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17 January 2025

Dear All

The Interim Executive Board (IEB) at Grove Park School is consulting on a proposal to change the type of need catered for by the school with effect from 1 September 2025.

Grove Park School currently has a formal designation of profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). Over a number of years the school has accepted pupils with a broader range of need including pupils with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and severe learning difficulties (SLD).

To more accurately reflect the needs of our cohort of pupils, the IEB is proposing to change the type of need catered for by the school from its current designation to PMLD, ASD and SLD with effect from 1 September 2025. This means that any new admissions to the school will be considered against this designation and the school will be able to plan its curriculum and support to ensure it meets the needs of these pupils. There will be no impact on the placement of current pupils at the school, regardless of their need they will continue at the school.

We would welcome your views on the proposal. We are consulting with the school community, staff, other local special schools, trade unions, the local authority, local county councillors and neighbouring local authorities that commission places at the school.

The consultation period runs from **17 January to 14 February 2025**. The IEB will consider feedback received during the consultation period before deciding whether to proceed with the proposal. If it agreed to proceed, the IEB would publish a statutory proposal relating to the proposed change. This would likely happen in March 2025.

The local authority is the decision maker for the proposal and would take into account any comments or objections received during the representation period following publication of the statutory proposal. A final decision on the proposal would likely be taken in June 2025.


Headteacher: Ali Causton
Assistant Headteachers: Sam Berkery (Primary), Anna Beck (Secondary) and Olly Sagar (Green Lane)

You can give your views on the consultation by emailing the school at: consultation@grove-park.e-sussex.sch.uk. All comments must be received by 14 February, or they cannot be considered. Please answer the following questions when responding.

Question 1. Do you support the proposal to change the type of need catered for by Grove Park School? Yes, No, Unsure

Question 2. How would the proposed changes directly impact you and your family?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Allison', with a vertical line to its left.

Anne Allison
Chair of the IEB