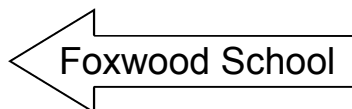


Public Consultation Document



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to re-designate Foxwood School as a school for Profound and Severe Learning Needs and Highview School as a school for Complex Learning Needs; relocate both schools onto the site of Brockhill Park Performing Arts College; remove the boarding provision at Foxwood School; and change the age range of Highview School to include post-16.

**Date of Public Meeting: Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 7pm
At Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Sandling Road,
Saltwood, Hythe CT21 4HL**



1. INTRODUCTION

Kent County Council is proposing to relocate Foxwood School and Highview School onto the site of Brockhill Park Performing Arts College.

The proposal involves the construction of a new building as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. The schools will share the new building with each school retaining its individuality.

This document gives you details of the proposal as well as information on the background to this proposal, the current position and the vision of both schools as they work towards stronger joint collaboration.

We are undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on these proposals.

The consultation seeks to explain the processes involved in:

- redesignating both schools
- relocating both schools
- removing the boarding provision at Foxwood School
- changing the age range of Highview School to incorporate pupils aged 16-19 years

There will be a public meeting on 12 January 2010 which will give you the opportunity to make your views known and to ask any questions you may have.

There is a form at the end of this document which we ask you to complete and return to us by 29 January 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

Kent County Council has been moving forward with a planned programme of redesignation of its special schools in order that it has a pattern of provision which can meet the future needs of pupils, and to ensure that appropriate provision is as local to the children's homes as possible.

The principles upon which the County's Special School Plan is based were widely consulted upon at the time.

The Plan identified the need to provide more places in the following categories of need: Autism; Behavioural Difficulties; Severe Behavioural, Emotional and Social Needs; and Complex Medical Needs.

The Plan also provided for each District in Kent to have a "District Special School" with the intention that this school would provide for the full range of needs for primary aged pupils, with provision for secondary aged pupils becoming more specialised.

The Local Authority has worked with Foxwood and Highview Schools to develop an approach which delivers the District Special School concept but retains the individual schools within a federated schools model.

3. CURRENT POSITION

Foxwood School currently provides for pupils aged 3-19 years with a combination of Severe Learning Difficulties and/or Autism. The school has specialist status for Cognition and Learning. The designated number is 122 and there are currently 106 pupils on roll, 5 of whom are residential. The school provides support for 7 children in the early years who are not on the roll of the school.

Highview School currently provides for pupils aged 5-16 years with Moderate Learning Difficulties. The designated number is 141 and there are currently 117 pupils with Moderate and Complex Learning Needs on roll. The school has Creative Partnership Change Schools Status and will submit a bid for specialist status for Cognition and Learning in January 2010 with a view to achieving status in September 2010.

Foxwood School has a large open site on a hillside with a range of buildings of moderate quality. The site is not appropriate given the needs of its pupils. Highview School has a smaller site but with many different levels due to the sloping nature of the site. Both schools would benefit from new buildings.

The two schools federated on 1 November 2008. They have a joint governing body, joint leadership team meetings, are developing a shared vision for the future when the schools share a site and are working towards a joint leadership team model. They also run a joint Outreach Service—Integrated Specialist Inclusion Services (ISIS).

4. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to relocate Foxwood and Highview Schools to a shared building on the Brockhill Park School site (see map on page 8). A proposed footprint for this building has been identified, and will be subject to consultation through the planning system.

Foxwood School will re-designate to provide for pupils with Profound and Severe Learning Needs. Highview School will re-designate to be a school for pupils with Complex Needs. Therefore, between the two schools the full spectrum of Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN) will be delivered within the District. The new building could be complete by September 2013.

In order to ensure equality of access across Kent, it will be necessary to change the age range of Highview School to 5-19 years to enable it to provide post-16 education.

