

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

**Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education**

DECISION NO:

**19/00024**

Unrestricted

**Subject:**

**Proposal to change of age range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School from 8-19 years to 5-19 years**

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, I propose to:

- (i) issue a public notice to permanently change the age range of the school and subject to no objections being received to the public notice; and
- (ii) change the age range from 8-19 years to 5-19 years in order to provide KS1 places to help with the demand for specialist places for pupils at KS1.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

In taking this decision I have taken into consideration:

The age-range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School changed from 11-19 years to 8-19 years from September 2017 with the introduction of KS2 classes. The school together with KCC now wish to extend the provision to include all of KS2 (from age 7) and KS1 (from age 5) in order to meet local demand.

Stone Bay (Community Special) School was judged “Good” by Ofsted in January 2018 with “inspirational leadership and are determined to provide the best possible outcomes for pupils.” The Local Authority is confident that the school has the capacity and leadership to establish KS1 provision. This would ensure that sufficient KS1 places are provided in the local area.

It is proposed to change the age-range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School from 8-19 years to 5-19 years to establish KS1 provision at the School. The Headteacher and Governing Body fully support the proposal and feel very strongly that there is a need for a KS1 class in Stone Bay School as there is no other provision within a reasonable traveling distance that can meet the specific learning needs of children of this age group. Stone Bay is a specialist provision that provides for children who have a diagnosed autistic spectrum disorder, profound, severe and complex needs and additional comorbidities.

The school propose to include the new classes in the current café and music block which will become the Primary building and can accommodate 4 classrooms. There is also a separate outdoor play area alongside access to the main garden. Only KS1 & 2 will be accommodated in this part of the school. The secondary and 6th form students will continue to be accommodated in their current classrooms in the main building and the demountable classrooms. This will provide age appropriate movement through the school. Staff with appropriate qualifications will teach in either the Primary, Secondary or 6th Form Departments.

**Equalities Implications**

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of the consultation process and can be found via the following link: [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

**Financial Implications**

It is expected that the project will require minimal internal works to provide the facilities for younger children and the current estimated cost is £1,750.

**Legal Implication**

These will be updated prior to the decision being taken.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

To be added after the CYPE Cabinet Committee meeting on 28 March 2019

**Any alternatives considered:**

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 sets out how Kent carries out its responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places, for all learners and this proposal supports that aim.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken, and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:** None

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**Signed**

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**Date**