

# Education Consultation

## Herne Bay Infant School and

## Herne Bay Junior School

Date of consultation 10 January 2022 to 07 February 2022



10 January 2022

### **Kent County Council is proposing to make a prescribed alteration to Herne Bay Infant School and Nursery and Herne Bay Junior School.**

Dear Parents/Carers, Pupils, Staff, Governors and Other Interested Parties

#### **1. Introduction**

Kent County Council (KCC), Herne Bay Infant School and Herne Bay Junior School would like to hear your views on a proposal to establish a joint 20 place Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Herne Bay Infant School and Nursery and Herne Bay Junior School.

#### **2. Why are we consulting on proposals for Herne Bay Infant School and Herne Bay Junior School?**

The two schools have been identified by Kent County Council (KCC) as being successful in supporting pupils with additional needs. KCC has asked the schools to consider establishing a new joint SRP for up to 20 children. The SRP places would be commissioned by KCC and the number of commissioned places would be reviewed annually. It is expected that the SRP would support three or four pupils during the first year of operation with the number increasing incrementally each year. The schools have agreed to hold a public consultation on the proposal and have arranged a drop-in session on 27th January 2022 at 3pm to 5pm at Herne Bay Junior School (dependant on Covid situation)

The Governing Bodies are aware of this proposal which will enable the schools to work in collaboration and use their knowledge and expertise, accommodating local children in a caring, nurturing environment, both within the SRP and both schools.

We hope the following questions and answers will explain, in more detail, what creating an SRP will mean.

#### **3. What is Herne Bay Infant and Herne Bay Junior Schools being asked to do?**

Herne Bay Infant and Herne Bay Junior Schools are being asked by KCC to consider establishing an SRP of up to 20 pupils for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Additional specialist training for staff will be organised by the school and funded by KCC and the schools will be funded to appoint a Specialist Teacher (Lead Teacher) and specialist Teaching Assistants. The provision will provide specialist support to pupils with ASD enabling them to be included in the life of the schools alongside their peers.

#### **4. What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?**

The pupils attending the SRP will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and a diagnosis of ASD. Autism is a developmental condition that affects how a person relates to

and communicates with other people, as well as how they make sense of the world around them.

## **5. Tell me more about SRPs.**

Over 70 Primary and Secondary mainstream schools in Kent have additional specialist resource provisions (SRP). These provide support for children and young people who, without specialist input, are unlikely to make progress in their learning and will struggle to take part in mainstream school life.

Many children and young people with additional learning needs can make better, more sustained progress when they attend a mainstream school. A small number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans, require higher levels of support than can usually be provided by a mainstream school, but with a high level of specialist support, could be successfully included and make good progress alongside their peers. For these pupils KCC maintain a range of Specialist Resource Provisions (SRP) which are located within mainstream schools.

To be considered for an SRP place the child or young person must first have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

We have SRPs for the following special educational need (SEN) types:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Speech, Language and communication needs (SLCN)
- Hearing Impairment (HI)
- Visual Impairment (VI)
- Physical Disability (PD)
- Cognition and Learning (C&L)
- Specific Learning Difficulties such as Dyslexia (SPLD)
- Profound Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN)

Every Specialist Resource Provision is led by a Lead Teacher who is a specialist in the SEN need type of the SRP. This means that they have or are studying a degree level qualification. SRP support staff will also have enhanced and specialist levels of training. The SRP includes additional support staff who are teaching assistants with additional knowledge and skills in the need type of the SRP who will support pupils both in the SRP base and when the pupils are working in mainstream.

All SRPs have a base such as a classroom for pupils where they can receive specialist teaching for some subjects or receive SEN interventions (small group teaching). Some children may also receive speech and language therapy or occupational therapy individually or small group interventions.

When children and young people are going through the Education and Health Care assessment there will be evidence that, without a high level of specialist support, they would find it difficult or not be able to participate in activities, including learning, alongside their peers in a mainstream school.

