

My comments are as follows

Please continue on another sheet if necessary



Public Consultation

Proposal to close Wilmington Enterprise College and replace with a new Government funded Academy



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal

Kent County Council is considering a proposal to close Wilmington Enterprise College and open a Government funded Academy. We would like to hear your opinions.

Please take time to read this important document and let us know what you think of this proposal.

Your views are important and will help shape the future. This document gives you the opportunity to let us know what you think.

I can assure you that all comments received will be carefully considered and will be used to develop the proposal for the school. We will then consult you again with these proposals.

Martin Baker
*Strategic Director For Schools, Settings And Colleges
Children Families and Education
Kent County Council*



Public Consultation Response Form

Proposal to close Wilmington Enterprise College and replace with a government funded academy

To: Simon Webb,
Area Children's Services Officer, Dartford & Gravesham
17 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent, ME19 4UL
Fax: 01732 525223

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

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 8th MARCH 2010

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Undecided

☐

The parent/carer of a pupil at
Wilmington Enterprise College

☐

A member of staff at
Wilmington Enterprise
College

☐

A governor of Wilmington
Enterprise College

☐

A pupil at Wilmington
Enterprise College

☐

Other interested party

☐

Please supply details of interest:

.....

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

HOW TO TELL US YOUR VIEWS

If you would like to comment on the proposal there are several opportunities available to you.

► **Complete and return the response form.**

Send to:

Simon Webb,
Area Children's Services Officer
(Dartford & Gravesham)
17 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent, ME19 4UL
Fax: 01732 525223
(forms must reach us by 8th March 2010)

► **Come to a public meeting.**

Wilmington Enterprise College
Common Lane
Wilmington
Kent DA2 7DR

7.00 p.m. Monday 1st February 2010

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.

► **Email your comments**

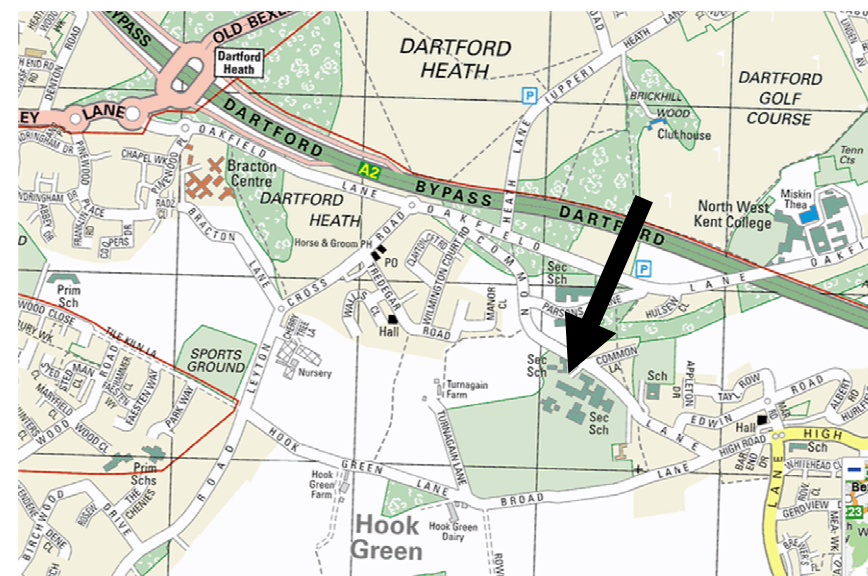
school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Wilmington Enterprise College

Wilmington Enterprise College is Modern (non-selective) Community Secondary school with a mixed intake of 11–18 year old students. It accepts up to 150 new students every year into year seven.

