



Rushton CE First School
Sugar Street
Rushton Spencer
Macclesfield
SK11 0SG
Headteacher: Mrs S Cockersole
Tel: 01260 226303

Your reference SMD/2026/0022
 SMD/2026/0023

23/03/2026

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
By email

Dear Planning Team,

Location: Marsh Side Farm Tan House Lane

Proposal: This application seeks permission for a change of use of three existing agricultural buildings to a children's nursery, together with the erection of two tipis and the siting of three repurposed shipping containers to provide toilet facilities and a staff room. The tipis would be linked via two of the three shipping containers, with the third providing the staff room. There will be no alterations, extensions or demolition of the existing listed farm house building. The application also seeks permission to erect three identical agricultural buildings on the farm to provide shelter and storage for animals on the farm.

I wish to raise concerns about the potential impact of the proposed private nursery development on Rushton's existing school nursery provision. Rushton Nursery currently serves the local community and plays an integral role in providing early years education linked to the school. Introducing a private nursery in close proximity may draw prospective families away from the school nursery, leading to a reduction in pupil numbers.

A decline in nursery intake can have longer-term consequences for the school, including reduced future Reception numbers, potential funding implications, and challenges in maintaining staffing and provision at current levels. Rushton Nursery operates with a strong community ethos and limited capacity, and a sudden reduction in demand could impact both the sustainability of the setting and the continuity of early years education for local families.

Rushton CE First School is part of The Talentum Learning Trust. The Talentum Learning Trust Ltd is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company number: 9999238 Registered office address: The Talentum Learning Trust, Westwood College, Westwood Park, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 8NP

In addition, I would like to highlight concerns regarding site security. I would request that the proposed development ensures the site is completely secure from the land adjacent to Rushton CE First School. It is essential that clear and robust boundaries are in place to prevent unauthorised access, protect children's safety, and maintain safeguarding standards for both settings.

I ask that the planning authority carefully considers these issues and ensures that the impact on existing early years provision and on-site security is fully assessed before a decision is made.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Cockersole

Headteacher