

PROPOSALS TO MAKE PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO FORELAND FIELDS (FOUNDATION) SPECIAL SCHOOL, NEWLANDS LANE, RAMSGATE, KENT, CT12 8SQ

Introduction

The proposals to make a prescribed alteration to Foreland Fields (Foundation) Special School, Newlands Lane, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 8SQ are being published by Kent County Council. Contact Name and Address: Marisa White, Area Education Officer (East Kent), Children, Young People and Education, Education Planning and Access, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, CT5 3SS Tel: 03000 418794

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School details

Foreland Fields (Foundation) Special School is a day provision providing for pupils aged 2 to 19 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN), including Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Foreland Fields moved into their new purpose-built school in February 2017. In addition to the main building, the school already operates a primary satellite class at Garlinge Primary and Nursey School for Key Stage 2 pupils and a Key Stage 3 satellite class with Hartsdown Academy (suspended during the recent building programme but planned to re-open following planning discussions with the Academy). The new satellites will provide additional opportunities and choice for integration for both primary, secondary and post -16 Foreland pupils.

Foreland Fields School was judged 'Good' by Ofsted in November 2017.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

In accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Kent County Council intends to make the following prescribed alterations to Foreland Fields:

- Establish a satellite provision for 6 Year R/Key Stage 1 primary aged pupils at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.
- Establish a satellite provision for 12 Key Stage 4 students and 12 Post -16 students at EKC Group (Broadstairs College).
- Increase the designated number from 200 to 230.

The satellite provisions will support pupils with complex learning difficulties including Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) rather than the full range of PSCN (profound, severe and complex needs).

Foreland Fields is unable to expand further on its current site and demand for PSCN Special School places in Thanet is increasing. The establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream education sites provides additional capacity whilst also enabling the school's expertise to be shared with the host school and provide Foreland Fields students the opportunity to integrate (where appropriate) with mainstream peers. Foreland Fields is proposing to establish a satellite provision for reception/Key stage 1 at Garlinge Primary School, expanding the current Key Stage 2 provision and establishing a satellite for Key Stage 4 and post-16 students at EKC Group, Broadstairs College.

Garlinge Primary School and EKC Group have identified areas within their current buildings which would be reconfigured to provide the space for satellite provisions. Pupils and students would have a class base where they will receive some individual and small group teaching, following the Foreland Fields curriculum. The accommodation would also provide a base for Specialist Staff who will support the pupils when they are included in mainstream teaching groups with pupils and students of the same age. The Headteachers of the schools and Heads

of Department for the College and Foreland Fields will review who is most appropriate for admission to the satellite classes, subject to parental support.

The satellite classes will 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. This proposal provides pupils with opportunities for integration to experience good models of learning and socialising.

The increasing demand for special school places in Thanet district, particularly for pupils with complex learning difficulties including ASD, has led to Foreland Fields School taking additional children. Foreland Fields Special School is unable to expand on its main school site in Ramsgate. To meet the increasing demand the establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream school sites provides additional required capacity, enables the school's expertise to be shared with the host school and also provides Foreland Fields students the opportunity to integrate, where appropriate, with mainstream students. Establishing satellite provisions for the school is in line with our vision to ensure that children and young people in Kent get the best start in life and the 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent 2022-2026'.

The Commissioning Plan is available at this link: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

Objectives

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, including sufficient special educational needs places.

- Ensure there are sufficient special school place available for children in Thanet district.
- Ensure that there is sufficient local provision through SRPs and satellites at mainstream school sites.
- Children with Complex needs and ASD will be able to attend satellite provision in mainstream primary and secondary schools. Children will have a class base in the school, where they can receive some individual and small group teaching. The class will 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 effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

It is not envisaged that this proposal will impact on other schools. The nearest Special School provision for children with PSCN is in Canterbury district.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved:

The total capital expenditure for this proposal is £124,471 and is funded from the Basic Need Capital budget. Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the school to resource each new learning space. At present this is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

Should the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills agree that the proposals can go ahead, the establishment of the satellite provisions will be implemented September 2022.

Special educational needs (SEN) provision

The overarching aim of Kent's SEND strategy is to improve the health, well-being, attainment and progress, and the quality of provision, for children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities. The SEND Strategy can be obtained from the following link: www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy

Travel

Foreland Fields site has adequate parking and a drop off facility for the taxis and minibuses that transport the children to the school and satellite provisions. Transport arrangements will be co-ordinated by a senior member of Foreland Fields staff and arrangements will be agreed with parents.

Consultation

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with. A public consultation was carried out by the Local Authority in partnership with Foreland Fields School, Garlinge Primary School and East Kent College between 20 January 2022 to 24 February 2022. Two public drop-in events were also held on the 1 February 2022 to give stakeholders the opportunity to find out more and ask questions regarding the proposal. Consultation documents were produced together with an on-line response form for Foreland fields, Garlinge Primary School and Nursery and East Kent College. Copies of these documents together with a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment can be obtained from KCC's website. www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

The consultation documents were distributed to statutory stakeholders, including but not limited to the following groups:

- The staff, governors and parents/carers of students attending Foreland Fields Special School, Garlinge Primary School and Nursery and EKC Group.
- The Dioceses of Canterbury and Southwark
- Chief Executive and Leader of Thanet District Council
- Kent County Council elected members
- Local MP
- NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group
- Schools in Thanet
- Special schools in East Kent
- Local authorities maintaining an ECHP in respect of a registered pupils at Foreland Fields School

All stakeholders were able to access copies of these documents on the KCC website and the schools and college websites.

The outcome of the consultation was reported to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills who agreed that a public notice should be published on the proposals.

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

A public notice was published in a local newspaper on 20 April 2022. Each parent/carer of a child at Foreland Fields Special School has been provided with a copy. The notice is displayed at all main entrances to the school. It is also available on KCC's website: www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal to Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3SS. Tel: 03000 418794; or email school.consultations@kent.gov.uk The final date for sending in written representations is 18 May 2022.