

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:
Richard Long TD
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:
20/00038

For Publication

Subject: Proposed increase to the Designated Number at to Five Acre Wood School, Boughton Lane, Maidstone ME15 9QF

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills I agree to:

- (i) Increase the Designated Number of Five Acre Wood School from 465 to 580 places from September 2020.

Reason(s) for decision:

The demand for Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision has continued to grow and the pressure for places at Five Acre Wood School has increased commensurately, with strong parental preference. The school is keen to support additional students, making efficient use of the main school accommodation to increase its place capacity, whilst also ensuring it maintains its high quality of education.

It is proposed to increase the Designated Number from 465 to 580 places at Five Acre Wood School. This would provide urgently needed places in the Maidstone and Malling areas and would reduce potential travelling time for SEN pupils.

Financial Implications

3.1 Capital – There is no requirement for further additional accommodation to be provided for the proposed increase in the school's Designated Number, and therefore no capital expenditure relating to this proposal.

3.2 Revenue – Five Acre Wood will receive funding for the additional pupils that it admits in line with the funding allocated to special schools through Kent County Council's (KCC) funding formula

3.3 Human - The school will appoint additional staff as and when appropriate.

Equality Impact Assessment

An assessment has been completed as part of the consultation process and found that there is no evidence that the change will impact negatively on pupils from Protected Groups or lead to them being treated less favourably. The school would remain co-educational and continue to welcome pupils with EHCPs regardless of gender identity, race, ethnicity or religion beliefs.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those who responded to the public education consultation
- the views expressed by those put in writing by the Area Education Officer, the School and the Governing Body.
- the Equalities Impact Assessment regarding this; and

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The report was shared with Members of the CYPE Cabinet Committee for comment, prior to a

decision being taken.

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2019-23 explored all options and the increase in Designated number for Five Acre Wood School was deemed the suitable option.

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



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Signed

19 May 2020

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Date