

Education Consultation

To Pupils, Parents/Carers, Staff, Governors and Stakeholders
20 February 2018

Kent County Council is proposing to relocate and expand St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Windmill Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4UU, from 140 places to 210 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 20 to 30 Year R places from September 2019.

1. Why do we need to expand and relocate St Peter's Church of England Primary School?

Kent County Council (KCC), with the support of the Governing Body, would like to relocate and expand St Peter's Church of England Primary School to help provide improved Primary education facilities and more places for local children. KCC as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22 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>

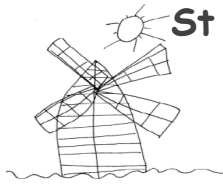
The proposed expansion will serve to meet the additional demand for Primary school places arising from new housing at Hawkenbury and localised demand for school places from the indigenous population. The relocation of the school to new, purpose built accommodation will significantly improve and increase the facilities available for its pupils.

Why St Peter's Church of England Primary School?

St Peter's was judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in March 2014. For the Reception Year intake in September 2017 the school received a total of 107 parental preferences, of which 20 were 1st preferences, for a published admissions number (PAN) of 20.

St Peter's is a Church of England School that aims to provide a happy, secure and Christian learning environment in which every child can achieve academic and personal success. Each child is valued and encouraged. The school recognises that all children have potential and does its best to provide a caring and well-ordered environment in which they can learn and develop.

The existing school is currently split over three sites, with relatively poor quality accommodation and access only to rented playground space nearby. Therefore, the relocation provides the opportunity to integrate the school into one location, whilst



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also improving the educational facilities and increasing the number of places available for local children.

2. Are there plans to show how this expansion will be delivered?

KCC has completed a feasibility study and are working with the school to establish plans for the new accommodation to ensure that it provides enhanced and improved facilities for its pupils. The new accommodation required for the proposals will be subject to separate planning requirements, which will require further public consultation. Stakeholders, including local residents, will have an opportunity to view the plans, ask questions and make comments. This will enable the design team to take into consideration all views before submitting final plans for approval.

3. How will the school deal with any possible increased traffic and congestion?

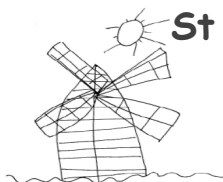
Traffic and parking assessments will be carried out as part of the design and planning process. The school's travel plan will be updated and utilised by the school to encourage families to find alternative ways of travelling to school in order to reduce the number of car journeys.

4. Why is the school proposed to expand to 1 Form of Entry?

For provision planning purposes KCC's forecasting methodology produces forecasts according to planning groups. These planning groups are nationally recognised by central Government. The current forecasts for the Tunbridge Wells town area and the specific planning group of Tunbridge Wells South indicates an overall surplus of places, although below the 5% minimum target surplus in some years. The planning group forecasts and preference data do not fully represent the local demand within the Hawkenbury area. The limited places at St Peter's and lack of availability at other local schools necessitates extended travel to learn distances for children who cannot secure places at St Peter's.

The Hawkenbury Farm development has planning consent to provide 235 new homes. The estimated pupil yield from the development is circa 70 Primary aged children, across the seven Primary year groups. This demand is not reflected in the forecast data and will, over time reduce the surplus of places. The full pupil impact will not be forthcoming until the houses are built and sold, with the first occupations anticipated in 2019 and final completion over several years.

Viewed holistically, the demand for school places justifies and necessitates the expansion of St. Peter's to 1 Form of Entry (1FE) i.e. 10 additional places per year group, which equates to a total of 70 additional places or a 50% increase in the overall size of the school. The forecast demand does not support the demand for a further 1FE i.e. 280 additional places or 200% expansion on the school's current size. Early expansion beyond 1FE would create a detrimental impact on Primary



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schools within the locality, due to excessive surplus capacity impacting on pupil numbers and the associated income.

It is anticipated that there will be a future demand for additional places, in particular from new housing developments arising through the Borough Council's Local Plan process. It is therefore intended to seek planning consent for a 2FE school and to build St. Peter's with larger ancillary facilities to accommodate 2FE when this is demonstrably required.