The schools will also provide, on an area basis, for secondary aged pupils who have Severe Communication and/or Interaction Needs associated with a combination of Autism and learning difficulties; and pupils with specific language impairment and/or Autism. This provision will build on the specialist status of Cognition and Learning of both schools. We propose changing the designation of the schools from 1 September 2010.

Foxwood School currently has residential designation. The number of pupils accessing this provision has reduced over the last 5 years and the remaining 5 residential pupils leave in December 2009. It is proposed to remove the residential designation from Foxwood School in June 2010.

Pre-school pupils currently attending the Children's Centre at Foxwood School will continue to be supported within the school and it is proposed that this Centre relocates with Foxwood School.

The schools, jointly, will offer 282 places for children aged 3 to 19 years.

5. FOXWOOD-HIGHVIEW FEDERATION

The schools federated in November 2008 and now have a single governing body. The Leadership Teams of both schools have been developing a joint 3 year plan to develop the ways in which collaboration will benefit the pupils of both schools.

The overriding philosophy of both schools has been, and continues to be, one of putting the pupil first.

The schools are:

- Inclusive — recognising the right of every student to access learning relevant to their own individual needs.
- Enabling — giving students the skills they need to achieve success — academically, personally, physically, socially and emotionally.
- Personalised — stimulating, challenging and meeting the learning needs of every student.
- Collaborative — providing a comprehensive range of opportunities.

A new building will allow:

- The schools to utilise best practice from within each school, for example, teachers acting flexibly as facilitators / coaches / mentors where appropriate.
- More creative use of space to enhance the development of students' emotional intelligence.
- New models of physical provision to meet the learning needs of young people in collaboration with mainstream colleagues.
- Development of the "learning campus" model where the schools are able to develop the positive elements of both schools without compromising the quality of either.

The move to a new site would enable the development of a new purpose built training and development centre to assist in the delivery of AEN training to all schools in the District.

5. FOXWOOD-HIGHVIEW FEDERATION contd

All opportunities will be taken to co-locate children's and communities services on the school site. The schools are working with the PCT to develop an integrated model where education and health can develop a centralised resource.

Co-location with Brockhill Park would offer access to a wider range of facilities, resources and experiences, whilst retaining specialist teaching and support. It will promote high levels of pupil integration, especially socially and in sport, music, drama, art and vocational courses.

