



St Andrew's Church Junior School,
Dunstan Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, TA8 1ER

01278 783558
office@saja.theplt.org.uk

Headteacher: Wayne Higgins

Public Consultation – January 2026

Proposed addition of a specialist SEN Unit at St Andrew's Church Junior School

The three week consultation period commences Monday 12th January 2026 and closes at noon on Monday 2nd February 2026. It is very important that all those wishing to respond to this proposal do so within this timeframe to allow their comments to be considered by the decision maker.

Responses can be made on-line via the following link and must be received by noon on Monday 2nd February 2026: <https://forms.gle/fZPm1a2KDBpjWBh56>

Should you require a paper/word copy of the consultation form please contact:
office@saja.theplt.org.uk.

Introduction

The Trust Board of The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT), in agreement with Somerset Council and with the full support of the leadership team in the school is proposing the addition of a 12 place Special Education Needs (SEN) unit, with designation for Cognition and Learning with emphasis on Speech, Language, and Communication needs.

The proposal has met the criteria for a significant change to an academy and therefore a public consultation must be held on this proposal.

This document helps to explain the background to the proposal and the next steps of this process:

- What is being proposed
- Why is it being proposed
- Details of how the decision will be made
- How to submit a response

The Trustees are proposing to make a significant change to St Andrew's Church Junior School following the [Making Significant Changes to an Academy Guidance \(2025\)](#) issued by the Department for Education. This statutory proposal document contains all the relevant information to allow interested parties to decide whether to support the proposed change. The Priory Learning Trust Board must follow a statutory process for making prescribed alterations to schools. The publication of this statutory proposal and notices forms part of that process.

What is proposed?

The Local Authority have approached the school proposing a new building on the existing school site to create a dedicated 12 place SEN unit within the local community. Capital works required would be funded by High Needs Place Capital allocation, with places then funded through high needs block funding. Changes would support the Local Authority to meet their statutory functions around sufficiency of places for SEN provision. The unit will be designated to support children with Cognition and Learning Needs with an emphasis on Speech, Language, and Communication.

If the proposed change of the addition of a SEN unit goes ahead, admissions for places will be commissioned by the Local Authority through the high needs place planning process. Attending the school will not give children any additional priority for a place in the SEN unit.

Why is it being proposed?

St Andrew's Church Junior School values the importance of inclusion and supporting the needs of all children from the community in which we serve. This aligns with the Trust's values of student's first and ensuring a great education for every child.

Adding a SEN unit to the school will have a number of benefits:

- Dedicated SEN specialist provision for children within the community that they live, to support their individual needs
- Careful mapped and sequenced curriculum plans raising educational standards and outcomes for all
- A Trust wide focus on development of speech, language and communication needs through this unit and the Trust's existing resource base at Castle Batch Primary School and Burnham-on-Sea Infant School's specialist SEN unit to ensure good practice and quality professional development for staff.

- Access to qualified teachers and support staff all of whom are trained to understand the learning journey for every child.
- Access to school facilities for the children from the SEN unit through use of a classroom, school hall, grounds and a hot meal offered at lunchtime.
- Creating a new learning environment by access to appropriate funding.
- Access to an outdoor space specifically for their use.

How will the decision be made?

The three week consultation period commences on Monday 12th January 2026 and closes at noon on Monday 2nd February 2026. A Public Notice has been issued on the school website, around the school and in the local area.

The following stakeholders will also be directly notified;

- The Local Authority
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Parents and carers of pupils attending the school
- Parents and carers in the area
- Neighbouring schools
- The Admissions Forum for the school's area
- Trustees
- The Diocese
- Any other known local stakeholders

At the conclusion of the consultation period the Trustees of The Priory Learning Trust will consider all the responses to the consultation and (subject to any necessary consents being obtained) decide whether to proceed with the proposal by making a formal application for a significant change to add a SEN unit. The Regional Director for Education will then decide on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education whether proposals are in line with the needs of the local area.

How to submit a response

Responses can be made on-line via the following link and must be received by noon on Monday 2nd February 2026: <https://forms.gle/fZPm1a2KDBpjWBh56>

Should you require a paper/word copy of the consultation form please contact: office@saja.theplt.org.uk.