



Stone Bay School.

Stone Bay School
70 Stone Road
Broadstairs
Kent
CT10 1EB
Headteacher: Paula Miller
Telephone: 01843 863 421

3 March 2020

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

1. Introduction

We are very pleased to inform you of plans for changes at Stone Bay (Foundation) Special School. The Governing Body of Stone Bay Special School would like to hear your views on the proposal to lower the age range of Stone Bay School and increase the designated number. The school currently has a designated number of 80 and specialises in providing both day and residential education for pupils aged 5 to 19 years who have a diagnosed autistic spectrum disorder, (ASD) along with severe and complex learning needs. All have an Education, Health & Care plan.

2. The Proposal

The school currently provides for children from age 5 (Year 1) and would like to lower the age-range of their provision to age 4 to include a reception class from September 2020. The Governing Body and Headteacher of the school believe that the benefit to pupils of starting their education in an ASD specific provision would be considerable. This would allow the school to teach and embed communication at a younger age, providing a positive learning experience for the children in an Early Years Foundation Stage appropriate environment. Currently pupils start their education in other schools or remain in nursery settings and transfer to Stone Bay at 5 years. 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.

We are proposing to refurbish and reconfigure current classrooms to accommodate a reception class with a care suite and toilets and create an outdoor learning and play area.

Staff with appropriate qualifications for the Early Years Foundation Stage will be recruited.

The Governing Body are therefore proposing that the age-range of the school should change from 5 to 19 years to 4 to 19 years from September 2020 with an increase to the designated number to 90.

3. How to give your views on the proposals

By sending the attached response form to Simon Heaton, Chair of Governors Stone Bay Special School, 70 Stone Road Broadstairs Kent CT10 1EB Alternatively, you may hand your response form in at the school reception or email office@stone-bay.kent.sch



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All responses need to be received by midday on 31 March 20120.

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 31 March 2020. 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 who 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

**Simon Heaton
Chair of Governors**

Timeline

31 March 2020	The last day for sending in a response to the consultation
05 May 2020	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 4 June to 2 July 2020	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.
July 2020	The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to proceed with the proposals.
Sept 2020	Implementation, subject to agreement



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KCC 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

