

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Long,  
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00002

For publication

**Subject:** Proposal to change the age range at Goldwyn School, Ashford from 11-16 years to 11-18 years in order to add sixth form provision, adding 45 post-16 places and increase the designated number at Key Stages 3/4 by 35 places.

Decision:

**As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills I agree to:**

- (i). Change the age range at Goldwyn School, Ashford from 11-16 years to 11-18 years in order to add sixth form provision, adding 45 post-16 places and increase the designated number at Key Stages 3/4 by 35 places (195 places in total).
- (ii). Issue a public notice in regard of the proposal as set out in (i) above.

Should objections, not already considered by me when taking this decision, be received during the public notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal and allow for a proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

1.1 Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the Plan can be viewed from this link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

1.2 The Local Authority is responsible for maintaining Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs), not only for statutory school aged children but for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years. As of January 2019, this totalled 11,763 children and young people with an EHCP. This is an increase of 1,384 since January 2018, up 13.3% compared to 11% nationally.

1.3 Goldwyn School is a maintained special school designated to support pupils aged 11-16 years with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH). It is judged as Outstanding by OFSTED. Presently the School is designated to take 115 pupils aged 11-16 years of age.

1.4 Due to the increased need for specialist SEMH places the School has been commissioned to provide up to 150 places for the last few years. Increasing the designated number of Key Stages 3/4 places by 35 places will formalise this situation.

1.5 There is no post-16 maintained specialist education provision for pupils with SEMH in Kent. This is in contrast to schools supporting other need types in the County. At Goldwyn, 75% of students arrived after Year 7 and 29% of the 2018-19 cohort arrived in years 10 or 11. The vast majority of

students have missed large chunks of their education either at primary or secondary, or in some cases both. This, in addition with students' other complex needs, can mean that their development is delayed, and some are simply not ready to transition to mainstream post-16 provisions.

**Financial Implications:**

**Capital:** Capital funding will not be required as the School will have access to all existing premises owned and leased by Goldwyn School to provide for the sixth form.

**Revenue:** The sixth form will be funded in the same way and at the same rate as it is for the pre-16 students at the School. As of September 2019, this is at the rate of £19,326.36 per place.

**Equality Implication:**

An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed as part of the consultation process and found that the proposal will have an overall positive impact as it will increase the number of outstanding post-16 places available for pupils with an EHCP for SEMH needs. Pupils currently on roll at the School, will have the option of continuing their education in a familiar setting with the specialist support that they require. It will give external students with needs similar to those on roll at Goldwyn a further option for post-16 education which may better suit their needs and improve their educational outcomes.

However, analysis shows that girls will be less likely to benefit from this proposal than boys. As of September 2019, there were 1,240 boys aged 11-19 with an EHCP for SEMH and 311 girls.

Although the future of Goldwyn College is not part of this proposal, concerns have been raised around how this proposal could impact on that provision. As a maintained sixth form Goldwyn School will only be able to support pupils up to 19 years of age (Year 14) whereas Goldwyn College could support up to 25 years of age. Should the proposal move forward and a decision is made by Trustees not to maintain Goldwyn College as a separate entity there could be a small negative impact on young people post 19 years of age which would need to be mitigated. In the past three years only 11 of the 130 pupils on roll at Goldwyn College (8.5%) have been in Year 15 or above. If this is the case, Officers will work with young people and their families to find alternative high quality provision matched to their needs and aspirations.

A copy of the assessment can be accessed here:

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

**Legal Implications:**

If this proposal is not agreed KCC will be at risk of not meeting its legal duty to provide appropriate school places for the children and young people of Kent.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee considered the proposal at its meeting on 11 March 2020. At the meeting the Committee RESOLVED to endorse the proposal.

**Any alternatives considered:**

All alternatives have been considered when producing the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 which can be viewed via this link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

As there are only two maintained special schools catering specifically for pupils with SEMH needs as opposed to Behaviour and Learning needs, Goldwyn School and Portal House School. Therefore, the

options of expanding maintained post-16 provision for pupils with SEMH are limited. Goldwyn School ad an Outstanding provision is well set to add post-16 provision.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

N/A

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

Signed

20 March 2020

Date