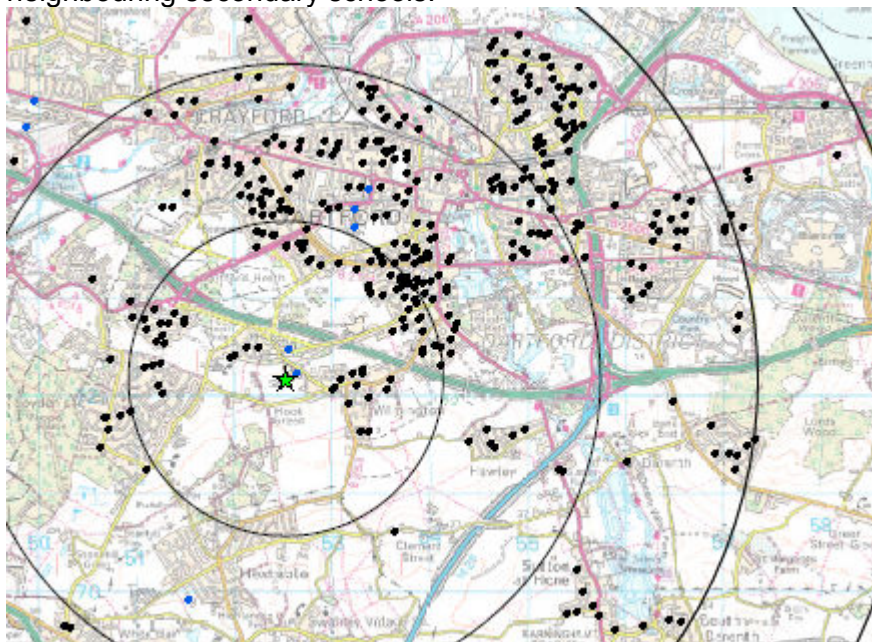
Wilmington Enterprise College is part of the Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley Partnership. This is a 14 – 19 consortium comprising the two Wilmington Grammar Schools, Hextable School, Swanley Technology College and North West Kent College. The Partnership enables the member schools to offer a rich selection of curriculum options across the 14-19 age range.

Wilmington Enterprise College is situated on the edge of Wilmington village at Common Lane, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent, DA2 7DR. The college shares a site with The Wilmington Boys Grammar School and is across the road from the Wilmington Grammar School for Girls.



Although fairly rural, the school serves both rural and urban communities in the Dartford district, drawing from an area which includes some of the more deprived wards in Dartford, including Newtown, Littlebrook, Town and Princes.

The following map shows the spread of pupils and the locations of neighbouring secondary schools.



Why is KCC proposing a change?

The most recent Ofsted report (17/18 March 2009) for the College graded the school as being in Special Measures. A Section 8 HMI Monitoring visit took place on the 16th September 2009.

Initial recommendations indicate little improvement in any area except in behaviour and governance. An inadequate grading was given and it was clear that the measures put in place by the local authority have not made the desired improvement to the performance of the school.

Accordingly the local authority determined to commission the Leigh Academy Trust to provide an academy for Wilmington Enterprise College as a structural solution.

CONSULTATION TIMETABLE

7 th Jan 2010	School Organisation Advisory Board meeting to consider a public consultation.
25 th Jan 2010	Start of Consultation.
1 st Feb 2010	Public Meeting.
8 th Mar 2010	Close of Consultation.
17 th Mar 2010	School Organisation Advisory Board meeting to consider issuing a Public Notice
Mar 2010	Report to Cabinet Member
Mar 2010	Public Notice issued, if agreed by Cabinet Member
April 2010	End of Statutory Representation Period
Sept 2010	Wilmington Enterprise College closes New Academy opens

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Following this consultation, the outcomes will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council.
- A decision will be made on whether to take the proposal forward.
- If so, a Public Notice will be published for four weeks.
- Representations about the proposal can be made.
- A determination will then be reached on whether the proposal is to be implemented.
- In certain circumstances this could include referral to the statutory Schools Adjudicator.
- All views will be considered before a decision is made.

How much will it cost?

Capital

There is no Capital implication for the County Council for any new rebuilding. KCC will incur administrative and development costs in the period leading up to the opening of the Academy. These include the costs of the appointed consultants.

Revenue

The academy will receive its revenue funding directly from the DCSF each year. It will be funded at a rate equivalent to other Kent specialist schools.

Human

Consultation will take place in accordance with the requirements of TUPE. Costs of new staffing (TUPE applies to current staff) and costs associated with TUPE, including any valid redundancies of staff, are borne by the DCSF.