The School's Governing Body's preference is for a 2FE school to be built immediately; however, in the interest of proceeding with the project, the Governing Body has confirmed its support to relocate the school with an expansion to 1FE and a 2FE core.

5. Will the expansion adversely affect the school's operation during the building work?

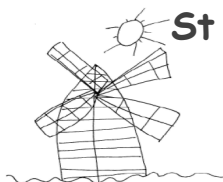
The initial building works will be completed on a separate site to the existing school and therefore there will be no notable disruption to the school's operation. The school will be designed on the basis of phased expansion to 2FE, enabling any disruption to be minimised in any future expansion.

6. How will the expansion happen and how many children will there be at the school?

KCC will commission 10 additional Reception Year places each year, in order that the school would grow incrementally over a 7-year period until it reached a total of 210 places. The table below shows the phased increase proposed for the overall capacity of the school, with 10 additional Year R places permanently available each year from 2019/20. However, the Governing Body is considering whether to offer additional places in Years 1-6. This decision will be reached during the 2017/18 academic year and communicated through the school's website.

Published Admission Number Planned Increase

| Academic Year | Year R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2019/20 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 150 |
| 2020/21 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 160 |
| 2021/22 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 170 |
| 2022/23 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 180 |
| 2023/24 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 190 |
| 2024/25 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 200 |
| 2025/26 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 210 |



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7. Will there be enough playground space?

The proposed new school site is appropriately sized to accommodate a full 2FE primary school including playground and sports facilities. As part of the feasibility, the design team will focus on providing suitable on-site hard and soft play space. The school will plan how best to use the space to meet the needs of its pupils and to make the facilities available for community usage on a commercial basis.

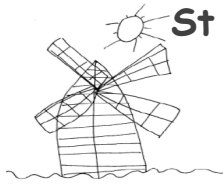
8. What additional funding will St Peter's Church of England Primary School receive?

Revenue Funding: Furniture and Equipment - £6,000 per new classroom will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the School to purchase the required equipment.

Pupil Growth Funding: the school will receive growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and the Schools' Funding Forum.

9. The consultation process – indicative timeline

| Date | Activity |
|--|--|
| Tuesday 20 February 2018 to Tuesday 20 March 2018 (midnight) | Public Consultation Period |
| 7 March 2018 18:30-20:30 | A 'drop-in' information session will be held at St Peter's Hall, North Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, NT2 4SS |
| 8 May 2018 | The outcome of the Education Consultation will be reported to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee. |
| May 2018 | The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education considers all the comments and decides whether to continue with the proposals. |
| May – June 2018 | If the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education decides to proceed with the proposals a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, displayed at the school and available on the school's and KCC's website. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal. The Public Notice will run for 4 weeks. |
| June 2018 | The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education considers all responses made and decides whether to confirm his decision. |
| June – July 2018 | Statutory Stakeholders have 4 weeks to appeal the decision |
| September 2019 | Subject to consideration of any objections, the proposals are implemented |



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10. How can I give my views?

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

- A 'drop-in' information session is being held at the St Peter's Hall on **7 March 2018, 18:30-20:30** where there will be the opportunity to ask questions and complete a response form.
- By handing your response form into the St Peter's Church of England Primary School Reception Office.
- By emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- By sending the response form to Jared Nehra, 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 **20 March 2018**.

11. What happens next?

The consultation period runs from **Tuesday 20 February 2018 to Tuesday 20 March 2018**. If you are intending to contact us with your views, please do this by midnight on **20 March 2018**. The outcome of the consultation will be discussed at the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee in May. We will also pass all your comments to our Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education who will make a decision on whether to proceed with this proposal. If he decides to proceed we will then publish a Public Notice in June/July 2018, which will run for 4 weeks.

Whether the proposals for expansion go ahead or not will also be dependent on the planning process. The additional accommodation required for the proposals will be subject to separate planning requirements which will include further public consultation.

Jared Nehra
Area Education Officer, West Kent