

AN INVITATION TO SPONSOR

THE NEW DINNINGTON SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST SCHOOL



Rotherham's new
dedicated SEMH
provision

www.rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for reading our prospectus for the new Dinnington Social, Emotional and Mental Health Special School.



We're looking for an inclusive school partner which shares Rotherham's vision for education and welcoming children to an environment where they will achieve and thrive.

Our SEMH special school, located in Dinnington, needs a sponsor which is able to create a world class education environment and an outstanding experience for the children and young people who will attend.



We're seeking a sponsor early on in the process of this exciting school development so that we can work together with parents, children and young people, the local community, partners and professionals who will be involved in delivering education for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties in Rotherham. We are committed to a strong process of co-production and our school partner will be too.



OUR MISSION

Rotherham Council is ambitious and wants to achieve good outcomes for children and young people, particularly those with special education needs and disabilities. The newly published SEND Strategy details Rotherham's four over-arching strategic outcomes for children and young people with SEND, which are:



- **WELLBEING**

All children and young people in Rotherham with SEND to enjoy good physical and mental health.

- **PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

All young people in Rotherham with SEND are well prepared and supported to exercise choice and control that enable them to enjoy fulfilling lives.

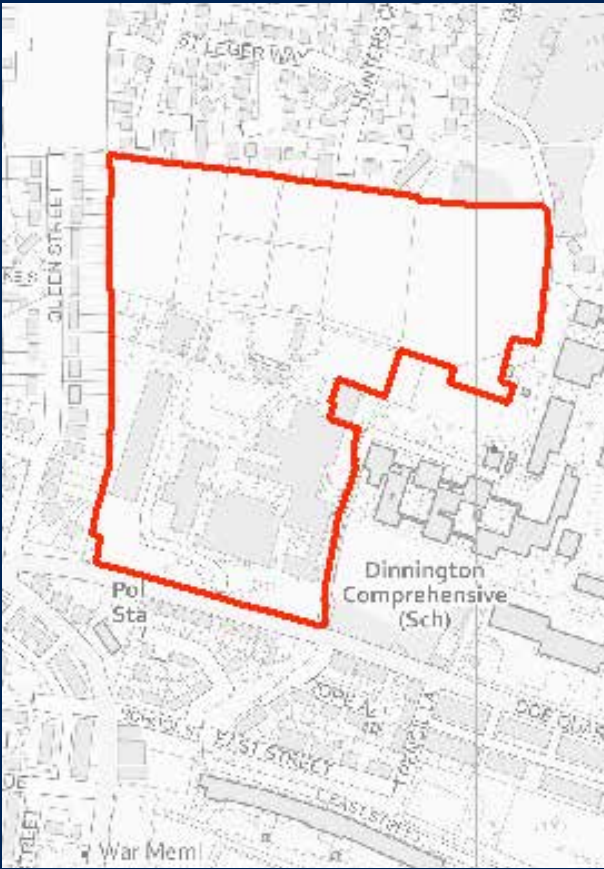
- **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARENTS VOICE**

All Children and Young People in Rotherham with SEND and their families have their voices heard and this makes a difference to their experiences and outcomes.

- **WHOLE CHILD PROGRESS**

All children and young people in Rotherham with SEND have positive opportunities to make progress in a person-centred way.

THE LOCATION



The Dinnington site has been an education centre in Rotherham for nearly 100 years having been originally established in 1928 to serve the education and training needs of the local mining community in South Yorkshire.

The site was developed over a number of years to offer a range of academic and vocational courses for a range of learners and was most recently a further education college, run by RNN Group. The site was modernised extensively as recently as 2015, as part of a £2.5 million investment by RNN.

The site is next to Dinnington High School off Doe Lea Lane in Dinnington and surrounded by green space, with additional parking and access points.

The proposed school buildings (marked A on the plan below) will have capacity for 125 pupils and the successful provider will have an opportunity to design internal space supported by Shared Agenda (Education Design Consultants).



BACKGROUND TO THE NEW SEMH PROVISION

At present requests for education, health and care plans for children with SEMH needs make up 47% of all current requests for assessment. In numbers, this equates to 290 children being assessed for this education need within the last 18 months (January 2019-June 2020). It is evident that this is an increased and ongoing demand for specialist education provision.

Rotherham currently has no specialist education provision to meet the needs of this group of children. As an alternative young people have had their needs met by Rotherham's Pupil Referral Units, a solution which is not recognised as good practice by Ofsted or recognised in SEN legislation. However, many of the skilled practitioners required to work with children with complex needs are based in Rotherham Pupil Referral Units. Other children are placed out of area in private special schools who can meet SEMH needs and a very small cohort attend neighbouring Local Authority SEMH schools in Sheffield and Barnsley.

OUTSTANDING PROVIDERS

The aim of this project is to offer specialist provision to children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs who have education, health and care plans. The first cohort of children will be those who are currently being educated in Rotherham's Pupil Referral Units. (The Rowan and Aspire Centres). Admission to the school will be via SEND Panel and via consultations, as per the SEND Code of Practice. We would like to work with a provider who has experience of meeting SEMH needs and supporting children to achieve and thrive.

SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

Rotherham is committed to an ethos of inclusion across all its schools. The new SEMH Special School will be in a unique position to develop a centre of excellence that meets the needs of children with complex and sometimes challenging behaviours. We would like to work with a school partner who will have a key role in the wider system, providing leadership and sharing expertise and good practice.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Children, young people and their families are at the heart of the education system. Rotherham Council is committed to work in partnership with parents and carers using the Four Cornerstone of co-production which form the basis of the Rotherham Charter rotherhamcharter.co.uk



The new SEMH Special School will need to be committed to the Rotherham Charter Principals and the four cornerstones of co-production.

The school will work with pupils from key stage 2 to key stage 4, offering both high quality primary provision and aspirational secondary provision.

“ Our aim is to ensure that our students **grow** as individuals as a result of the **support** that they receive. They **explore** their academic and personal capabilities and **achieve** in a way that will enable them to be successful in their lives ”

PROVISIONAL TIMELINE

The timescales for this project are ambitious and reflect Rotherham's desire to make appropriate provision for children and young people in a timely manner.

TIMETABLE

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| Deadline for Expressions of Interest | 12th March 2021 |
| DfE Feedback on expressions of Interest | 12th to 31st March |
| Assessment and Shortlisting Process | 12th to 31st March |
| Selection Panel | 19th to 23rd April |
| Recommendation to Regional Schools Commissioner of Preferred Sponsor for Approval by the Head Teacher Board | 26th to 30th April |
| Submission of all assessment documentation | 26th to 30th April |
| Regional Schools Commissioner notifies successful sponsor (*subject to approval at Headteacher Board) | 3rd May to 28th May |
| Local Authority notifies unsuccessful sponsors and provides feedback (*subject to approval at Headteacher Board) | 3rd May to 28th May |



ROTHERHAM INVESTMENT AND RESOURCES

There are a number of staff employed by Rotherham Council in the current provisions from both the Rowan Centre and Rotherham Aspire who will transfer, under TUPE regulations, to the new Free School.



Funding is currently provided for 121 pupils and equates £2,330,178 p.a.

The capital costs are estimated at £2.205m for the acquisition, partial demolition and adaptations. These works are to be funded from Rotherham Council's capital allocations. In addition the capital works will be supported by consultancy work with 'Shared Agenda' who are specialist SEND design consultants.

SHAREDAGENDA