



Vermont School joining Special Schools Trust (SST)

Frequently asked Questions

As we prepare for Vermont School to join Special Schools Trust (SST), we understand that families may have questions about what this means for Vermont and, most importantly, for your child.

We have put together some initial information below and will continue to keep families informed as we move forward together.

What is Special Schools Trust (SST)?

Special Schools Trust is a trust focused on specialist education. Becoming part of SST will provide Vermont with additional expertise, support and opportunities to work collaboratively with other specialist schools.

Why is Vermont joining SST?

We believe joining SST is a positive next step for Vermont and will help us build on the improvements already taking place across the school.

Being part of the Trust will provide additional capacity and specialist support as we continue to strengthen the quality of education, care and opportunities we provide for our pupils.

What will joining SST mean for my child?

Our pupils remain at the heart of every decision we make.

Our aim for joining SST is to further strengthen the education and support available to pupils at Vermont, through access to additional specialist expertise, shared knowledge and opportunities to learn from good practice across the Trust.

Most importantly, we will continue to focus on understanding and meeting the individual needs of every child.

Have Vermont and SST already been working together?

Yes. Vermont and SST have been working closely together since January 2026, so there is already an established relationship between the school and the Trust.

This period of working together has been very positive, providing opportunities to share expertise, strengthen practice and support the improvements already underway at Vermont.

Joining SST will build on this positive partnership, providing greater access to specialist knowledge, capacity and collaborative working for the longer term.

Will Vermont School change?

Vermont will continue to have its own identity and school community, with the needs of our pupils remaining at the centre of what we do.

Joining SST is about strengthening Vermont and building on the progress already underway. If there are any practical changes that will directly affect pupils or families, we will communicate these clearly and in good time.

Will Vermont School's name change?

Yes. When Vermont joins Special Schools Trust (SST), the school will also have a new name as part of this next chapter.

We recognise that the school's identity is important to our pupils, families and staff, and we want to ensure that this change is communicated carefully and positively. We will share the new name, along with further information about what the change will mean, with families in due course.

Although our name will change, our commitment to our pupils and families, and to providing the very best education, care and support for our young people, will remain at the heart of everything we do.

What does this mean for Vermont's improvement journey?

Joining SST is an important part of the next stage of Vermont's development.

We are proud of the progress being made across the school and remain clear that there is further work to do. Being part of SST will provide additional support and expertise to help us build on the improvements already made and ensure that they are sustained for the future.

When will Vermont officially join SST?

We will share the confirmed date and further information with families as soon as we are able to do so.

In the meantime, the school and SST will continue to work closely together to ensure a positive and well-planned transition.

Is the school still planning to move?

Yes. The planned relocation of the school is still very much part of our future plans. However, the timescale for the move has been delayed.

We appreciate that families will want clarity around the move, and we will share further information as soon as plans and timescales are confirmed. Until then, Vermont will continue to operate from our current site.

Which schools are already part of Special Schools Trust (SST)?

SST currently includes Rosewood School and Great Oaks School, both specialist schools supporting children and young people with a range of additional needs.

Across the Trust, the schools bring experience and expertise in supporting pupils with different and often complex areas of need. This creates opportunities for schools to share specialist knowledge, effective practice and resources, while ensuring that each school continues to respond to the individual needs of its own pupils.



Vermont joining the Trust will add to this shared expertise and strengthen opportunities for staff and schools to learn from one another.

Does joining SST mean my child will automatically move to Great Oaks for secondary education?

No. Joining SST does not mean that pupils at Vermont will automatically move to Great Oaks when they reach secondary age.

Decisions about a child's next school placement will continue to be made through the usual process, based on the individual needs of the child and the provision identified as appropriate for them. Being part of the same Trust does not create an automatic pathway or guarantee a place at Great Oaks.

We will continue to work closely with families and the relevant professionals when pupils are approaching transition to support planning for the most appropriate next steps for each young person.

Will I be kept informed?

Absolutely. We recognise how important clear communication is for our families.

We will continue to share updates throughout the process and will make sure families are informed of any developments that directly affect Vermont or their child.

What if I have further questions?

We appreciate that individual families may have questions specific to their child. If there is anything you would like to discuss that has not been covered in this FAQ, please contact the school and we will be happy to help.

We are very positive about this next chapter for Vermont and look forward to continuing to work together with our pupils, families and wider school community.