

## **The St Marylebone Church of England School**

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Dear Parents

### **St Marylebone School is applying to set up a Free Special School**

As a school St Marylebone has decided to apply to set up a Free Special School to enable us to provide the best possible education for those with Special Educational Needs, to provide a high quality education that is appropriate for the specific needs of the pupils and financed independently of the main school. The Free Special School will be called the St Marylebone Bridge Academy and will be situated next to the main school in purpose-built provision and, for the older students, located at Blandford Street.

The Free Special School will be state-financed in a way that allows the school to meet even more effectively the needs of pupils who might otherwise not gain full access to the curriculum. It will also enable us to teach specific SEN pupils in smaller groups than is financially viable with mainstream funding. We are hoping to have groups of five or six with qualified Special Needs teachers and well-trained Learning Support Assistants.

The school will be mainly for those pupils have speech, language and communication difficulties including those with dyslexia and complex needs according to their SEN Statement. We will be able to have speech and language therapists, occupational therapists as well as qualified dyslexia teachers to meet the specific learning needs of the pupils financed through the Free Special School. The great attraction of the new school is that the pupils will have access to mainstream teachers, lessons, examination groups where appropriate and all the Performing Arts facilities and Performing Arts teachers.

What we need from parents to satisfy the DfE requirements is letters of support from those of you who might have children with these needs or have friends in a similar position. The letters, which we need from you as soon as possible, would confirm that you or your friend would in principle name 'The St Marylebone Bridge Academy' for a child who has Speech, Language or Communication needs when it came to secondary transfer. We would need the letters of support in school by half term. [\*A template letter which you can adapt is available by clicking here.\*](#)

I do hope you will be able to help us to show the DfE that there is a need for a school providing a high quality education for those with Special Educational Needs and your firm belief that St Marylebone would provide that high quality education.

Elizabeth Phillips  
Headteacher

### **Specialist Arts, Maths and Computing College**

The St Marylebone Church of England School is a charity and an academy trust company, limited by guarantee, and registered in England and Wales. Company number: 7719620.

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