In time and with support, it is expected that children and young people will be able to attend most of their mainstream lessons and take part successfully in activities in the school.

## **5. How will you work out which children will attend the SRP?**

The decision about placement in a mainstream school with support from an SRP is made by the local authority, taking into account the views of parents, professionals and the school on the suitability of any potential placement. This decision is made during the process of statutory assessment or following an Annual Review of an existing EHCP. Herne Bay Infant School or Herne Bay Junior School will be named on the child's Education, Health and Care Plan.

## **6. Will this mean fewer places for local children?**

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No. Pupils in the SRP will be admitted over the current Published Admission Numbers (PAN) of both schools.

### 7. How much funding will the school receive?

Each place in the SRP is commissioned and funded by KCC.

### 8. What will the SRP look like?

The SRP will have its own accommodation and the current Bay Centre building on the Junior School site will be refurbished to accommodate the SRP where pupils will be able to receive some individual and small group teaching and support. A new outdoor play area for the SRP will also be developed. The accommodation will include 2 classrooms, an office, meeting room and therapy room. The school is highly inclusive, so pupils will not spend all of their time in the SRP but will be integrated into mainstream classes during each school day as appropriate.

### 9. When will the SRP open?

It is intended that the SRP will be in place for September 2022.

### 10. Where can I find out more about what you are putting in place for SEN students?

KCC has produced a Strategy that sets out its plans for pupils with SEN and Disabilities (SEND).

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy>

### 11. I have a question – who can I ask?

If you have any questions, please contact Herne Bay Infant School and Nursery or Herne Bay Junior School or email: [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)

### 12. The consultation process – indicative timeline

Date	Information
10 January to 07 February 2022.	Consultation period
27 January	'Drop-in' information session will be held at Herne Bay Junior School at 3pm to 5pm
4 March 2022	Following the consultation, all views received will be reported to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and the Cabinet Member
21 April to 19 May	If the Cabinet Member decides to proceed with the proposals, KCC will publish a public notice for a four-week period in a local newspaper at the school and on the KCC and school website. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposals.

May 2022	The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to proceed with the proposals.
September 2022	Implementation, subject to agreement

### 13. How can I give my views on the proposals?

There are a number of ways to give us your views on this proposal:

- A 'drop in' information session is being held at Herne Bay Junior School where you will have the opportunity to ask questions and complete a response form.
- By completing the online response form at [School consultations - Kent County Council](#)
- By handing your response form into reception at Herne Bay Infant School or Herne Bay Junior School.
- By emailing: [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)
- By sending the attached response form to Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, John Wilson Business Park, Reeves Way, Whitstable Kent CT5 3SS

All responses need to be received by midday on 7 February 2022

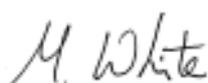
Visit [School consultations and public notices | Let's talk Kent](#) for further information.

KCC recognises the significant importance given to parent/carer views in the Children and Families Act reforms of SEN and Disabilities, which came into force from September 2014 and has looked to ensure they are involved in shaping and influencing strategic decisions that affect their children and young people.

### 14. What happens next?

This consultation period closes on 7 February 2022. A report summarising the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and the Cabinet Member will then decide whether to proceed with the proposal and publish statutory proposals in the form of a public notice. The public notice would be published in a local newspaper, and for a period of four weeks following the publication date, any person can comment on the proposals. Having taken into account any responses, the Cabinet Member will then take a final decision on whether to proceed with the change of age-range.

Yours sincerely



**Marisa White**  
**Area Education Officer**

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been conducted to ensure no one is unfairly affected on the basis of their protected characteristics throughout the process. Our consultation stage Equality Impact Assessment can be viewed online at [School consultations and public notices | Let's talk Kent](#) or is available on request. We would welcome any feedback within the consultation questionnaire. We will review the EqIA after the consultation, taking into account any feedback received.

The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. You can view the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2021 to 2025 at: [www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision)

You can view Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities at: [www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy](http://www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy)