

Education Consultation

ST PETER'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please complete this response form by **no later than midnight on 20 March 2018** and return it by:

- handing your response form into the St Peter's Church of England Primary School
- emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- posting the response form to Jared Nehra, 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 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?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?

☐ Parent/Carer / ☐ Member of Staff / ☐ Governor / ☐ Pupil

OR - ☒ Other interested party. Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum – Wider implications on town of relocating the school, particularly transport aspects..... (please state interest).

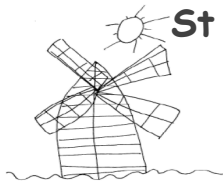
Name Adrian Berendt, Chair, RTW Town Forum, 59 Queens Road Tunbridge Wells.
TN4 9NA

Comments

The RTW Town Forum welcomes the relocation and expansion of St Peter's School to Hawkenbury but believes that the design is a missed opportunity for promoting and enabling more active travel in the town.

The plans for a larger school offering more places to those children already living in the local area and providing for an expanding population in new housing developments nearby is welcomed. The pressure on school places in this part of RTW over recent years has resulted in families being unable to attend their closest primary school and either having to travel a longer distance usually by car or choosing private schooling, both options contributing to traffic congestion across the town and at the school gate.

The pressure on early years' education in the area is such that the county and borough councils should ensure that the existing school buildings are retained for educational purposes for local families, probably as a nursery or a Free School.



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RTW endorses KCC's current Active Travel strategy. This is the first new school in the area since the strategy's adoption in 2017 and should demonstrate how children and families can easily and safely walk, ride or scoot to their nearest school. This will contribute to their health and fitness helping to combat growing childhood obesity and developing habits and lifestyles that these children will take forward into adulthood.

From the day it opens, the new St Peter's school should be an exemplar of active travel principles and practice with an expectation that its pupils will walk, cycle or scoot to school safely and confidently. In addition, this new school is located in a residential area and must avoid developing a 'school run' habit. To this end we recommend that:

1. Current plans for a 'kiss and drop facility' be withdrawn
2. Enrolment policy should favour local children and families who live within distances that enable walking, cycling or scooting to the school to be possible.
3. A strong culture of not providing for a 'door to door' car service for its pupils should be accepted by parents from day one, on the grounds of improving the fitness and health of their children and providing a safe environment in the vicinity of the school which is made safer by the absence of vehicles.
4. Facilities for storage of cycles and scooters on the school grounds would help to encourage this strategy.
5. Safe traffic-free routes to and from school for all those in the catchment area, for their entire journey, including building segregated footpaths and cycling infrastructure. Particular provision is needed to enable those coming from the existing St Peter's area to travel to school actively. Where streets cannot be made traffic-free, the speed limit should be set at 20mph throughout the catchment area, in order to make the whole journey to school safer, not just the last few hundred yards.