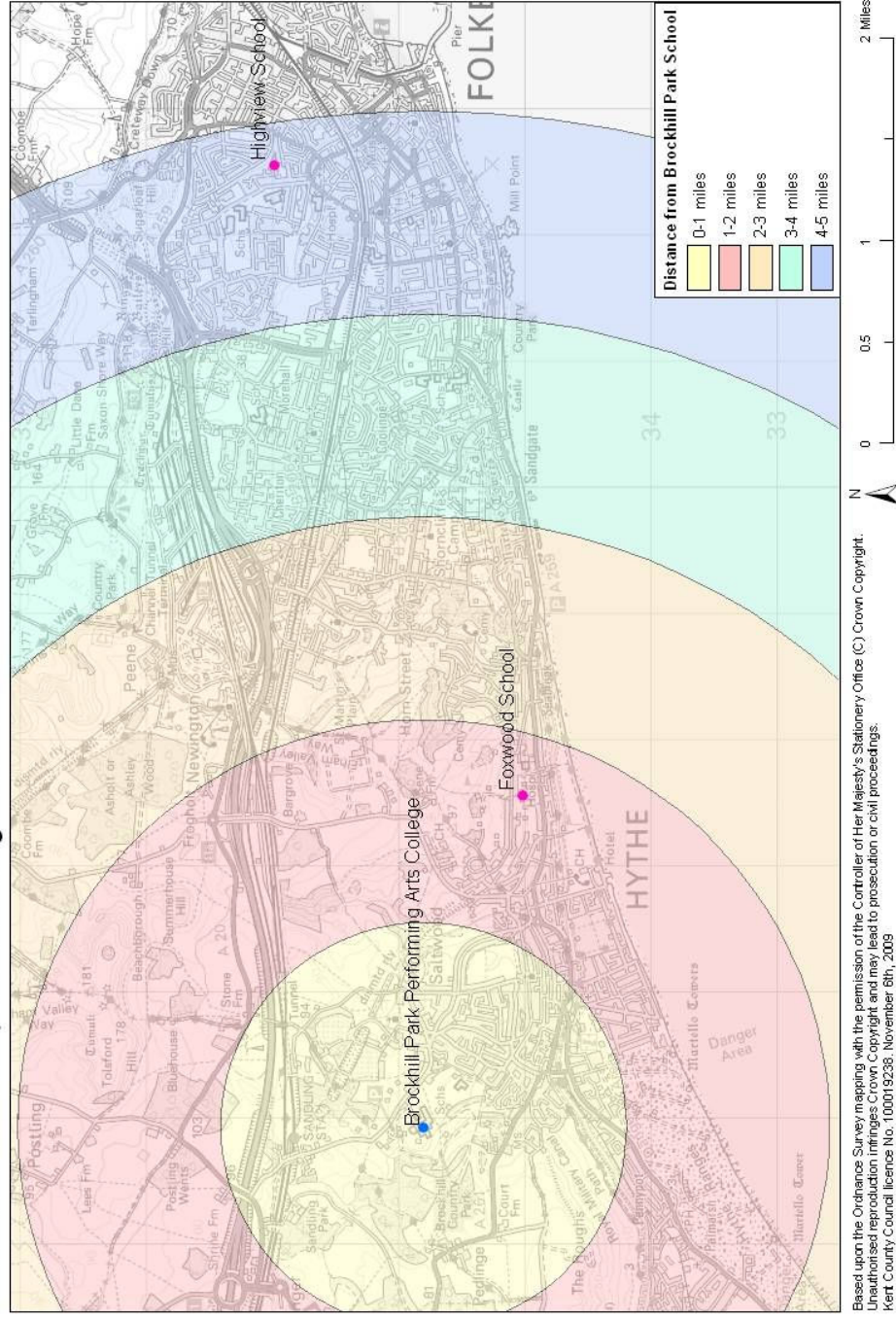
Discussions regarding the post-16 provision of the schools are ongoing. We anticipate providing a number of pathways for pupils, via a central base in the main school building, some supported inclusion in Brockhill Park Performing Arts College and other school sixth forms and access to college courses. Consideration is being given to creating an off-site provision for Independent Life Skills development.

Pupils currently on role at the two schools will continue to be educated in these schools. Decisions on admission to the schools after 1 September 2010 would be based on the pupil meeting the admissions criteria for the schools which will operate at that time.

We recognise that most pupils who attend either Foxwood or Highview School are transported to school by the Local Authority. We will need to review all transport arrangements when the schools relocate and we will involve parents in this process.

The issue of increased traffic that will result from this proposal will be carefully considered with Kent Highways Department during the planning process.

Location of Brockhill Park, Foxwood and Highview Schools



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CONSULTATION & DECISION MAKING TIMETABLE

Public Consultation Period	7 Dec 2009— 29 Jan 2010
Public Meeting	12 Jan 2010
Report Back to the Kent County Council School Organisation Advisory Board *	17 March 2010
Public Notice Issued (subject to Cabinet Member decision)	15 April 2010
Public Notice Expires	27 May 2010
Decision by Local Authority	11 June 2010
Removal of residential provision at Foxwood School	June 2010
Redesignation of both schools	September 2010
Relocation	September 2013

* The School Organisation Advisory Board meeting is held at County Hall, Maidstone and the webcast can be watched via the kent.gov.uk website. **The meeting is open to the public.**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- Following this consultation, all views received, either in writing, by email or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council.
- A Cabinet Member decision will be made on whether to take the proposal forward.
- If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, at the schools and in public places like the library. The Public Notice will run for six weeks. Representations about the proposal can be made during this six week period.
- A decision will then be made on whether the proposal is to go ahead.
- In certain circumstances this could include referral to the statutory Schools Adjudicator.
- All views will be considered before a decision is made.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

We would like to know your views on this proposal.

