be received by Friday 3rd July 2026.

What Happens Next?

All feedback will be carefully considered by St Teresa of Calcutta MAC. Following the consultation, a decision will be made about whether to progress with the proposal.

Please note that this proposal is subject to formal approvals, funding agreements, and further planning.

Further Information

If you would like more information or have any questions about the proposal, please contact:

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