

# Education Consultation

## Creating satellite provision of Meadowfield Special School at Sunny Bank Primary School



Consultation 1 March 2022 to 29 March 2022

1 March 2022

**Kent County Council is proposing to make a prescribed alteration to Meadowfield (Foundation) Special School by establishing a satellite at Sunny Bank Primary 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 16 primary aged pupils at Sunny Bank Primary School
- Increase designated number from 348 to 366.

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 also operates a 6<sup>th</sup> form provision at Ufton Lane Sittingbourne. The new satellite at Sunny Bank Primary School will provide additional opportunities and choice for integration for Meadowfield pupils.

### 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 Sunny Bank Primary school it was agreed that the proposed primary satellite provision at Sunny Bank Primary 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.

Sunny Bank Primary School would host a specialist satellite provision for up to 16 pupils. They would have their own dedicated accommodation within Sunny Bank Primary School which would be staffed by Meadowfield School. Pupils attending the satellite would continue to have access to support their

needs and would be on the roll of Meadowfield School and their ECHPs would name Meadowfield as their School.

These exciting proposals 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. Pupils will benefit from inclusive school opportunities.

We propose to make these places available for September 2022 and between now and then staff at Meadowfield will work closely with parents to identify who might attend the new provision. The pupils' 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?**

Sunny Bank Primary School has identified an area within the school that can provide two classrooms, additional circulation and social space and access to toilets and a care suite. The children 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 children of the same age. The children 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 children'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](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)

#### **6. The consultation process – indicative timeline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Information</b>
01 March 2022 to 29 March 2022	Consultation period
10 May 2022	Following the consultation, all views received, either by post or email will be reported to the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and the Cabinet Member
6 June to 4 July 2022	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.
July 2022	The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to proceed with the proposals.
September 2022	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](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)
- By handing you response form into reception at Meadowfield School or Sunny Bank Primary School.
- By emailing: [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk)

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- 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 29 March 2022.

Visit [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations) for further information.

### 8. What happens next?

This consultation period closes on 29 March 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 proposal.

Yours sincerely

**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](http://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 2022 to 2026 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)