PROPOSAL TO EXPAND SPECIALIST RESOURCED PROVISION IN A MAINTAINED SCHOOL
APPLEBY PRIMARY SCHOOL, EDEN

Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (prescribed alterations to maintained schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

1. Name of Proposing Body and the Affected Educational Establishment

The proposing body is Westmorland and Furness Council, School Organisation Team, Post Box 304, Kendal, LA9 4GY.

The affected educational establishment is Appleby Primary School, Station Road, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria CA16 6TX. This is a foundation school.

2. Description of Alteration

Westmorland and Furness Council is proposing to expand the existing specialist SEND Unit, with a designation of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) at Appleby Primary School, from, eight places to twelve places. This will provide an additional four places for Key Stage 1 & 2 pupils at Appleby School. It is proposed that the provision will be established with effect from 5 January 2027.

3. Evidence of Demand

The council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) within the Local Authority.

Demand for specialist provision for children and young people with SEND has increased substantially over recent years.

Westmorland and Furness Council has a strategy that aims to secure access to a high-quality continuum of provision for all children and young people, enabling the majority of children and young people with additional needs to access local provision, with appropriate capacity and resources to meet need. The continuum comprises of various elements including the provision of specialist SEND Units within mainstream schools.

Resource Provision and SEND Units are designated areas and facilities within a mainstream school that enables support to be provided to pupils with specific types of special educational needs and disabilities. Such provisions allow pupils to access specialised support and resources tailored to their needs whilst also having access to mainstream resources and facilities as appropriate.

The Council proposes to enhance this continuum of provision by establishing and expanding specialist SEND Units and Resourced Provisions linked to mainstream schools.

This proposal is intended to ensure that Eden has sufficient school places for local children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

Analysis of demand data has demonstrated the increasing and ongoing demand for specialist places to meet the needs of children with autistic spectrum condition (ASC) needs in the area.

4. Objectives of Proposal

The objectives of the proposal are to:

- Increase the number of specialist SEND places for children with autistic spectrum condition (ASC) needs in the Eden area.
- Enable this cohort of children to be educated alongside their peer group whilst receiving specialist support as appropriate.

5. Effect on nearby Educational Institutions

The Local Authority is confident that the proposal will not adversely impact on other local schools. All relevant and local stakeholders have been consulted in relation to the proposal. An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared and updated following the consultation process.

6. Funding for the Proposal

No capital works will be necessary to extend this SEND provision as suitable accommodation is available within the existing school building. However, minor refurbishments are proposed. This will be funded from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation grant which is to be used to invest in new places for pupils with SEND in mainstream schools

The Local Authority's standard methodology for funding SEND places in specialist resource provisions and SEND Units will be applied to provide the revenue funding for the operational aspects of the SEND Unit.

7. Implementation and Any Proposed Stages for Implementation.

The proposed implementation date for the expansion of the resource provision at Appleby Primary School is 5 January 2027.

8. Objections and Comments

Within four weeks of the date of publication of this notice any person wishing to raise objections or make comments on the proposal may do so in writing by 29 November 2026.

Westmorland and Furness Council, School Organisation Team, Post Box 304, Kendal, LA9 4GY. Email: school.organisation.WAF@cumbria.gov.uk