

New Primary School in Goat Lees, Ashford, Kent

Your opportunity to comment on the proposals to establish
a new school



Public meeting: Tuesday 20 July
Goat Lees Community Hall, Trinity Road,
Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4AB
at 6.30pm for 7.00pm



The new school competition

Kent County Council (KCC) has identified a need for a new mainstream primary school. In line with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, it published a notice on 11 February 2010 inviting proposals from organisations or people interested in establishing the new school to come forward.

Two proposals have been received and were published by the local authority on 2 July 2010. The date of publication marks the start of a six-week public representation period. It is now your opportunity to comment on the received proposals. Your comments will be taken into account by Kent County Council, who will decide the competition result.

The school will be situated within the Goat Lees estate, Ashford, adjacent to Trinity Road, Ashford, Kent. A single school site has been identified within the estate. The school will be built primarily to serve local residents on the estate and will provide a high-quality learning for this relatively new community. The majority of pupils attending the new school will live within one mile of the development. It will be fully accessible and will increase the range of provision for pupils with a physical disability. It will also admit pupils with special educational needs.

The new school should cater for pupils between the ages of 4 and 11 years and provide places for 210 boys and girls. The admission number for the school on the opening date will be 30.

The proposals

The proposals received were from:

- Ashford Baptist Church
- Ashford Primary Headteachers Collaboration

Full proposals can be found on Kent County Council's website at: [http://www.kent.gov.uk/education and learning/plans and consultations.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education%20and%20learning/plans%20and%20consultations.aspx)

Both promoters have confirmed that they will provide a school which conforms to the specification determined by the County Council following consultation:

To provide 210 places for boys and girls, age range 4 to 11, published admission number 30, located in Goat Lees, to serve the residents of Goat Lees, to be accessible to disabled pupils and offer extended school services.

Summaries of their proposals follow.

Ashford Baptist Church

The proposal received from Ashford Baptist Church (St John's Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PS) is to establish a trust school with a foundation (which will be formed from members of Ashford Baptist Church).

Ethos

The children's individual needs, their hopes and aspirations, their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being will be central to the ethos of the school. It will not be a faith school but there will be an underlying Christian ethos. This will provide the environment where learning is nurtured and will be evident in the relationships: adult to adult in the support, courtesy and co-operation between members of staff; adult to child in positive attitudes and encouragement given, by example and through high-professional standards; and child to child in the supported development of politeness, respect and care for one another.

Ashford Baptist Church is multi-cultural and has a genuine appreciation of those from other cultures. This same ethos will be evident in the life of the school.

Admissions

Ashford Baptist Church intends the school primarily to serve the Goat Lees estate and will give priority to local children. It wants the children of the school to learn, play and live together. It will abide by KCC's admissions policy and the Code of Practice. No priority of admission will be given to children of church families or of Christian faith. Where there are more applications for admission than places available, the over-subscription criteria will be as follows: children in local authority care; children with medical, health and special access reasons; children with siblings already in the school (dependent on the family remaining in the locality); and the proximity of the child's home to the school.

Extended services

The school will provide a range of after-school activities for children and a breakfast club (if that is what the parents want). The premises will be available for clubs and all-age educational opportunities. The school will ensure the best providers are commissioned to deliver the type of services the community want.

Environmental impact

The promoter's ambition is for the school to be a sustainable building, to be carbon neutral and to help the children understand the impact of their lives on the environment. Understanding the environment will aid in teaching. This will be done through a school garden, sustainable purchasing (where possible), and through engagement with others around the world to see the effects of global warming and understanding seasonal differences.

Maximum use will be made of the good network of cycle paths and footpaths in the estate. A walk-to-school scheme will be instigated. Cycle training will be facilitated. Safe and secure bike storage will be provided.

Community cohesion

The school will be a hub for the community in the Goat Lees estate and is well placed to provide a platform for community involvement. It will be a useful resource for community groups and activities such as adult learning, parenting classes and family based activities. Examples would include grandparents' day, visiting artists or musicians and pet care from the local veterinary practice.

The promoters will draw on their extensive experience to advance community cohesion in the area. The school will continue discussions with Ashford Borough Council to ensure the park is kept litter and glass free and to remove the lurid graffiti on the apparatus. Through the ministers of Ashford Baptist Church, the school will offer a chaplaincy service to the local area.

Standards and contributions to school improvement

The school will promote a culture of continuous improvement and encourage the pursuit of educational excellence in all that it does.

The promoters expect their staff to be professional in their application, and display their calling in their commitment to the children and the school. They will invest in the development of their staff to ensure that all reach their potential.

They will seek to appoint an outstanding head teacher and excellent classroom practitioners. Teaching staff will hold qualified teacher status. They will ensure that teachers and other staff have good opportunities for continuing their professional development, so as to continually update their educational expertise. Opportunities will be made for teachers to observe best practice in others, both within the school and outside and to plan, monitor and evaluate together.

