

From: Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Richard Long, TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Subject: **Proposal to establish Primary and Secondary Satellite provisions of St Nicholas (Community) Special School at St John's C.E. Primary School and Canterbury Academy**

Classification: Unrestricted

Decision Number: 19/00082

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Canterbury City South - Ida Linfield
Canterbury City North – Graham Gibbens

Summary:

This report informs members of the proposal and outcome of the consultation to establish Primary and Secondary satellite provisions of St Nicholas (Community) Special School, Canterbury to be implemented from September 2020.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to:

- i. Establish an 8 place Primary satellite provision at St Johns Primary School Canterbury;
- ii. Establish a 32 place Secondary satellite provision at Canterbury Academy; and
- iii. subject to no objections being received to the public notice, implement the proposed changes.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. St Nicholas (Community Special) School is a day provision, providing for boys and girls aged 4 to 19 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN). The school has a designated number of 285 with 270 pupils currently on roll (May 2019 school census). In addition to the main school building at Holme Oak Close, the school also operates primary satellite provisions at Chartham Primary School and Canterbury Primary School. St Nicholas also has a secondary satellite provision at Spires Academy, informal arrangements that enable inclusion opportunities for its students with The Whitstable School, as well as links with Canterbury College for post 16 students. St Nicholas School was judged "Good" by Ofsted in March 2014.
- 1.2. A public consultation on the proposals to establish the satellite provisions at St John's C.E. Primary School and Canterbury Academy was held between 9 September 2019 and 7 October 2019.

2. Proposal to make changes to St Nicholas School

- 2.1. It is proposed to establish satellite provisions at St John's C.E. Primary School and Canterbury Academy for pupils who would be on the roll of St Nicholas School and who have complex learning difficulties, including Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), rather than the full range of PSCN (profound, severe and complex special educational need).
- 2.2. St John's C.E. Primary School would host a satellite provision for up to 8 children (one class of 8), whilst Canterbury Academy would host a 32-place satellite (four classes of 8). The provisions would have their own accommodation within the schools and would be staffed by St Nicholas School. The pupils attending the satellites would continue to have access to all the support they need and would be on the roll of St Nicholas School. Their Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) would name St Nicholas School as their school.
- 2.3. The satellite classes would also provide a base for specialist staff who will support the children when they are included in mainstream teaching groups. This proposal provides pupils with opportunities for integration to experience good models of learning and socialising.

3. Financial Implications

Capital Cost

St John's C.E. Primary School has identified and fitted-out a classroom to provide the space needed. Developer contributions of £24,548.70 will be provided to cover the cost of creating the additional classroom.

Canterbury Academy will be provided with a 4-classroom modular building to accommodate the satellite provision. The cost of moving and refurbishing the modular units has been estimated at £534,000.

Revenue Costs

As per KCC policy a total of £6,000 per newly provided classroom will be provided to the school from the DGS revenue budget. For this project a total of £30,000 will be provided for the establishment of the satellite provisions.

KCC will work closely with the senior leadership teams of both schools to ensure that all appropriate accommodation and facilities are provided to enable them to deliver an effective curriculum.

Human

St Nicholas Special School will appoint members of staff as appropriate for the satellite provisions.

4. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

- 4.1 Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aims to address, amongst other things, gaps in provision and this proposal reflect KCC's aspirations to provide sufficient school places across the County, as set out in Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22.

5 Consultation Outcomes

5.1 An education consultation was undertaken from 9 September 2019 to 7 October 2019. The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, school staff and governors, schools in the Canterbury District, County Councillors, the Member of Parliament, Diocesan Authorities, Canterbury & Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group, Canterbury City Council and other interested parties. The consultation documents were posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated. The consultation documents were also posted on all the schools' websites. Opportunity was provided to send in written responses via a response form or email. Overall a total of 96 written responses were received; 75 from St Nicholas School, 14 from Canterbury Academy and 7 from St John's C.E. Primary School. The majority (82%) of responses were supportive of the proposal. A summary of the written responses is attached in Appendix 1.

6 Views

6.1 The view of the Local Members:

- Canterbury City South - Ida Linfield
- Canterbury City North – Graham Gibbens

The Local Members were informed of the proposed changes to St Nicholas during the consultation period.

6.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:

The Headteacher and Governing Body of St Nicholas School fully support the proposals. These exciting proposals will bring significant benefits. Working closely in partnership with St John's C.E. Primary School and Canterbury Academy School will enable staff skills and expertise to be developed through sharing good practice, joint training and observation and will build on the strong relationships and practice already established. The pupils attending the satellites will benefit from the opportunity to experience inclusive learning with children of their own age in a mainstream setting.

6.3 The view of KCC Head of SEN Assessment and Placement:

The Head of SEN Assessment and Placement has worked closely with the schools in bringing these proposals forward and fully supports the plans.

6.1 The view of the KCC Area Education Officer:

The Area Education Officer fully supports the proposals to establish satellite provisions at St John's C.E. Primary School and Canterbury Academy.

7 Conclusion

7.1 The increasing demand for special school places in Canterbury district, particularly for pupils with complex learning difficulties including ASD, has led to St Nicholas School taking additional children. St Nicholas (Community Special) School is unable to expand on its main school site in Canterbury. To meet the increasing demand the establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream school sites provides additional required capacity, enables the school's expertise to be shared with the host school and also provides St

Nicholas students the opportunity to integrate, where appropriate, with mainstream students. Establishing satellite provisions for the school is in line with our vision to ensure that children and young people in Kent get the best start in life as set out in KCC's Strategic Statement 2015-20 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent 2018-2022'.

8 Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to:

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- ii. Establish a 32 place Secondary satellite provision at Canterbury Academy; and
- iii. subject to no objections being received to the public notice, implement the proposed changes.

9 Background Documents

9.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68498/Children-Young-People-and-Education-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement-2018-2021.pdf

9.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23

www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

9.3 SEND Strategy www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy

9.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Stnicholas2019/consultationHome>

10 Contact details

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