

Dear parents/carers, staff and other interested parties,

**Proposed changes to St Anselm's Catholic School
To create a Specialist Resource Base Provision within St Anselm's Catholic School (SRP)**

We are very pleased to inform you of plans for changes at St Anselm's Catholic School. The school has been identified by Kent County Council (KCC) as doing particularly well at supporting pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). KCC has asked the school to consider creating a new Specialist Resource Base Provision (SRP) within the school for up to 15 children. The places will be commissioned by KCC and reviewed each year. It is expected that the SRP would open initially with children currently on roll at the school who meet the criteria for a place in the SRP. The number would then increase incrementally each year. The school and KCC wish to undertake a period of consultation on this proposal between 24 May & 26 June 2018 and we would like to hear your views on the proposal. It is proposed that the 15 place SRP for ASD will run alongside the current SRP for Physical Disability already established at St Anselm's.

This will be an excellent opportunity for the school to use their knowledge and expertise to the full by accommodating local children in a caring, nurturing environment, both within the SRP and the school as a whole. Funding will be made available by KCC to enable the school to provide this additional support.

We hope the following questions and answers will explain, in more detail, what creating an SRP will mean.

What is St Anselm's Catholic School being asked to do?

The school is being asked by KCC to consider creating a SRP for up to 15 pupils for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We are confident that our staff have the relevant expertise and skills to meet the needs of these children. Additional training for staff will also be organised by the school and funded by KCC.

What is Autistic Spectrum Disorder?

The children attending the SRP will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and a diagnosis of ASD. Autism is a developmental condition that affects how a person relates to and communicates with other people, as well as how they make sense of the world around them.

How will you work out which children will attend the SRP?

A specialist assessment of their needs will identify that they are suitable for a mainstream school. The Headteacher and Governors will be invited to take part in the discussions about which pupils are most appropriate and should be admitted. St Anselm's Catholic School will be named on the child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Will this mean fewer places for local children?

No. Children in the SRP will be admitted over the current Published Admission Number (PAN) and therefore no places will be lost.

How much funding will the school receive?

Each place commissioned by KCC will bring a minimum of £10,000 per year which will enable the school to provide the additional support necessary to help these children make good social and academic progress. Over time there may be a need to increase staffing levels at the school but it is likely that this would be no more than one additional teacher and perhaps a Teaching Assistant.

What will the SRP look like?

The SRP will have its own rooms within the school where children can receive some individual and small group teaching and help. The school is highly inclusive, so children will not spend all of their time in the SRP but will be integrated into mainstream classes during each school day as appropriate and as much as possible.

Does that mean we will need new classrooms?

No. We are planning to use existing spaces within the school.

When will the SRP open?

It is intended that the SRP will be in place for September 2019, initially catering for children currently already on the school roll and children who transition to the school in September 2019.

Tell me more about SRPs

A small number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), (previously Statements of Special Educational Needs) require higher levels of support than can be provided in their local mainstream schools, but their needs are not so complex that special school placements are appropriate. For children like this KCC maintain a range of Specialist Resource Base Provisions (SRP) which are based in mainstream schools but reserved for pupils with an EHCP.

What happens next?

Following the consultation, all comments and views received will be considered before the Academy Trust and Governing Body make a final decision. If they decide to proceed a business case will be submitted to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) seeking approval from the Secretary of State.

We would like your views on this proposal to create a SRP within St Anselm's Catholic School

You can have your say by:

- Emailing us at office@st-anselms.org.uk.
- Completing the attached response form and returning it to the school. (You can hand the completed form into the school or return it to the email address above.)

The closing date for sending in a response is 26 June 2018.

Yours faithfully



Dr M Johnstone
Chair of Governors



Mr M Walters
Headteacher