Experience of delivering education

Ashford Baptist Church has a strong history of providing education and the development of children and young people. The church has pioneered education in this country and abroad for hundreds of years. The new school provides a further opportunity for the church to be involved in bringing a high standard of education to the children at this school.

This proposal has been drawn up by a mixture of people with a wide variety of professional backgrounds, who have a passion for education and who understand how to establish and run a successful school.

Ashford Baptist Church has a wealth of educational, business and community experience. This includes: headteachers, teachers, governors, business owners (both local and national), and volunteer workers.

Ashford Primary Headteachers Collaboration

The proposal received from Ashford Primary Headteachers Collaboration (c/o Rob Juniper, Phoenix Community Primary School, Belmont Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9LS) wants to establish a foundation school.

Ethos

The promoters will create a school which strives for excellence – in provision, achievement, practices, personal development and pastoral care. It will be welcoming and at the heart of the community. Equality of opportunity will be at the heart of the ethos. Each child will be equipped morally, socially and educationally to take their place successfully in a multi-cultural world, able to respect each other and make a positive contribution.

The school will be inclusive and systematic in supporting families in their learning and development.

Admissions

The Collaboration will adhere to the Admissions Code of Practice and adopt the same admissions criteria as the existing community schools. The oversubscription criteria are: children in local authority care; current family association; health and special access reasons; and nearness of children's homes to school.

Extended services

Community involvement and engagement are at the heart of the Collaboration's vision. The school will offer a varied menu of activities including the arts, sport, music and a variety of opportunities for learning. Staff and community members will be encouraged to become involved in out-of-school activities.

There will be a breakfast club and after school care club.

Swift and easy access will be provided to a wide range of specialist support services, such as speech and language therapy, health workers and voluntary sector groups. Wider community access in areas such as ICT, sports, arts, adult learning and health advice will be provided.

Environmental impact

As this is a school serving the needs of the immediate local community, most learners would be expected to travel to school on foot – indeed they would be actively encouraged to do so. The intention would be for a travel plan to be established that not only addresses basic safety and security issues but also helps to encourage environmentally responsible attitudes amongst parent and staff.

Community cohesion

The promoters believe that children should understand their own values and how these relate to the communities around them. These include their home environment, their locality, the culture of the school, the region in which they live, the UK as a devolved entity and the wider global community. The role of the school will be to provide experiences and links that will enable the children to make sense of these relationships, allowing for a sense of vibrancy and vitality.

The collective experience of the Collaboration will focus on overcoming inequalities, developing respect for diversity and shared common values, and understanding what people hold in common. The new school will rise to the challenge of helping to build and develop an inclusive community spirit.

Standards and contributions to school improvement

To ensure excellent standards of education are in place the Collaboration will draw upon good practice in self-evaluation systems currently in use within the collaborative family of schools that will lead to improved outcomes for children.

The responsibilities of the senior leadership team will include:

- ensuring that standards of achievement and progress exceed, wherever possible, the agreed targets set for literacy and numeracy based on individual pupil goals
- setting high expectations of pupil conduct and pride in their achievements, their school and the local community
- promoting high-quality teaching and learning and challenging underperformance.

Experience of delivering education

The proposers are an extremely successful and well established collaboration of primary headteachers who have worked together to develop their own schools in many ways.

Public meeting

The local authority is required to hold at least one public meeting (and more will be arranged if necessary) during the representation period to provide members of the community the opportunity to hear more about each proposal and ask questions. The meeting will be chaired by David Adams from Kent County Council.

After the representation period

At the end of the representation period the local authority will collate all of the comments or objections received on each proposal and will forward them to the decision maker. As the local authority has not published its own proposal, and does not have an interest in any of the proposals, it will decide the competition. In deciding the competition it will take account of the comments made during the representation period and the guidance published by the Secretary of State.

Goat Lees, New School Competition

Response form

Ashford Baptist Church

Comments

Ashford Primary Headteachers Collaboration

Comments

Are you?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A pupil <input type="checkbox"/> Please name your school | A member of staff at a school <input type="checkbox"/> Please name your school | A governor <input type="checkbox"/> Please name your school |
| A parent <input type="checkbox"/> Please name the school your children attend | A local community representative <input type="checkbox"/> Please name the community you represent | Local resident <input type="checkbox"/> |

Providing comments

Kent County Council wants to know your views about the proposals it has received for the new school. You can provide your comments in the following ways:

- You can attend the public meeting on Tuesday 20 July at 6.30pm for 7.00pm, at Goat Lees Community Hall, Trinity Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4AB.
- You can provide written comments to Jill Clinton, Operations Support Officer, Kent County Council, Clover House, John Wilson Business Park, Harvey Drive, Chestfield, Whitstable, CT5 3QZ, using the attached form.
- You can send your comments by e-mail to jill.clinton@kent.gov.uk.

Full copies of the proposals are available at http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations.aspx.

The closing date for responses is 13 August 2010.