

Proposal to expand The Beacon Folkestone to open a satellite provision at the former Walmer Science College and increase the designated number of the School from 380 places to 548 places.

Consultation responses received:

A summary of the responses received showed:

	In Favour	Opposed	Undecided	Totals
Staff	6			6
Parents	9			9
Governors	1			1
Resident	2			2
Other	6			6
Totals	24			24

Comments in favour of the proposal (here similar comments have been received the number of comments is noted in brackets):

- There is a need to have a specialist school provision in the Deal/Dover area (6)
- The rise in the number and percentage of EHCP's by different need type is significant.
- Presently no specialist school provision in the area for pupils with combined Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD).
- Local schools could access outreach and advice from professionals.
- I have personally experienced the struggle of trying to find a specialist placement setting for my child and fully appreciate the requirement for additional provision in this area. The Beacon is an excellent school with highly committed staff and if the same standards could be maintained in a satellite provision then I would most certainly endorse it.
- Having worked in specialist education since 2004 I have an in depth understanding of how the need for provision has grown and am heartened by this proposal for the local community and Kent as a whole. As a former employee of the SRP at Walmer Science College I can think of no better purpose for this site. As a SENCO I have worked to support students with a range of complex SEN needs and from my experience the evidence of need for this satellite is overwhelming.
- Our child resides in Walmer and has to have early morning transport to get to Folkestone. This would be a positive move for them. They cannot attend after school clubs as there is no transport home. With a placement at the satellite school she would be able to make friends and enjoy a more social aspect.
- Using the existing buildings at Walmer is a sensible approach. (6)
- The proposal will promote outstanding provision.
- As the proposal suggests splitting provision down to different types at different school sites makes sense rather than one size fits all.
- Keeping all pupils at Walmer on the roll at The Beacon Folkestone means Walmer Science College will still have the guidance and expertise/support of the excellent staff at that school.

- The satellite provision will reduce travel time for local pupils and will enable them to make friends more locally (2)
- The provision is needed as even when EHCPs are awarded it can take years before these children are placed in a setting that is right for them. Up to that point they are left at their current school which is not what they need. This puts pressure on the current school to provide a curriculum that they are not equipped to provide.
- There is a pressing need for more specialist provision in the District for the more higher functioning pupils who, due to their SEN issues, are unable to access a mainstream facility. No parent should have to be put into the position where they have to choose between their child's education and their child's health and wellbeing.
- I campaigned to Save Walmer Science College and, after we lost that battle, I campaigned to have Walmer Science College made a community asset so I am delighted to hear about the proposal that part of it should be used for children with special needs. I very much hope that this same logic can be applied so that part of the building can also be used for a grammar school annexe, as I believe that neither children with special educational needs, nor children who have been assessed as capable of going to a grammar school, should have to travel so far away from their homes. Particularly since parents are expected to cover the cost of their travel.
- Walmer Parish Council are pleased to see the site will continue to be used for education purposes.

Concerns raised:

- Walmer Parish Council requested that car parking was extended within the School grounds to improve parking provision and to limit the number of vehicles parking on Salisbury Road. That we consider staggering start and finish taking into account other schools in the area.