

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

22/00044

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) *result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000); or*
- b) *be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:*
 - *the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;*
 - *significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.*

Title of Decision

Proposal to make prescribed changes to St Nicholas (Community) Special School from September 2022

- Establish a satellite provision for 24 primary aged pupils at Parkside Primary School.
- Increase the designated number from 285 to 310.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to:

Issue a public notice to:

- (i) Establish a satellite provision for 24 primary age pupils at Parkside Primary School.
- (iii) Increase the designated number from 285 to 310

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice:

- (i) Establish a satellite provision for 24 primary age pupils at Parkside Primary School.
- (iii) Increase the designated number from 285 to 310

Reason(s) for decision:

St Nicholas (Community) Special School is unable to expand on its main school site and demand for PSCN Special school places in Canterbury district is increasing. The establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream education sites provides additional capacity whilst also enabling the school's expertise to be shared with the host school and provides St Nicholas students the opportunity to integrate, (where appropriate) with their mainstream peers.

Background

St Nicholas (Community) Special School is a day provision for boys and girls aged 4 to 19 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN). In addition to the main building at Holme Oak Close, the school also operates primary satellite provision at Chartham Primary School, Canterbury Primary School and St John's C.E. Primary School. St Nicholas School also has secondary satellite provisions at Spires Academy, Canterbury Academy, as well as with Canterbury College for post 16

students. These satellites provide students with opportunities for integration at a mainstream school or College. The new satellite will provide additional opportunities and choice for integration for St Nicholas pupils. Parkside Primary School identified the old swimming pool building area as a location that can be redeveloped to create the new satellite provision. A new modular building will be provided on the site with facilities to include two classrooms, therapy room and additional small rooms required for the provision.

Financial Implications

Capital

The capital costs for the project are £270,000 and will be funded through the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation 21/22.

Revenue

As per KCC policy a total of £6,000 per newly provided classroom will be provided to the school from the DGS revenue budget

Legal implications

Equalities implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and the assessment identified the following positive impacts:

- Ensure there are sufficient special school place available for children in Canterbury district.
- Ensure that there is sufficient local provision through satellites at mainstream school sites.
- Children with Complex needs and ASD will be able to attend satellite provision in mainstream primary and secondary schools.

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee considered the decision on 10 May 2022.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

St Nicholas Special school cannot be expanded on their main school site. A feasibility was commissioned to look at expanding the current satellite provision at St Johns CE Primary School, however the identified area was not appropriate or cost affective when compared to the feasibility for the provision on the Parkside Primary site. Parkside Primary School currently hosts the St Nicholas Nursery on site.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

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signed

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date