

## Outwood Academy Acklam

### Proposal to change designation of Higher Needs Base Provision

Outwood Academy Acklam currently has a Higher Needs Base provision for students with **Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)**. Additional funding is provided by the Local Authority and the allocations of places to the base is done in conjunction with the LA on entry.

Over time we have successfully provided for students on the HNB leading to excellent academic and social outcomes. There is an increasing requirement within the Authority to provide mainstream spaces for young people with **Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**. For this reason our proposal is to change the Higher Needs Base designation from **MLD** to **ASD**

Some of these students may be at the high end of the disorder but it may be appropriate to attend a mainstream setting as opposed to a special school. Students from this cohort will be both successful and happy in a mainstream school placement given appropriate support through the Base, with regular contact and teaching by specialist staff.

The Academy will continue to work closely with the LA to provide collaborative staff training around ASD provision. The fundamental rationale is to support the primary offer by the LA for all students, enabling them to access mainstream education where this is appropriate. This is a fully collaborative process increasing capacity in mainstream whilst supporting special schools for high end cases.

This will not have any detrimental impact upon current or future students but will in fact enhance provision and support the LA core offer for all SEND students. We will continue to work successfully with all students who have special educational needs, in whatever category. The normal admission processes apply which, as always, will be followed precisely and fairly.

If parents or stakeholders wish to find out any further details or to raise any questions, please contact one of the colleagues below:

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