You can respond to the consultation by:

Completing and returning the attached response form to:

David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Mid Kent Education Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU

**Your comments must reach us by 5pm
on 29 January 2010**

**Coming to a public meeting at:
Brockhill Park Performing Arts College,
Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe CT21 4HL**

on 12 January 2010 at 7pm.

- An elected member of Kent County Council will chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views.
- Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

Emailing your comments to:

school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

(We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails)

Public Consultation Response Form

Please return no later than 5pm on Friday 29 January 2010

To: David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Mid Kent Area Education Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. (Fax: 01233 898500)

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes

No

I am: (please tick as appropriate)

The parent/carer of a student at Foxwood School

The parent/carer of a student at Highview School

A member of staff at Foxwood School

A member of staff at Highview School

A student at Foxwood School

A student at Highview School

A governor

Other interested party

Name of other school or interested party

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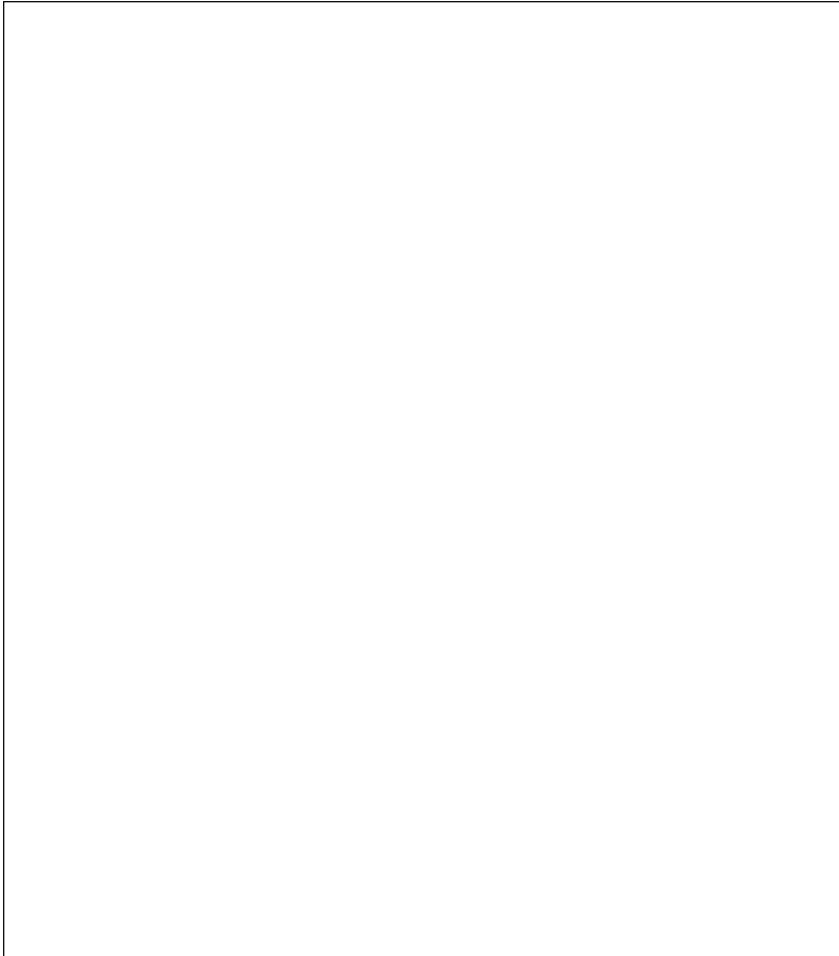
Name:

Address:

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We 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 WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF

My comments are as follows:



This document is available on:
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations/>
Responses can be emailed to:
school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

If you have difficulty reading this document and require it in another format please contact your school.