

09 September 2019

Kent County Council is proposing to make a prescribed alteration to St Nicholas (Community) Special School

Dear Parents/Carers, Students, Staff, Governors and Other Interested Parties

1. Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC) would like to hear your views on a proposal to make the following changes to St Nicholas Special School:

- Create satellite provision for 8 primary aged pupils at St Johns Primary School
- Create satellite provision for 32 secondary aged pupils at Canterbury Academy

St Nicolas (Community) Special School is a day provision providing for 268 boys and girls aged 4 to 19 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN). In addition to the main building at Holme Oak Close, the school also operates primary satellite provision at Chartham Primary School and Canterbury Primary School. St Nicholas School also has secondary satellite provision at Spires Academy and an informal arrangement at the Whitstable School, as well as with Canterbury College for post 16 students. This provides students with opportunities for integration at a mainstream school. The new satellites will provide additional opportunities and choice for integration for both primary and secondary St Nicholas pupils

2. Why are we consulting on proposals for St Nicolas Special school?

As the strategic commissioner of school provision, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the residents of Kent. This duty applies to special school provision, as well as mainstream settings. Kent County Council does not have enough local specialist provision in mainstream schools and too many children and young people have to go to a specialist school too far from home to have their education, health and care need met.

3. Why Satellite Provisions?

Following joint discussions between KCC, St Nicholas School, St Johns Primary School and Canterbury Academy, it was agreed that the proposed primary and secondary satellite provisions would be an exciting opportunity to work together to provide additional specialist places in Canterbury District. There is an increasing number of children with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) requiring Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision to meet their needs. It is anticipated that the satellites provisions will support pupils with complex learning difficulties including ASD rather than the full range of PSCN.

Both schools would host a specialist provision for children with St Johns Primary will be up to 8 Children whilst Canterbury Academy will be up to 32 children. They would have their own accommodation within St Johns Primary School and Canterbury Academy which would be staffed by St Nicholas School. Pupils attending the satellite would continue to have access to support their need and would be on roll of St Nicholas School and their EHCPs would name St Nicholas as their School.

These exciting proposals will bring significant benefits as the partnerships will enable staff skills and expertise to be developed by sharing good practice, joint training and observation. Pupils will benefit from inclusive school opportunities.

We propose to make these places available for September 2020 and between now and then staff at St Nicholas will work closely with parents to identify who might attend the new provisions. The pupils' needs, including their friendship groups, will be taken into account during this process.

4. How will the pupils in the satellite provisions be accommodated in the schools?

St Johns Primary School has identified a classroom which can be reconfigured to provide the space needed to create the satellite provision. Canterbury Academy will be provided with modular classrooms for the satellite provision. The children would have a class base where they can receive some individual and small group teaching. The class would also provide a base for Specialist Staff who will support the children when they are included in mainstream teaching groups with children of the same age. The children will be on the school roll of St Nicholas School and the specialist teacher and teaching assistant will also be provided by St Nicholas School. A specialist assessment of their needs will identify that they are suitable for mainstream school. The headteachers of the schools will discuss who is most appropriate and should be admitted

5. I have a question – who can I ask?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school or email:

school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

6. The consultation process – indicative timeline

Date	Information
09 September 2019 to 07 October 2019	Consultation period
15 November 2019	Following the consultation, all views received, either by post or email will be reported to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and the Cabinet Member
09 January to 06 February 2020	If the Cabinet Member decides to proceed with the proposals, KCC will publish a public notice for a four-week period in a local newspaper at the school and on the KCC and school website. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposals.
February 2020	The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to proceed with the proposals.
September 2020	Implementation, subject to agreement

7. How can I give my views on the proposals?

There are a number of ways to give us your views on this proposal:

- By handing you response form into reception at St Nicholas Special school.
- By emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- By sending the attached response form to Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House John Wilson Business Park, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3SS

All responses need to be received by midday on 07 October 2019.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations for further information.

Education Consultation

St Nicholas Special School

Consultation 09 September 2019 to 07 October 2019



4. What happens next?

This consultation period closes on 07 October 2019. A report summarising the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and the Cabinet Member will then decide whether to proceed with the proposal and publish statutory proposals in the form of a public notice.

The public notice would be published in a local newspaper, and for a period of four weeks following the publication date, any person can comment on the proposals. Having taken into account any responses, the Cabinet Member will then take a final decision on whether to proceed with the change of age-range.

Yours sincerely

Area Education Officer

We have completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. You can view the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2019 to 2023 at: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

You can view Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities at: www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy