

**PROPOSAL TO CREATE SATELLITE PROVISION OF ST NICHOLAS
(COMMUNITY SPECIAL) SCHOOL, HOLME OAK CLOSE,
NUNNERY FIELDS, CANTERBURY CT1 3JJ**

Introduction

The proposal to make a prescribed alteration to St Nicholas (Community Special) School, Holme Oak Close, Nunnery Fields, Canterbury, CT1 3JJ for 1 September 2022 are being published by Kent County Council.

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Publication Date: 9 June 2022

School details

St Nicholas (Community Special) School is a day provision, providing for boys and girls aged 4 to 19 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN). The school has a designated number of 285. In addition to the main building at Holme Oak Close, the school also operates primary satellite provision at Chartham Primary School, Canterbury Primary School and St John's C.E. Primary School. St Nicholas School also has secondary satellite provisions at Spires Academy, Canterbury Academy, as well as with Canterbury College for post 16 students. These satellites provide students with opportunities for integration at a mainstream school or College. The new satellite will provide additional opportunities and choice for integration for St Nicholas pupils

St Nicholas School was judged "Good" by Ofsted in July 2018.

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 St Nicholas' School:

- Create satellite provision for 24 primary aged pupils at Parkside Primary School.
- Increase the designated number from 285 to 310

St Nicholas is unable to expand further on its current main site and demand for local PSCN Special School places in Canterbury District 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 St Nicholas students the opportunity to integrate (where appropriate) with mainstream peers. St Nicholas is proposing to establish a satellite provision for 24 primary aged pupils at Parkside Primary School.

Parkside Primary School currently hosts the St Nicholas Nursery on site and the old swimming pool building area was identified as a location that could be redeveloped to create the new satellite provision. A new modular building will be provided on the site with facilities to include two classrooms, therapy room and additional small rooms. Pupils would have a class base where they will receive some individual and small group teaching, following the St Nicholas 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 at St Nicholas and Parkside will review who is most appropriate for admission to the satellite classes, subject to parental support.

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

The pupils attending the satellites would continue to have access to all the support they require and would be on the roll of St Nicholas Special School. Their Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) would name St Nicholas as their school. Significant benefits have been identified as the proposal will develop and strengthen partnership between the provisions and enable staff skills and expertise to be developed through joint training, curriculum development and the sharing of good practice. Pupils will benefit from an inclusive school environment.

The increasing demand for special school places in Canterbury district, particularly for pupils with complex learning difficulties including ASD, has led to St Nicholas taking additional children. St Nicholas is unable to expand on its main school site in Canterbury. To meet the increasing demand the establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream school sites creates the additional required capacity, enables the school's expertise to be shared with the host provisions and also provides St Nicholas students with the opportunity to integrate, where appropriate, with their mainstream peers.

The Kent 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 Canterbury district.
- Ensure that there is sufficient local provision through satellites at mainstream school sites.
- Children with Complex needs and ASD will be able to attend satellite provision in mainstream primary and secondary schools.

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 Swale district.

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

Parkside Primary School has identified the old swimming pool building area as a location that can be redeveloped to create the new satellite provision. A feasibility was commissioned, and a new modular building will be provided on the site with facilities to include two classrooms, therapy room and additional small rooms. The capital cost for the project is £270,000 and will be funded through the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation 2021/2022.

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

The St Nicholas School 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 St Nicholas 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 between 29 February 2022 to 28 March 2022. Consultation documents were produced for St Nicholas School and Parkside Primary School and 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 St Nicholas School, Spires Academy and The Canterbury Primary School.
- The Dioceses of Canterbury and Southwark
- Chief Executive and Leader of Canterbury City Council
- Kent County Council elected members
- Local MP
- NHS Canterbury & Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group
- Schools in Canterbury
- Special schools in East Kent
- Local authorities maintaining an ECHP in respect of a registered pupils at St Nicholas School
- All stakeholders were able to access copies of these documents on the KCC website and the school's 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 09 June 2022. Each parent/carer of a child at St Nicholas School has been provided with a copy. The notice is displayed at all main entrances to the schools. 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 07 July 2022.