



The SAT Campaign represents local families who have all found ourselves in a very stressful and exasperating situation. The school application system apparently gave us the opportunity to choose the school in which our children could be educated, but this choice has been taken away from us.

The families affected are not just complaining because they did not get their first choice. These are families whose choice has been disregarded altogether.

The three schools affected are St John's CEP, Thurnham Infants and Madginford Infants. The majority of the families affected live within one mile of these schools as the crow flies. St John's is situated on an estate that has 1800 houses most of which are family homes. When this estate was planned there were to be two schools, one taking at least two and a half forms of entry. For some reason this was not implemented and we are now paying the price for this. (see appendix 1)

We consider that St John's is not currently serving its community effectively and this is the key to solving the current problem. We understand that St John's is an academy and KCC's involvement is limited but even if there are difficulties to overcome these difficulties should be addressed to help to solve the wider problem.

Surely it is the duty of the council to ensure there are sufficient school places within in each community to meet the demand. The increase in birth rate unquestionably indicates that there was going to be a problem.

The early, formative years of a child's education are fundamental to their long term development both in terms of intellect and social skills. It should be a time filled with excitement and anticipation. It should provide the foundation for the rest of their lives. KCC's planning failure will have an adverse effect on our children's long-term future.

**The SAT Campaign has identified the following problems resulting from out-of-community school allocation.**

1. Provision in our area is not enough.
2. Children will not be able to walk to school.
3. There will be more cars crossing urban Maidstone at peak times adding to the congestion.
4. Multiple school drop offs in completely different geographical locations, resulting in many children being late to school.
5. Breaking down of local community.
6. Family homes built in the area but no additional schooling provision made.
7. The **distress our 4 year olds** are experiencing caused by not being able to attend school with their pre-school peers is unacceptable and as a parent **extremely stressful**.
8. KCC's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2012 – 2017 is not being adhered to, its states in relation to the expansion of schools that

“The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring less popular schools should not in itself be sufficient to prevent this expansion.”

### **The Way Forward**

1. Increase the admissions to St John's CEP School to two classes of 30. Therefore serving its community more effectively.
2. Build a new primary school in the area.

**We are only asking for what we have been told is our right, CHOICE. Our children are our future and we must ensure that their needs are met.**





Access points

Existing roads to be stopped

Housing areas (numbers 1-25)

Low density

Medium density

High density

Public open space and land

Proposed tree planting

Children's play spaces

Proposed planting and embankments

Rural area

Minor centres

Primary schools

Secondary schools

County college

Crematorium

Social services

Church site

Village hall

Conservation area boundaries

This sketch is for illustration of the Informal Action Area. Maps are available for Part A and Part B.