



Dear parents, carers and pupils,

Why are we writing to you now?

New Siblands and Culverhill Schools want to join together and form a new special school Multi-Academy Trust in 2018 called Enable Trust. Enable Trust wants to win the right to open and run a new Special Free School in South Gloucestershire, and to do that we need to share our vision with parents and carers of students who would want to attend the School and the wider local community to outline our plans and, hopefully, get your support.

This letter talks about the new school and why we want to be chosen to set it up.

Background

South Gloucestershire is enjoying economic and population growth, and current forecasts show that we need more school places now that Warmley Park and New Siblands schools are full, despite expansion in recent years.

Who will the new school be for?

The new school would have 112 places for pupils from age 2-19 who need specialist education because they have an Education, Health and Care plan. South Gloucestershire has identified these children as needing a school for pupils with 'severe learning difficulties' and 'profound and multiple learning difficulties' which is the same 'designation' that New Siblands School has. South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset Councils have both agreed they would fund places for their pupils at this school and Bristol City Council may also commission places in the future. We would also be able to provide places for pupils who require a low stimulus environment.

Where is it likely to be?

The Council has proposed that the new school would likely be situated on land next to Marlwood School, in buildings they don't currently use.

When will it open?

We would look to open the school initially with places for nursery and primary in September 2019, with the school expanding to include secondary and Post 16 pupils and be full by 2021.

### Why do we think Enable Trust should run the new school?

Our vision for Enable Trust, including the new school, is to become a regional centre of expertise in educating pupils with a wide range of complex learning needs, and to ensure outstanding outcomes for pupils in partnership with agencies across education, health and social care.

We intend to deliver high levels of personal development, independence and life skills training to all pupils alongside ensuring strong academic progress through relevant curriculum and inclusion opportunities.

We want to ensure all pupils are engaged, believe in their ability to succeed and strive to be the best that they can be.

We will develop innovative learning environments with outstanding teaching and learning opportunities, with high quality resources and support in all of the Trust's schools.

All of the pupils in Enable Trust's schools will benefit from the specialist expertise we have built up and we intend to share this with other schools and organisations through an outreach service.

We believe we have unique experience, knowledge, skills and people to run the new Special School:

- Effective leadership with decades of experience and specific qualifications in specialist education
- An existing partnership with all of the current special schools in South Gloucestershire
- Existing partnerships and inclusion work with mainstream schools
- An Ofsted graded 'Outstanding' sixth form at New Siblands, and both Culverhill and New Siblands graded 'good' overall
- Prior consultancy to Lyde Green school on setting up their Autism resource base, sharing our experience to help create new school places
- A unique understanding of the holistic needs of pupils and families in relation to health and social care and options for continued learning after school age
- Strong and experienced Governor teams to ensure accountability for pupil outcomes

### Next steps

The closing date for us to submit our bid to run the new school is 24<sup>th</sup> November and then the Department for Education along with South Gloucestershire Council will consider all of the applications they receive and make a decision by early 2018. If you would like to give us feedback on our plans please email us by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017:

[enquiries@newsiblands.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@newsiblands.org.uk)

[office@culverhillschool.org.uk](mailto:office@culverhillschool.org.uk)