

PRESS RELEASE

A new million-pound facility for children with social, emotional and mental health needs will be dedicated to a former secretary of Caister Lifeboat.

The Specialist Resource Base at Caister Infant and Junior Schools will be housed in The Derek George Building, named after the popular local man who ran the lifeboat charity for 24 years before his death July 2020.

The Chair of Norfolk County Council Penny Carpenter and the Mayor of Great Yarmouth Councillor Adrian Thompson will jointly open the new facility on Friday at 3.45pm.

Chairman of Norfolk County Council, and local elected member for Caister division Cllr Penny Carpenter said:

"I'm delighted to be part of the formal opening of this new base for primary school children. I'm sure it's going to provide excellent and much-needed additional support for youngsters with social, emotional and mental health needs in this area. It's thanks to an excellent working relationship between the county council and Caister Primary Federation that we have been able to provide this new building and its classrooms and a first-rate model for how the learning and support for children and families will work on a day to day basis."

The ceremony will be attended by Mr George's widow Vivienne and his family, along with his family and representatives of the lifeboat.

Executive Headteacher of Caister Primary Federation Jonathan Rice said:

"Derek was a giant figure in this village, and he is greatly missed by everyone who knew him. As well as his work with the lifeboat over decades, he was also a governor of the infant school and instrumental in bringing our two schools together, with all the benefits that has brought the children here. Without his vision, our federation of schools would not have happened. It's a pleasure and an honour to be able to celebrate his memory in this way."

The Specialist Resource Base will serve key stage two children from across East Norfolk who are struggling in their home school settings. Placements are short-term with the intention of reintegrating children back in their schools as soon as is practicable.

The Caister SEMH base is one of 11 new SRBs which have been newly built, improved, or expanded over the last two years as part of Norfolk County Council's £120 million transformation programme, which pledged to provide 500 new specialist education places.

New admissions for all SRBs are through a county admissions panel. Visit [this page](#) on the Norfolk County Council website for further information.