

Education Consultation

Five Acre Wood School



3 March to 31 March 2020

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

Proposed change to Five Acre Wood School, Boughton Lane, Maidstone ME15 9QF to increase the Designated Number from 465 to 580 places from September 2020.

1. Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC), with support from the school, proposes to increase the Designated Number of places offered at Five Acre Wood School from 465 to 580 places. The establishment of the Palace Wood Primary satellite and the expansion of the existing Secondary satellite at Holmesdale in 2019 has enabled additional capacity to be made available within the main school buildings. The school has also undertaken internal reconfigurations within the main school site to create additional teaching areas.

2. Why are we consulting on the proposed changes to Five Acre Wood?

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. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be viewed from this link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

The demand for Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision has continued to grow and the pressure for places at Five Acre Wood School has increased commensurately, with strong parental preference. The school is keen to support additional students, making efficient use of the main school accommodation to increase its place capacity, whilst also ensuring it maintains its high quality of education.

3. Will the increase in Designated Number require additional accommodation?

The majority of the additional teaching capacity has been created by internal reconfiguration within the main school accommodation. The school has remodelled existing teaching spaces to create 3 additional classrooms, whilst also making effective use of specialist resource rooms. The remainder of the capacity has been created at the Holmesdale satellite, with the school now taking over the remainder of the Wolfe building and internally remodelling to provide additional learning spaces.

4. Will this proposal mean that Five Acre Wood School will lose their ethos or lose focus on the quality of education?

Five Acre Wood is judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, with leadership and management recognised as outstanding. The school meets the needs of all groups of pupils and pupils make outstanding progress; their achievement is excellent compared with pupils of the same age in other schools. The school uses its current partnerships with other schools well to extend its range of learning for some pupils, school leaders recognise there is scope to build on this further. The school will recruit additional staff as required to ensure that the high quality of education can be maintained for the additional pupils.

5. What are the financial implications?

There is no requirement for further additional accommodation to be provided for the proposed increase in the school's Designated Number, and therefore no capital expenditure relating to this proposal. Five Acre Wood will receive funding for the additional pupils that it admits in line with the funding allocated to special schools through KCC's funding formula.

6. 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

7. The consultation process - indicative timetable

03 March 2020	4 weeks public consultation period.
18 March 2020	'Drop-in' information session at Five Acre Wood School.
05 May 2020	The outcome of the Education Consultation will be reported to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee.
May/June 2020	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education considers all responses and decides whether to continue with the proposal.
June/July 2020	Cabinet Member decides whether to proceed with a 4 week Public Notice; be published in a local newspaper, displayed at the school and available on the school and KCC websites. During the notice period comments and objections can be made about the proposal.
February 2020	The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to confirm his decision.
September 2020	Subject to consideration of any objections, the proposal is implemented.

8. How to give your views on the proposal?

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

- A 'drop-in' information session is being held at Five Acre Wood School on Wednesday 18th March 2020, 15.45 to 18.00.
- By handing your response form into the Five Acre Wood School, Boughton Lane, Maidstone ME15 9QF; or Palace Wood Primary School, Ash Grove, Allington, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0AB; or Holmesdale School, Malling Road, Snodland ME6 5HS
- By emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- By sending the response form to Nick Abrahams, KCC Area Education Officer (West Kent), West Kent Area Office, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.
- All responses must be received by midnight on **31 March 2020**.

Yours sincerely



Nick Abrahams
Area Education Officer, West Kent

Additional information

- 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
- KCC is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. You can view the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2020 to 2024 at: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
- You can view KCC's strategy for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities at: www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy

EDUCATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please complete this response form by **no later than Midnight on 31 March 2020** and return it by:

- handing your response form into the office at Five Acre Wood School; or Palace Wood Primary School, or Holmesdale School
- emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- posting the response form to Nick Abrahams, KCC Area Education Officer (West Kent), West Kent Area Office, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Do you agree with the proposal to increase the Five Acre Wood Designated Number from 465 to 580 places from September 2020?

Yes No Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?

Parent/Carer Member of Staff Governor Pupil

OR - Other interested party (please state interest).

Comments

Please provide your comments overleaf if necessary

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- KCC is the 'controller' under the General Data Protection Regulation and ensure that any personal information is processed fairly and lawfully. We will share your responses only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.
- KCC has 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
- You can view KCC's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020 to 2024 at: <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s88604/KCP%202019%20-%202023%20Cabinet%20Committee%20-%20FINAL%20PW.pdf>

Comments continued: