

Education Consultation

Stone Bay (Community Special) School

04 March to 01 April 2019



4 March 2019

Kent County Council is proposing to make a prescribed alteration to Stone Bay (Community Special) School from September 2019.

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

1. Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC) would like to hear your views on a proposal to lower the age range of Stone Bay School. The school has a designated number of 80 and currently specialises in providing both day and residential education for pupils aged 8 to 19 years who have autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), profound, severe and complex needs and additional comorbidities. A proportion of young people also exhibit challenging behaviour. All have an Education, Health & Care plan.

2. The Proposal

The school currently provides for children from age 8 (Year 4) and would like to lower the age-range of their provision to include all of Key Stage 2 and also a Key Stage 1 class from September 2019. The Headteacher and Governing Body of the school believes that the benefit to pupils of starting their education in an ASD specific provision would be huge. This would allow the school to teach and embed communication at a younger age, providing a positive learning experience for the children. Currently pupils start their education in other special schools and transfer to Stone Bay in later Key Stages, often when other schools are no longer suitable at meeting the complex needs. By removing the stresses of this transition and fully immersing the children in an ASD supportive environment at the start of their formal education the school expect to see improved communication and learning and fewer challenging behaviours.

KCC is therefore proposing that the age-range of the school should change from 8 to 19 years to 5 to 19 years from September 2019.

The school propose to include the new classes in the café and music block which will become the Primary building and can accommodate 4 classrooms. There is also a separate outdoor play area alongside access to the main garden. Only KS1 & 2 will be accommodated in this part of the school.

The secondary and 6th form students will continue to be accommodated in their current classrooms in the main building and the demountable classrooms. This will provide age appropriate movement through the school.

Staff with appropriate qualifications will teach in either the Primary, Secondary or 6th Form Departments.

3. How to give your views on the proposals

By sending the attached response form to Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3SS. Alternatively, you may hand your response form in at the

school. All responses need to be received by midday on 01 April 2019. By emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations for further information.

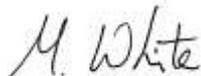
If you have any concerns about the proposal and would like to discuss them, please contact the school, who will be happy to arrange an appointment for you to speak to the Headteacher.

4. What happens next?

This consultation stage closes on 01 April 2019. A report summarising the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and the Cabinet Member will then decide whether to proceed with the proposal and publish statutory proposals in the form of a public notice.

The public notice would be published in a local newspaper, and for a period of four weeks following the publication date, any person can comment on the proposals. Having taken into account any responses, the Cabinet Member will then take a final decision on whether to proceed with the change of age-range.

Yours sincerely



Marisa White
Area Education Officer, East Kent

Timeline

1 April 2019	The last day for sending in a response to the consultation
4 April 2019	Following the consultation, all views received, either by post or email will be reported to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and the Cabinet Member
Proposed 2 May to 30 May 2019	If the Cabinet Member decides to continue with the proposals, KCC will publish a public notice for a four-week period in a local newspaper and at the school. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposals.
June 2019	The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to proceed with the proposals.
Sept 2019	Implementation, subject to agreement

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

The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. You can view the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2019 to 2023 at: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

You can view Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities at: www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy

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Please complete the following consultation form Education Consultation Response Form

Proposal to lower the age-range of Stone Bay School

Please return no later than midday 1 April 2019 to:

- Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3SS.
- Alternatively, you may hand your completed form in at the school.
- Email: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposals?

Yes No Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?

- A parent of a child or children currently attending Stone Bay School
- A member of staff at Stone Bay School
- A governor at Stone Bay School
- A pupil attending Stone Bay School
- Other – please specify

Name

Address

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018. KCC will comply with the requirements at all times. KCC will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and, in this instance, used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

Please provide your comments below and continue overleaf if necessary:

Comments continued:

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