Transport and Road Safety Implications

Early discussions will take place with Dartford Borough Council and Kent Highways. They will be fully consulted as part of the design and development phase of the new Academy and a travel plan will be produced prior to the opening in 2010.

How are Academies accountable to their local communities?

Academies are designed to be at the heart of their communities, and it is expected that local stakeholders are involved from the outset.

Academies are a part of the local family of schools, sharing their facilities and expertise with other schools and the wider community, contributing to raising standards across the whole area. Local interests are represented on the governing body.

Why an Academy?

The Government requests that local authorities always consider an Academy as an option for dealing with a school in special measures, or subject to an improvement notice. As a broad rule of thumb, the Government is prepared to consider Academy status for any secondary school where fewer than 30% of pupils gained five or more GCSEs at grades A* - C (including English and Maths). Most new academies replace existing weak or underperforming schools.

Academies are a key element of the current drive to raise standards and create opportunity in some of the more disadvantaged communities in the country. Academies have a mission to transform education where the status quo is simply not good enough. Academies aspire to be the engine of social mobility.

What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly funded, independent, all ability schools that offer a first class free education to local pupils of all abilities. Academies provide a teaching and learning environment that is in line with the best in the maintained sector and offer a broad and balanced curriculum to pupils of all abilities.

Academies are established by sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups working in highly innovative partnerships with central Government and local education partners. Sponsors bring a distinctive approach to school leadership drawing on the skills of sponsors and other supporters. They give Principals and staff new opportunities to develop educational strategies to raise standards and contribute to diversity in areas of disadvantage.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) meets the capital and running cost for the Academy in full. The new Academy can expect to be completely rebuilt to provide state of the art learning accommodation fit for the 21st century. The costs of the rebuild are borne by the Government.

What does this proposal mean?

The proposal is for Wilmington Enterprise College to close and in its place, a government funded academy will open. It is proposed that the new Academy will be federated with the Leigh Technology Academy.

The Leigh Academy Trust will be the lead sponsor with Kent County Council (KCC) as co-sponsors. The Leigh Academy Trust has proved its value as a sponsor. In December 2009, the Leigh Technology Academy received an Ofsted inspection and was graded as "outstanding" despite being less than three years old. The Leigh Academy Trust plans to bring this experience and expertise to the new academy.

The New Academy

The new Academy would plan to open in September 2010 in the existing premises with a Published Admission Number of 150. This reflects a capacity of 750 with up to 200 post 16 places. A full new build would be planned with completion by September 2013

It is intended that the investment in facilities, curriculum and funding flexibility that the academy would bring, would have the positive impact on standards that is required for the students of the Dartford and for improved life opportunities in the local communities.

The Academy will be part of a hard federation with the Leigh Technology Academy Trust. The Leigh Technology Academy Trust will be the sole legal body responsible for both the Academy.

The vision for the new Academy is that it will establish an outstanding Academy that will develop new first class approaches to education. The Academy will instil a pride in and love of learning, motivating students to aim high, become skilled and flexible learners and develop into socially, emotionally and behaviourally confident citizens, employees and employers. The Academy will have a particular focus on vocational education creating a mix of academic and vocational experience.

The academy will offer greater opportunities for the community and the establishment will be characterised by:

- creating an environment that automatically has high expectations for all
- having the highest standards of behaviour and commitment
- developing an enthusiasm for learning by creating a curriculum that incorporates the Sciences and the Creative and Expressive Arts as a rich strand running throughout all aspects of education.
- creating a culture of continuous improvement
- developing its distinctive approach to creating excellence in education by working in close partnership with the Leigh Technology Academy enabling a greater proportion of young people to achieve the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for our knowledge society.

The new Academy will be required to specialise and the options and choices would be explored further during later Academy Consultations.

Equality and Diversity

The new Academy will be an all-ability mixed school and will admit boys and girls regardless of faith or denomination.

The new Academy's admissions arrangements must be agreed with the local authority and the Secretary of State as a condition of the funding agreement and be consistent with the School Admissions Code. In addition, Academies must have regard to the SEN code of practice and statutory guidance on inclusion. The independent status of an Academy, does not affect parents' rights to appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal.

