

SEND Unit Consultation at  
**Minsthorpe Community College**





## THE LOCAL SEND CONTEXT

**The number of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) continues to rise both locally in Wakefield and nationally. In 2025, the demand for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Wakefield was higher than the national average of 5.3%.**

It is crucial that the needs of Wakefield's most vulnerable children and young people are met locally, allowing them to remain part of their local community. To help meet this need, Minsthorpe Community College is consulting with key stakeholders, including parents and carers, about creating a SEND Unit at the academy.

### SEND UNIT PROPOSAL

Earlier this year, Wakefield Local Authority approached Minsthorpe Community College to explore the possibility of establishing a SEND Unit for students with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD).

The College was approached due to its strong track record of supporting students with additional needs and its successful establishment and operation of specialist SEND provision within the academy. Following initial discussions, we have agreed in principle to create a 12-place SEND Unit, with the first six places planned for September 2026 and a further six places planned for September 2027.

The proposed SEND Unit would provide specialist provision for students with Severe Learning Difficulties, enabling them to access a high-quality education within their local community while benefiting from opportunities to engage with the wider life of the academy where appropriate.

This proposal represents an exciting opportunity for Minsthorpe Community College to further enhance its inclusive provision and support the growing need for specialist SEND places across both the local area and Wakefield Local Authority.

While plans are still being developed, we are keen to gather the views of stakeholders to help inform the next stages of the proposal.

### SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Minsthorpe Community College, with the support of Wakefield Local Authority, would like to hear your views on this proposal.

**The consultation period will run for two weeks from 03/07/2026 to 17/07/2026.**

You can submit your comments and feedback through [Enquiries@minsthorpe.cc](mailto:Enquiries@minsthorpe.cc)

All feedback received during the consultation period will be carefully considered as part of the decision-making process.



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