



Public Consultation Document



Diocesan & Payne Smith
Church of England Primary
School

Kingsmead Primary School



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to amalgamate Kingsmead Primary School and Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School with effect from 1st September 2012.

Public Meetings:

Monday 6 December 2010 at 3.30 p.m. at Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School

Wednesday 8 December 2010 at 3.30 p.m. at Kingsmead Primary School



1. INTRODUCTION

It is widely acknowledged that the children attending Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School and Kingsmead Primary School are badly in need of better accommodation. This will require substantial investment to provide the facilities and learning environment which meet the needs of the children and their communities.

Kent County Council and the Canterbury Diocese tried to find a way to provide a new school on the Kingsmead stadium site in negotiation with Canterbury City Council, but unfortunately this was unable to proceed.

Another proposal to amalgamate on the Kingsmead site is now being brought forward and Kent County Council would very much like to hear your views. On page 10 you will see how you can let us know what you think. All comments received will be carefully considered.

2. BACKGROUND

The possibility of a new school to replace Kingsmead Primary School and Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School has been discussed for several years.

Over a decade ago, it was recognised that there was an urgent need to replace Diocesan & Payne Smith CE School because of the cramped conditions, health and safety concerns and escalating maintenance costs making it unfit for 21st Century education.

Kingsmead Primary School accommodation is desperately in need of refurbishment and the site in need of redevelopment.

A solution to the unsatisfactory accommodation issues for both schools has continued to be sought. This proposal is now being brought forward for consideration to address these issues.

3. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to amalgamate Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School and Kingsmead Primary School by closing both schools and immediately opening a newly amalgamated school with effect from 1 September 2012. The new school would be a two form entry Voluntary Controlled school, including a 26 part-time place maintained nursery unit and would be established on the current Kingsmead site.

The main building of Kingsmead Primary School was built around 1903 with additions in 1939 and 1960. To achieve a two form entry primary school on the site it is recognised that there would need to be substantial improvements including refurbishment and remodelling of the accommodation and possibly some new build. The access to the school will also need to be greatly improved. This work would be funded by a contribution of up to £2m from Kent County Council, together with the proceeds from the sale of the Diocesan & Payne Smith site which would be contributed by the Canterbury Diocese. Detailed work would be undertaken in consultation with both schools to agree the best way of using the funding available to provide a good learning environment for all pupils.

At the point of amalgamation in September 2012, there would be an estimated 291 pupils on the combined roll from both schools. The number of pupils entering Reception Year in future years is expected to rise in the Canterbury City locality and a new two form entry school to replace Kingsmead and Diocesan & Payne Smith would be appropriate to meet future need.

The table below shows the current pupil numbers at both schools for Years R to 6

School	PAN *	Yr R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total
Diocesan & Payne Smith	29	30	30	25	23	28	24	17	177
Kingsmead	30	28	23	21	12	17	12	12	125

* Published Admission Number

3. THE PROPOSAL—cont.

A shadow governing body would be appointed, consisting of governors from both schools. They would plan the establishment of the new school, which would have a single governing body and a single headteacher. The shadow governing body would appoint the headteacher designate who would then work with the shadow governing body to establish a staffing structure for the new school.

Staff from the existing schools would have the opportunity to be considered for positions at the new school, should they wish. Every effort would be made to manage the transition and establishment of the new school to minimise disruption for existing pupils.

The new school formed from the amalgamation of Kingsmead and Diocesan & Payne Smith would be eligible for reorganisation funding based on both schools' current pupil numbers and would also include curriculum protection. This would total approximately £87k.

All pupils attending Diocesan & Payne Smith School and Kingsmead Primary School at the time of their closure and requiring a place for 2012, would be guaranteed a place at the new school.

4. COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS OF KINGSMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

A new school would embrace the significant strengths of the existing Kingsmead Primary School, maintaining the good quality 'care, guidance and support' recognised in the most recent OFSTED inspection, its successful inclusion history and considerable community involvement.

Martyn Vye, Chairman of Governors

5. COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL FROM THE CANTERBURY DIOCESE

The Diocese has over the last 4 year period spent over £750,000 on the Diocesan & Payne Smith school building and we are still left with a building that is unsuitable for providing the kind of education needed for the children of the school.

The case has already been made, and accepted, for the need to rebuild the school but proposals have not been able to progress due to the inability to find a suitable site.

This latest proposal to establish a brand new school out of the two predecessor schools of Kingsmead and Diocesan & Payne Smith, located on a greatly enhanced Kingsmead site, will enable us to bring the best practice from both schools and create a Church of England school which serves the whole community.

