

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education,
Learning and Skills

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health
Reform

Subject: **Decision number: 14/00123 Proposal to increase the
designated numbers of St Nicholas' (Community Special)
School, Canterbury**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee 14 March 2014 – Re-
designation of Special Schools across Kent.

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Divisions: St Nicholas' School – Canterbury South West
Local Members: Canterbury South West – Martin Vye

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposals to increase the designated numbers of St Nicholas' School from 144 to 200.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to take the decision to:

- (i) Issue a public notices to increase the designated number St Nicholas' School

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Increase the designated number

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

1. Introduction

1.1 In May 2012, KCC Education Cabinet Committee agreed to the development of a Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability for the children and young people of Kent.

The overarching aim of the strategy is to support every child and young person in Kent to achieve their full life potential, whatever their background. An important aspect of this is to develop a well-planned continuum of provision that meets the needs of children and young people with the most complex special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We therefore are reviewing and developing the capacity of special schools to serve their

locality – defining their offer and building in capacity to respond to future need.

- 1.2 Over time, in order to meet our responsibilities a number of our special schools have been asked to admit additional pupils. In some cases this has led the schools involved to exceed their designated numbers to the extent that we now need to complete a statutory consultation process to permanently increase the designated numbers and regularise the situation.
- 1.3 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 8 September and 6 October 2014. A public meeting were not held, but consultation letters were sent to parents/carers, members of staff and governors of the school explaining the reasons for the consultation and providing the opportunity to send in a response.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no financial implications attached to these proposals as it is about updating the designated numbers to match the number of children that the schools currently provide for.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’.
- 3.2 As set out in our SEN and Disability Strategy this proposal supports our aim for every child and young person in Kent to achieve their full life potential, whatever their background.
- 3.2 The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2013-18’ referred to the need to review the future capacity of specialist SEN provision within special schools and within the mainstream sector.

4. Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 The consultation ended on 6 October 2014 with one response being received from a parent. The parent was concerned that the proposal was to admit even more pupils to the school than were currently on roll. The parent was advised that this was not the case.

5. Views

- 5.1 The view of the Local Member: The Local Member Mr Martin Vye has been consulted and is supportive of the proposal.
- 5.3 The view of the St Nicholas’ School:

We are pleased that the re-designation of our school number recognises the significant expansion in our pupil roll that has already taken place. We feel that we have the resources and expertise to meet the needs of this large group of learners, now and into the future.

- 5.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:
The Area Education Officer fully supports the proposals to increase the designated numbers of the school to reflect the number of children that have been admitted over time to ensure the local authority meets its responsibilities. The permanent increase will enable the local authority to continue to meet its responsibilities with regard to providing sufficient places for pupils for whom an appropriate placement is at a special school.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposals are to increase the designated number of St Nicholas' School from 144 to 200.
- 6.2 The proposed increases in the designated numbers are subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.
- 6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for both proposals as part of the consultation.
<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StNicholas/consultationHome>
To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

7. Delegation to Officers

- 7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 This proposal will regulate the designated numbers of both schools and allow the local authority to continue to meet its responsibilities with regard to providing sufficient places for pupils for whom an appropriate placement is at a special school.

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to take the decision to:

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And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Increase the designated number

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10. Background Documents

10.1 Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx

10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s43253/ItemD3KentEducationCommissioningPlan20132018final.pdf>

10.3 Education Cabinet Committee report– 27 September 2013

<http://kent590w3:9070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=746&MId=5033&Ver=4>

10.4 Consultation Documents and Equalities Impact Assessments

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StNicholas/consultationHome>

11. Contact details

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