



Five Acre Wood School
Boughton Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 9QF

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7th June 2016

To our families; our staff; members of our local community and other interested parties

Proposal to join The KSENT Co-operative Education Trust

The Governing Body of Five Acre Wood School is considering becoming a foundation school and formalizing our relationships with other Kent Special schools by joining the KSENT Co-operative Education Trust with 1st August 2016 as the proposed implementation date.

The rationale for this proposal can be summarised as follows.

- We are committed to continue raising expectations and standards in our schools and working to improve the future prospects for all of our learners.
- To do this - with the many changes taking place in education - we believe we need to build strong and long-term partnerships and make our school improvement planning more sustainable.
- Joining the KSENT Trust will allow us to build on the existing working relationships between Kent Special schools and support us all in seeking to:
 - Improve the quality of learning and teaching
 - Improve the wellbeing and behaviour of our young people
 - Enhance capacity by sharing resources and expertise
 - Improve value for money in a time of real terms reduction in funding
 - Support and develop current and future leaders

Trust schools are part of the local authority system, but supported by a charitable trust which would be represented on our governing body. It is important to be aware that our own governing body will continue to run the school, handle the school budget and be responsible for the performance of our school.

The Trust will support us when we need to work on shared priorities and will help to provide additional resources and expertise.

There is no intention of changing staffing arrangements as a result of these proposals.

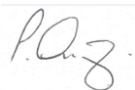
A summary of the proposals and the dates and times of consultation meetings can be found in the Consultation Summary that accompanies this letter. We hope you will join in the discussion and come to one of the meetings if you are able to. Responses can also be made by email to: KSENT@csnetwork.coop

Further information is provided in the full Statutory Proposal Consultation document which can be obtained from the school or downloaded from the website www.fiveacrewood.co.uk.

Yours sincerely



Peggy Murphy
Headteacher



Peter Ananicz
Chair of Governors

Consultation Summary information



The Reason for the Consultation:

The Governing Body for each of the following schools is proposing to change their legal school category from community to foundation (except for Broomhill Bank School, which is already a foundation category school) and proposing to acquire charitable status by joining with other schools who are already part of the KSENT co-operative Trust. **(Kent Special Educational Needs Trust)**

- Five Acre Wood School, Boughton Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9QF
- The Foreland School, Lanthorne Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3NX
- Harbour School, Elms Vale Road, Dover, Kent CT17 9PS
- Laleham Gap School, Ozengell Place, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6FH
- The Orchard School, Cambridge Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3QQ
- Ridge View School, Cage Green Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4PT
- St Anthony's School, St Anthony's Way, Margate, Kent CT9 3RA
- Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0TB

This letter and summary information provides an introduction to the Proposal - including how we are planning to develop and improve our schools - and why we think that joining the Kent Special Educational Needs Trust will help us to achieve this.

Copies of this information are available at our schools as well as electronically from our websites.

What we would like you to do

We would like to know what you think of our proposals so we invite you to take part in our public consultation. You can do this by:

- Reading this information and asking for further information if you need any.
- Attending one of the consultation meetings, details of which are shown below.

You can respond to the consultation:-

- By joining in the discussion at one of the meetings
- By completing the Consultation response forms, which are available from our schools.
- By sending comments or requests for further information in writing to: "Consultation" at the school address, shown above.
- By sending comments or requests for further information by email to: **KSENT@csnetwork.coop**

THE BACKGROUND

Several Kent special schools are already members of the KSENT Trust.

- We want to join this partnership and formalise our arrangements for collaboration to further improve each of our schools as part of the KSENT group.
- We are proposing that our schools all become Foundation Trust schools, supported by the KSENT Trust. Governors are seeking your views and will take these into account in deciding whether or not to proceed with the Proposal.
- We believe that joining KSENT at this point will allow us to develop our work together for the next few years, while the recently announced new government policies in education are further clarified, rather than rushing into a major upheaval at this point in time.
- Being part of KSENT would secure the working partnership and be a ready-made model if the proposal for all schools to become academies by 2022 is in fact the situation we face in the future. However, we do not feel that pursuing academy status is right for our schools at this point in time and this first step allows us to keep our options open over the next few years.
- One of the main attractions of the co-operative trust model is that it will enable our schools to continue to work in the same way as we currently work and retain our individual characters. We value the diversity and range of school types and are not trying to make our schools the same, but rather to ensure what is unique about our schools is preserved in the future.
- KSENT is a co-operative, “not for profit” organisation, in which members are mutually responsible for supporting each other, but not liable for each other. The trust is a legal entity, recognised as such by KCC and the national government.

THE VISION AND VALUES OF KSENT: KENT SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TRUST

Our vision is to achieve substantial and sustained improvement of standards across a dynamic learning community where all the young people we serve have their individual needs met.

- We want to ensure that local schools remain accountable to local people; this will be the case for all schools in the trust. Irrespective of which school our young people attend, we see them as our shared responsibility.
- Across all our schools, we will focus on:
 - Improving the quality of learning and teaching
 - Improving the wellbeing and behaviour of our young people
 - Enhancing capacity by sharing resources and expertise
 - Improving value for money in a time of real terms reduction in funding
 - Supporting and developing current and future leaders
- These strategic goals will be addressed through our shared Trust Action Plan which will be based on regular audits of strengths and areas for development across the whole family of schools.
- We believe that the values of a co-operative schools’ trust match our existing values but also enables us to be part of a wider national network of schools with complimentary values. This ensures we are outward looking, in our drive to make all our local schools the very best they can be for the children and young people and the families we work for.

We are arranging a series of almost 20 discussion meetings to provide further information.

At these meetings, we will provide further details and there will be opportunities to discuss our reasons for joining the KSENT family. We hope you will be able to join us – you are welcome to come to whichever meeting is most convenient for you. If you are unable to get to any of these meetings, please do still let us know if you have any particular views about the Proposal.

| Venue | Meeting dates, times and audience | | |
|---|--|----------|------------------|
| Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0TB 01892510440 | Weds 22 nd June | 6:30 pm | Parents & Public |
| | (North site, Tunbridge Wells) | | |
| | Thurs 23 rd June | 3:00 pm | Parents |
| | (West site, Swanley) | | |
| Five Acre Wood School, Boughton Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9QF 01622 743925. | Tues 21 st June | 8:30 am | Staff |
| | Weds 22 nd June | 10:30 am | Parents |
| Harbour School, Elms Vale Road, Dover, Kent CT17 9PS 01304 201964 | Tuesday 21 st June | 2:15 pm | Parents |
| | | 3:30 pm | Staff |
| Laleham Gap School, Ozengell Place, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6FH 01843 570958 | Monday 20 th June | 5:30 pm | Parents |
| | | 6:00 pm | Public |
| | Tuesday 21 st June | 3:45 pm | Staff |
| Ridge View School, Cage Green Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4PT 01732 771384 | Monday 20 th June | 9:30 am | Parents |
| | Weds 22 nd June | 3:45 pm | Staff |
| St Anthony's School, St Anthony's Way, Margate, Kent CT9 3RA 01843 292015 | Weds 22 nd June | 2:00 pm | Parents |
| | | 3:00 pm | Staff |
| The Foreland School, Lanthorne Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3NX 01843 863891 | Weds 22 nd June | 9:30 am | Parents |
| | Thursday 23 rd June | 3:30 pm | Staff |
| The Orchard School, Cambridge Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3QQ 01227 769220 | Monday 20 th June | 2:15 pm | Parents |
| | | 3:15 pm | Staff |
| | | 5:30 pm | Public |

Thank you for your interest.