Proposal to Expand Specialist Provision at The Bridge School from September 2026

About This Consultation

Telford & Wrekin Council is consulting on a proposal to expand specialist educational provision by increasing the capacity of The Bridge School, through the use of accommodation on the John Fletcher of Madeley School site.

This document sets out the proposal and invites comments and representations from parents, carers, families, and other interested parties.

Summary of the Proposal

The proposal is to:

- Expand specialist provision offered by The Bridge School by 60 places
- Establish a co-located but separate primary specialist school and mainstream primary school on the John Fletcher of Madeley School site
- Implement the expansion from September 2026

Background and Rationale

Telford & Wrekin Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient and suitable school places available for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

There is a growing demand for specialist provision within the borough. This proposal is intended to:

- Increase local specialist capacity to meet the needs of children and young people with complex SEND, predominantly with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)
- Enable children and young people with SEND to be educated within the Telford and Wrekin borough
- Make effective use of existing education infrastructure

The proposal forms part of the Council's wider strategic planning for SEND sufficiency.

The Bridge School

The Bridge School is an established specialist school in Hadley, which provides education for children and young people with complex SEND. The school has

experience in delivering tailored support and specialist interventions to meet a range of needs.

The proposed expansion would create specialist provision in the south of Telford, in addition to the existing provision in Hadley, while maintaining the school's existing ethos and approach.

The proposal will include a significant refurbishment of the school site to ensure that the needs of pupils are met, including new sensory and quiet rooms, soft playroom, hygiene rooms, medical room, and improvements for accessibility.

Alongside this proposal, the school has changed its name from 'The Bridge at HLC' to 'The Bridge School' to reflect that the school operates from multiple locations.

The John Fletcher of Madeley School Site

The John Fletcher of Madeley School site, resides in Madeley and has been identified as suitable for the proposed expansion because it:

- Is an existing education site
- Has the capacity to accommodate specialist provision
- Is appropriately located

Falling birth rates and changing local demographics has over time led to a reduction in pupils at John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School which has meant there is unused capacity at the school.

As part of this proposal the mainstream school will undergo refurbishment to improve facilities at the school, including two new classrooms and a sensory room.

Admissions and SEND Processes

If the proposal is approved:

- Places will be allocated through Telford & Wrekin Council's established SEND processes
- Admission arrangements would continue to be made in accordance with statutory requirements
- This proposal would not automatically mean that your child moves to another school. Any request to transfer would need to follow the usual admissions process.

Individual placements would continue to be determined based on assessed need.

How to Respond to the Consultation

Telford & Wrekin Council welcomes comments and representations on this proposal by completing the Consultation Response Form. **Consultation ends 5pm on 22nd May 2026.**

You may wish to comment on:

- The overall proposal
- The identified need for additional specialist places
- Any issues or impacts you would like the Council to consider

All representations received during the consultation period will be carefully considered before a final decision is made.

What Happens Next

Following the consultation period:

- All responses will be reviewed and analysed
- A decision will be taken by Telford & Wrekin Council
- The decision will be communicated to parents via both schools

If approved, implementation planning would continue with the intention of opening the expanded provision in **September 2026**.

Further Information

If you require this information in an alternative format or have any questions about the consultation, please contact:

School Organisation: school.organisation@telford.gov.uk
Telford & Wrekin Council