

Education Consultation

Creating satellite provision of Meadowfield Special School at Fulston Manor Secondary School



Consultation 21 June 2023 to 19 July 2023

21 June 2023

Kent County Council is proposing to make a prescribed alteration to Meadowfield (Foundation) Special School by establishing a satellite provision of Meadowfield at Fulston Manor Secondary School.

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

1. Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC) would like to hear your views on a proposal to make the following changes to Meadowfield Special School:

- Create satellite provision for 20 secondary aged pupils at Fulston Secondary School
- Increase designated number from 366 to 386.

Meadowfield (Foundation) Special School is a day provision providing for boys and girls aged 3 to 19 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN) including Autism. In addition to the main building at Swanstree Avenue Sittingbourne, the school operates a 6th form provision at Ufton Lane Sittingbourne and a primary satellite provision at Sunny Bank Primary School, Sittingbourne which opened September 2022. The new satellite at Fulston Manor Secondary School will provide opportunities and choice for integration for Meadowfield pupils and an onward pathway for those pupils attending the satellite at Sunny Bank Primary School.

2. Why are we consulting on proposals for Meadowfield Special school?

As the strategic commissioner of school provision, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the residents of Kent. This duty applies to special school provision, as well as mainstream settings. Kent County Council does not have sufficient local specialist provision in mainstream schools and too many children and young people have to go to a specialist school too far from home to have their education, health and care need met.

3. Why Satellite Provisions?

Following joint discussions between KCC, Meadowfield School and Fulston Manor School it was agreed that the proposed secondary satellite provision at Fulston Manor Secondary School would be an exciting opportunity for the schools to work together to provide additional specialist places in Swale District. There is an increasing number of children with an education, health and care plans (EHCPs) requiring Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision to meet their needs. It is anticipated that the satellite provision will support pupils with complex learning difficulties including ASD rather than the full range of PSCN.

Fulston Manor Secondary School would host a specialist satellite provision for up to 20 students.

They would have their own dedicated accommodation within Fulston Manor Secondary School which would be staffed by Meadowfield School. Students attending the satellite would continue to have access to support for their needs and would be on the roll of Meadowfield School and their ECHPs would name Meadowfield as their School.

This exciting proposal will bring significant benefits as the partnership will enable staff skills and expertise to be developed by sharing good practice and enable joint training and observation. Students will benefit from inclusive school opportunities.

We propose to make these places available for September 2024 and between now and then staff at Meadowfield will work closely with parents to identify who might attend the new provision. The students' needs, including their friendship groups, will be taken into account during this process.

4. How will the pupils in the satellite provisions be accommodated in the school?

Fulston Manor Secondary School has identified an area in the school's grounds where a purpose built new building will be constructed which will include two classrooms, intervention space, additional circulation and social space and access to toilets and a care suite. The students would have a class base where they can receive some individual and small group teaching. The class would also provide a base for Specialist Staff who will support the children when they are included in mainstream teaching groups with students of the same age. The students will be on the school roll of Meadowfield School, and the specialist teacher and teaching assistant will also be provided by Meadowfield School. A specialist assessment of the student's needs will identify that they are suitable for the mainstream school satellite. The headteachers of the schools will discuss who is most appropriate and should be admitted, if supported by parents.

5. I have a question – who can I ask?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school or email:

school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

6. The consultation process – indicative timeline

Date	Information
21 June 2023 to 19 July 2023	Consultation period
September 2023	Following the consultation, all views received, either via the KCC website, by post or email will be reported to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and the Cabinet Member
October/November 2023	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.
December 2023	The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to proceed with the proposals.
September 2024	Implementation, subject to agreement

7. How can I give my views on the proposals?

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

- By completing the on-line response form at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Education Consultation

Creating satellite provision of Meadowfield Special School at Fulston Manor Secondary School



Consultation 21 June 2023 to 19 July 2023

- By handing your response form into reception at Meadowfield School or Fulston Manor Secondary School.
- By emailing: 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 19 July 2023.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations for further information.

8. What happens next?

This consultation period closes on 19 July 2023. 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 proposal.

Yours sincerely

Marisa White
Area Education Officer

We have completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. You can view the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2023 to 2027 at: 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