



**Holy
Family
Catholic
Multi
Academy
Trust**

**Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust
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15 September 2026

Significant Change Consultation

The Element – Proposed Transition to School-Based Inclusion Bases

Dear Stakeholder,

Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust (HFCMAT) is consulting on a proposed change to the way in which secondary provision, currently delivered through The Element, is organised.

We are proposing to transition from the current off-site satellite model and develop school-based Inclusion Bases at St John Plessington Catholic College and St Mary's Catholic College during the 2026/27 academic year.

Building on the success of The Element

The Element has played an important role in supporting young people who have experienced significant barriers to accessing mainstream education. Through smaller teaching environments, personalised support and strong relationships with trusted adults, it has helped young people to re-engage with education, while also strengthening our understanding of effective inclusive practice.

We are incredibly proud of what The Element has achieved and grateful to the staff, pupils, families, schools and professionals who have shaped its development.

Why are we proposing this change?

The national direction for education is increasingly placing inclusion at the heart of mainstream education, with an emphasis on children and young people receiving the right support, at the right time and as close as possible to their local school community.

We believe school-based Inclusion Bases provide an exciting opportunity to build upon our experience of The Element, while strengthening the capacity of our schools to support a wider range of needs.

Our intention is to retain the approaches that have made The Element successful:

- Strong relationships
- Personalised teaching and learning
- Relational and restorative practice
- SEND and pastoral support
- Close partnership with families
- Carefully planned reintegration into mainstream education

What would this mean for current pupils?

There would be no automatic or unplanned change to an individual pupil's provision as a result of this consultation.

If the proposal proceeds, arrangements would be carefully planned with each pupil, their family, school and the relevant professionals. Continuity, stability and appropriate support would remain our priority.

Have your say

The consultation will run from Tuesday 15 September 2026 to Tuesday 6 October 2026.

We welcome feedback from pupils, parents and carers, staff, schools, local authorities, partner organisations and other interested stakeholders.

You can share your views through our consultation feedback form [Significant Change](#) or by emailing inclusion@hfcmat.com, using the subject heading *The Element Consultation*.

If you would prefer to discuss the proposal with us directly, please email the same address and we will arrange a mutually convenient opportunity.

Following the consultation, all responses will be carefully considered before a final decision is made. The outcome of the consultation and any next steps will be communicated to stakeholders.

The Element has helped HFCMAT develop a strong and increasingly confident approach to inclusion. Our ambition is to build on that success, enabling more young people to benefit from high-quality, relational and personalised support, while remaining connected to their school community.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this important consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Paul McColgan

Director of Inclusion

Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust