



GREENWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

Consultation Report

Proposal to amend the Academy's official designation at Nethergate Academy

This report summarises the findings of the public consultation about the proposal to change the official designation as registered with the Department of Education from Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Autism Spectrum Conditions to include the category of Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD) at the Nethergate Academy. See below for further information.

The proposal being consulted on is to change the official designation from **1 September 2026**.

The Proposal

Nethergate Academy, part of the Greenwood Academies Trust, is a co-educational academy in the City of Nottingham which provides high-quality education for children and young people with special educational needs from age 5-19. Nethergate Academy has an 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating and has highly experienced and dedicated teaching and support staff who deliver an exciting and varied curriculum which ensures that learners have every opportunity to reach their full potential and learn the key skills to succeed in life. The academy is divided into 4 distinct phases: Primary, KS3, KS4 and 6th Form. All children admitted to the academy have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The academy offers places for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities including autism, social, emotional and mental health needs, communication and interaction difficulties, sensory and/or medical needs.

The proposal is to change the official designation to reflect the current cohort of children, and the children which Nottingham City Council are highlighting as priority placement children through their consultation processes.

This proposal will have no impact on current pupils or staff. It is a technical change only that is designed to give greater accuracy and clarity for future parents and help streamline the local authority's consultation process.

Background to the proposal

Over recent years, the profile and needs of the pupils attending Nethergate Academy have changed significantly. The academy was historically designated for children with Moderate Learning Difficulties and Autism Spectrum Conditions. The academy is increasingly supporting children with more complex needs which would be more appropriately aligned with Severe Learning Difficulties.

This shift has been gradual but sustained and are now in the position that the majority of the children present with significantly below age related cognitive functioning, profound difficulties in communication and interaction, complex sensory and regulation needs and high levels of dependency on adult support to access learning, meet their self-care needs and ensure that medical conditions are managed safely.

In addition, there has been a marked increase in pupils with co-occurring conditions such as autism, physical disabilities, medical needs alongside SEMH and sensory processing needs. These pupils require more intensive adult support, specialist interventions, adapted environments and therapeutic inputs throughout the school day and are more consistent with a SLD definition.

The academy's current designation no longer accurately reflects;

- The cognitive and developmental profiles of the majority of the pupils on roll
- The specialist level of support and provision required
- The curriculum pathways delivered
- The expertise and staffing model necessary to meet pupils' needs effectively

A change in designation to include SLD would reflect the changing needs of the pupil cohort and give better clarity for parents, professionals and outside agencies ensuring that placement decisions are appropriate and that pupils' needs are accurately recognised from the outset.

Consultation

The consultation period ran for a period of 4 weeks (3 weeks being in term time) and commenced on **Monday 23 February 2026** and end on **Monday 16 March 2026**.

The process involved the circulation of a letter (see Appendix 1) to a wide range of stakeholders including:

- All parents of pupils who attend Nethergate Academy
- All staff at Nethergate Academy
- Local Authority
- Local residents
- Union members
- Local Ward Councillors/MP
- All schools within Nottingham City
- Local community and faith groups / community centre, library, children's centre, leisure centre, medical centre, Clifton Town Board
- SEN providers providing services to Nethergate Academy
- NHS Commissioners

All information was published on The Nethergate Academy website as well as the Greenwood Academies Trust website.

The letter included an email address to respond to the consultation.

Results from respondents

We received a total of 2 responses to the consultation by email, both of which were extremely positive. Below gives a summary of the responses:

1. Local MP
I note that the proposal will have no impact on current pupils or staff, and is a welcome, technical change intended to give greater accuracy and clarity for future parents.

I have had the privilege of visiting Nethergate Academy on a number of times and have had the immense pleasure of meeting many Nethergate students to see first-hand the impact that the outstanding teaching and support provided at the Academy has had upon their learning and development.

2. Unknown

I agree with the proposal to add the severe category.

The school is fantastic with the support they offer the students and parents, and they deserve the recognition.

Conclusion

Only received 2 responses, which were both extremely positive, and after reviewing the comments, the Trust has agreed to proceed with submitting a significant change proposal to the Department for Education.

Next Steps

The consultation report will be added to the Nethergate Academy and Greenwood Academies Trust website.

A significant change application will be submitted to the Department for Education – this will then be reviewed by the Regions Group who will make the final decision.

Updates will be published on the Nethergate Academy website and the Greenwood Academies Trust website.

Julie Molde
Operations Manager
17 March 2026

Appendix 1 – Consultation Letter



Executive Principal: Mrs T Ydlibi
 Swansdowne Drive, Clifton, Nottingham NG11 8HX
 Telephone: 0115 9152959
 Email: admin@nethergateacademy.org
 Website: www.nethergateacademy.org

11 February 2026

Dear Stakeholder

Re: Proposal to amend the Academy's official designation from Moderate Learning Difficulties and Autism Spectrum Conditions to Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties and Autism Spectrum Conditions

I am writing to inform you that we are consulting on a proposal to change the official designation as registered with the Department of Education from Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Autism Spectrum Conditions to include the category of Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD) at the Nethergate Academy. Please find below further details about our proposal.

The proposal

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Consultation period

As part of this proposal, we are running a 3-week consultation period which will commence on **Monday 23 February 2026** and end on **Monday 16 March 2026** and we look forward to receiving your views.

How to give your views

Your views are very important to us, and we look forward to receiving your comments.

To submit your views, please email them to consultation@greenwoodacademies.org by 5pm on **Monday 16 March 2026**.

Information and updates will be posted on the www.nethergateacademy.org and www.greenwoodacademies.org websites under the news sections.

Decision-making following consultation

Following the consultation period, the Greenwood Academies Trust will review responses and propose to submit a Significant Change application to the Department for Education (DfE).

Updates will be posted on the academy and Trust websites.

Yours sincerely



Tracey Ydlibi
Executive Principal

The Nethergate Academy is part of the Greenwood Academies Trust

The Greenwood Academies Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registered number 06864339.
A list of Directors is available for inspection at the registered office, Greenwood House, Private Road No 2, Colwick Quays Business Park, Nottingham NG4 2JY
Further information about us is available at <http://www.greenwoodacademies.org>