

Education Consultation

Foreland Fields Special School

Consultation 20 January 2022 to 24 February 2022



20 January 2022

Kent County Council is proposing to make a prescribed alteration to Foreland Fields (Foundation) Special School

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 make the following changes to Foreland Fields Special School:

- Open a satellite provision for 6 Year R/Key Stage 1 primary aged pupils at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery.
- Open a satellite provision for 12 Key Stage 4 students and 12 Post -16 students at EKC Group (Broadstairs College).
- Increase the designated number from 200 to 230

Foreland Fields (Foundation) Special School is a day provision providing for pupils aged 2 to 19 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN) including Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Foreland Fields moved into their new purpose-built school in February 2017. In addition to the main building, the school already operates a primary satellite provision at Garlinge Primary and Nursey School for Key Stage 2 pupils which provides opportunities for the children to be included in the life of the mainstream school. The new satellites will provide additional opportunities and choice for integration for both primary, secondary and post -16 Foreland pupils

2. Why are we consulting on proposals for Foreland Fields Special School?

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. This duty applies to special school provision, as well as mainstream settings.

3. Why Satellite Provisions?

Following joint discussions between KCC, Foreland Fields, Garlinge Primary School and EKC Group, all parties agreed that the proposed satellites would provide an exciting opportunity to work together to provide additional specialist places in Thanet District and broaden opportunities for pupils and students. There is an increasing number of children with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and who require specialist provision to meet their needs. It is anticipated that the proposed satellites provisions will support pupils and students with complex learning difficulties including ASD, rather than the full range of PSCN.

Garlinge Primary School will expand their current Key Stage 2 satellite to add a Year R//Key Stage 1 provision for up to 6 pupils. EKC Group's provision at Broadstairs College will be for both Key

Stage 4 and Post-16 for up to 24 students. The satellites will have their own accommodation within Garlinge Primary School and EKC Group, Broadstairs College, which would be staffed by Foreland Fields. Pupils attending the satellites would be on the roll of Foreland Fields Special School and their ECHPs would also name Foreland Fields as their School.

These exciting proposals will bring significant benefits as the partnerships will enable staff skills and expertise to be developed through joint training, curriculum development and the sharing of good practice. Pupils will benefit from inclusive school and college opportunities.

We propose to make these places available for September 2022. Between now and next September staff at Foreland Fields will work closely with parents to identify pupils and students who may be most suited to attending the new provisions. The pupils' needs, including their friendship groups, will be taken into account during this process.

4. How will the pupils in the satellite provisions be accommodated in the schools?

Garlinge Primary School and EKC Group have identified areas which will be reconfigured to provide the space needed to create the satellite provisions. The pupils would have a class base where they can receive some individual and small group teaching. The class 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 pupils will be on the school roll of Foreland Fields School and the specialist teachers and teaching assistants will also be provided by Foreland Fields. The Headteachers of the schools and Heads of Department for the College and Foreland Fields will discuss who is most appropriate and should be admitted subject to parental support.

5. I have a question – who can I ask?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school or email:

school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

6. The consultation process – indicative timeline

Date	Information
20 January 2022 to 24 February 2022	Consultation period
1 February 2022	Drop in consultation event at Foreland Fields School at 9am and 4pm
1 March 2022	Following the consultation, all views received, will be reported to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.
21 April 2022 to 19 May 2022	If the Cabinet Member decides to proceed with the proposals, KCC will publish a public notice for a four-week period in a local newspaper at the school and on the KCC and school website. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposals.
May 2022	The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to proceed with the proposals.
September 2022	Implementation, subject to agreement

7. How can I give my views on the proposals?

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

- Completing on-line form at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
- By handing you response form into reception at Foreland Fields Special school.

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- By emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- By sending the attached response form to Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House John Wilson Business Park, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3SS

All responses need to be received by midday on 24 February 2022.

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

8. What happens next?

This consultation period closes on 24 February 2022. 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 establishment of the satellite provisions.

Yours sincerely

Area Education Officer

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 2021 to 2025 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