Part of the success and popularity of Diocesan & Payne Smith has been its clear Christian character as a Church of England school. It received an 'outstanding' for its denominational inspection; parents value the Christian ethos which underpins the whole school and plays a vital part in the life of the school and its place in the community. Recognising that the proposed new school is to be formed by bringing together a County primary and a Voluntary Aided school, it is proposed that the new school should be a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school. This will ensure that the school thrives as a distinctive Church of England school and has the same inclusive admissions policy as all other Voluntary Controlled and Community schools, ensuring that it will serve the local community. Admission will not be dependent on any faith commitment of the family and the school will serve pupils of all faiths and none, within the context of its underpinning Christian values.

**The Reverend Nigel Genders
Canterbury Diocesan Director of Education**

6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The purpose of this consultation process is to seek your views on whether a new school should be established by amalgamating Kingsmead Primary School and Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School.

Competition Arrangements

All proposals to establish a new school (including a school which emerges from the amalgamation of two existing schools) are subject to the requirement for external competition. This means that once a need for a new school has been identified by Kent County Council, we are required to publish a competition notice which specifies the detailed requirement for the school and allows other interested parties to submit a proposal to run the school. If this was to be the case then the Local Authority would 'judge' the competition and make a decision following comprehensive evaluation of any proposals that came forward. The competition requirement extends the decision making process and delays the point at which a final decision can be made. If this proposal is subject to the competition process it is possible that it may be December 2011 before a final decision is made.



Kingsmead Primary School

Exemption from Competition

Although most new schools are established through a Local Authority competition, it is possible under government legislation for *Proposers* of new schools to apply to the Secretary of State for exemption from competition.

As the new school would be a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school, the Diocese of Canterbury has agreed, in consultation with Kent County Council and the headteachers and governors of both schools, to submit an application to the Secretary of State to seek consent to publish a proposal for the new school, without going through the competition process.

This would mean that a decision about the new school could be made in July 2011.

The suggested timetable for either a competition or exemption from competition can be found on the following pages.



Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School

7. CONSULTATION TIMETABLE

Public Consultation Begins	22 November 2010
Public Meetings; Diocesan & Payne Smith CEP Kingsmead Primary School	6 December, 3.30 pm 8 December, 3.30 pm
Canterbury Diocese applies to the Secretary of State to publish proposals for a new Voluntary Controlled school outside of competition	17 December 2010
Public Consultation ends	14 January 2011
Decision by Secretary of State on exemption from competition	February 2011
*School Organisation Advisory Board	3 March 2011

If exemption is granted:

Cabinet Member decision on issuing a joint Public Notice with the Diocese	March 2011
Public Notice Issued	29 April 2011
End of Public Notice Period	10 June 2011
Decision by Local Authority	July 2011
Appeal Period	4 weeks
Decision by Adjudicator if referred	September 2011

* The School Organisation Advisory Board meeting is held at County Hall, Maidstone and the webcast can be watched via the kent.gov.uk website. **The meeting is open to the public.**

7. CONSULTATION TIMETABLE—cont.

If exemption from competition is **NOT** granted:

Cabinet Member decision on issuing a competition notice	March 2011
First competition Public Notice issued (invitation to bid)	29 April 2011
End of first competition Public Notice period	29 August 2011
Second Public Notice issued (summary of proposals received in response to the invitation notice).	16 September 2011
Public meeting	w/c 26 September 2011
Second Public Notice expires	28 October 2011
Report back to School Organisation Advisory Board on outcome of the competition	9 November 2011
Decision by Cabinet Member	By 28 December 2011



Kingsmead Primary School Play Area

8. HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

If you would like to comment on the proposal there are several opportunities available to you:

◇ **Complete and return the response form to:**

Martyn Doole, Area Education Officer,
East Kent Education Office, Clover House,
John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way,
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QZ

(forms must reach us by 14 January 2011)

◇ **Come to a public meeting**

- ◆ Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School
Monday 6 December at 3.30 pm
- ◆ Kingsmead Primary School
Wednesday 8 December at 3.30 pm
- ◆ An elected member of Kent County Council will chair these meetings, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views.
- ◆ Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

◇ **Email your comments to:**

school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

(We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails)



Public Consultation Response Form

Proposal to amalgamate Kingsmead Primary School and Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School with effect from 1st September 2012.

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 14 JANUARY 2011

To: Martyn Doole, Area Education Officer (East Kent)
East Kent Area Education Office, Clover House,
John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way, Whitstable CT5 3QZ

Fax: (01227) 772290

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes

No

I am: (please tick as appropriate)

The parent/carer of a pupil at
Kingsmead Primary School

The parent/carer of a pupil at
Diocesan & Payne Smith CEP

A member of staff at
Kingsmead Primary School

A member of staff at Diocesan
& Payne Smith CEP

A governor of Kingsmead
Primary School

A governor of Diocesan &
Payne Smith CEP

Other interested party

Name of other school or interested party

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You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Name:

Address:

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF

My comments are as follows:

Please continue on another sheet if necessary

This document is available on:
http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/kingsmead_diocesan/consultationHome

Responses can be emailed to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

If you have difficulty reading this document and require it in another format please contact your school.