

Public Consultation to close the Communication and Interaction (C&I) Resource Base (C&I) at Caldecott School

Proposal

This paper sets out the proposal to close the Communication and Interaction Resource Base hosted by Caldecott Primary school in Abingdon. It explains the reasons for proposing the closure and how Oxfordshire County Council is supporting children who have communication and interaction needs.

What is a Communication and Interaction Resource Base?

Resource Bases are facilities hosted by mainstream schools to provide specialist support and interventions to children with special educational needs. Communication and Interaction is a term used for children and young people who have particular difficulties with understanding what is being said and social interaction, this includes children with speech, language or social communication difficulties and those with autism and Asperger's syndrome.

The Communication and Interaction Resource Base hosted by Caldecott school

The resource base hosted by Caldecott School was originally established for children with speech and language needs, and from 2010 it broadened to include children with autism.

The number of pupils in the base has reduced over time and in 2012-13 there were only 3 pupils, all in year 6. Since September 2013 the base has been empty. There is another Communication and Interaction Resource Base in the South of the county at St Andrew's School in Chinnor and numbers have remained in double figures.

The number of all pupils across the Abingdon area has risen and this trend is forecast to continue. This means that Caldecott School has increased its pupil intake from September 2014. While the resource base is empty the school is using the classroom space to meet the increasing demand for places at the school.

Support for Children with Communication and Interaction Needs in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire aims to provide a broad range of ways and contexts in which children with Communication and Interaction needs are supported. This includes early intervention, specialist support for mainstream schools and a continuum of Communication and Interaction specialist provision. Wherever possible children are supported in their local area and the strategy is for each area of Oxfordshire (North, Central and South) to have one Communication and Interaction Resources Base. There is specialist advisory support provided by SEN Support Services (SENS) for all schools. Some partnerships of schools have also set up their own enhanced



provision, ensuring specialist support when needed and developing high quality inclusive practice across the partnership.

Proposal

This proposal to close a specialist resource base has not been taken lightly. The lack of demand for places in the resource base over recent years and increasing demand for school places at Caldecott have prompted this recommendation. The existence of the specialist provision at St Andrew's is meeting local needs. The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are also factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at Caldecott.

Oxfordshire County Council is formally proposing to close the Communication and Interaction Resource Base hosted by Caldecott School and are seeking your views on this proposal.

How to respond

Please email your views to diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting **Caldecott Base** in the subject line.

Alternatively, write to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, County Hall, FREEPOST Oxfordshire County Council.