

Summary of Consultation Written Responses.

Laleham Gap Governing Body is proposing to make prescribed alterations to Laleham Gap (Foundation) Special School, Ozengell Place, Ramsgate, CT12 6FH, CT12 6FH:

- **remove the boarding provision at the school no later than July 2020;**
- **change the age range from 4-16 to 4-17 years by introducing a one-year post 16 provision;**
- **change the designated number from 170-178**

Consultation information distributed:

- All Parents/Carers, Governors and Members of Staff at St Nicholas School, Spires Academy and The Canterbury Primary School;
- All schools in the Canterbury District;
- Canterbury & Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group;
- Elected representatives;
- Diocesan Authorities.

Responses received: 49

	Yes	No	Undecided	Total
Parent	41	3	4	48
Staff				
Governor				
Pupil				
Other	1			1
Total	42	3	4	49

Response comments in favour of the prescribed alterations include;

‘Although it is sad to lose the Residential/Boarding facilities, if it is not being used to its full potential then it is a wise decision to extend the school age range, post 16 and independent living support.’

‘Post 16 provision sounds like a great idea, however have concerns/reservations towards it being restricted to 8 pupils when there is more than 3 times that number in the year group.’

‘We would like to know if our Daughter would be allocated a place as it will only be offered to a third of students.’

‘Feeling very positive about children having access to post 16 Education at Laleham, fantastic!’

‘Children should be provided education until they are 18 so that they can continue their education for as long as possible’

‘Children at Laleham Gap need the school to provide for them until they are 18 so that they can continue their education, therefor as long as possible.’

'We would like to see the building being used as a fully functioning sixth form offering a range of subjects.'

'A fantastic idea, we hope our children will be able to benefit from having the sixth form.'

'This should be offered to all age appropriate pupils as they will not only give them the chance to retake examinations but perhaps take further qualifications.'

'We feel very positive about children having access to post 16 education at Laleham, fantastic.'

'It would be beneficial to extend the age to 18 instead of 17.'

'As the parent of a Year 7 student I can only see the benefits for the proposal. The need for sustainability is relevant to not impact ordinary pupils adversely over time.'

'This would benefit our grandchild and other pupils, better still if the provision could be extended to age 18 or beyond.'

'My son is in Year 9 currently and I am considering a specialist post 16 provision for the very reasons outlined in your letter, what would the selected criteria be if more than 8 pupils are staying on? May I take this opportunity to praise residential staff and wish them all the best.'

'We would like to see a fully functioning sixth form at Laleham Gap, a fully functioning sixth form would almost, if not, 100% eliminate the dropout rates.'

'Why can't we have a sixth form? The proposal is not enough; surely, with such a large building it can support more than 8 students?'

Response comments opposed to the prescribed alterations include

'I am against it as the children that live further afield will find it difficult to attend Laleham, (also children that have health difficulties. How can you provide a sixth form for just 8 young people? As there will be extra children that need this support.'

Response comments by the undecided include;

'Why can you not offer a full sixth form?'

'With regards to the post 16 facilities I think it's ideal, overdue and I am just sorry that too late for my son to benefit.'

'The letter reads as though you only plan to offer 8 students the option of independent learning and staying to board. Could this not be expanded? Also, what if students want to stay on to expand on GCSE learning e.g. take another subject?'

'I absolutely agree that the post 16 provision is needed and wholeheartedly support that part of the proposal. A number of other students will benefit from this. Although a good idea, this seems a major change just to secure a post 16 1 – year facility for up to 8 students! That said I return to the current status of maintaining the present boarding provision as fully functional and continuing the high quality residential experience.'