MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):

Contact details
1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

The proposal to discontinue St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School, 41-43 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8TF is published by the Governing Body, the relevant authority. The Local Authority can be contacted at the following address: Marisa White, Area Education Officer, East Kent Education Office, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3SS

Implementation
2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

The proposal will be implemented on 31 August 2013.

Consultation
3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

The statutory consultation requirements, as prescribed by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended, have been complied with.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
c) the views of the persons consulted; and

d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

The Governing Body issued a consultation document on 11 March 2013 and the consultation period ran from that date to 26 April 2013. The main consultees to which consultation documents were sent included governors, staff, pupils and parents/guardians at St Philip Howard Catholic
Primary School; Headteachers and Governing Bodies of other primary and nursery schools within a five mile radius of St Philip Howard Catholic School Herne Bay; local councillors; local member of parliament and the trustees. The consultation documents were distributed in hard copy and electronically and were also published on the Internet at www.st-philip.kent.sch.uk and http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StPhilipHoward/consultationHome

An email address was sent up in order to receive responses (SPHconsultation@st-philip.kent.sch.uk) of which there were two and hard copies were issued to which there was one response. The paper and one email response disagreed with the proposal but ‘accepted’ it. The second email response was of a purely technical nature regarding the consultation process to which all statutory requirements had been fulfilled.

As part of the consultations, meetings were held with a range of people including members of the governing body and staff employed at St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School, 41-43 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 8TF. Principally, a meeting with staff and union representation took place on 12 March 2013, a meeting for current parents (approx. 30 in attendance) was held on 13 March and a public meeting (approx. 30 in attendance) was held at St Philip Howard School on 20 March 2013. The majority of interventions at the parents’ meeting on 13 March centred on the particular needs of individual children and as such did not focus on the proposal to close the school. Some disappointment was expressed regarding the academic improvements experienced over the last year and the closure coming on the back of these. The public meeting took in the views of current and past parents and interested members of the public – the views expressed centred on the disappointment regarding the loss of a community asset and included some questions on the timetable for the process. The views expressed at these meetings and in the written responses were taken into account at a meeting of the governors on 29 April 2013 where the decision was made to issue the public notice.

The consultation document forms an integral element of these complete proposals.

Copies of the complete proposals can be inspected at St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School, 41-43 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 8TF and requested via email at sphproposal@gmail.com

Hard copies of the complete proposal documentation will be made available on request and can be obtained from the Clerk to the Governing Body of St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School at the school address: 41-43 Avenue Road, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 8TF. They will also be available at the following websites www.st-philip.kent.sch.uk and http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StPhilipHoward/consultationHome

All relevant statutory requirements regarding consultation on these proposals were complied with.
Objectives
5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objective of the proposal is to close St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School with effect from 31 August 2013.

Standards and Diversity
6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Alongside the consultation document an equality impact assessment was prepared and issued on 11 March. Copies of this can be viewed on the KCC consultation website: http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StPhilipHoward/consultationHome. This assessment outlines the impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School has a pupil capacity of 185 and in January 2013 there were only 91 pupils on roll. In May 2012 Ofsted judged that the school required Special Measures. The standards are improving at the school but the roll numbers have continued to decline and the school is now becoming financially unviable and therefore does not have the capacity to continue the improvements. Places are available for displaced pupils at a diverse range of primary schools within the locality, including primary schools and infant and junior schools. They consist of two community schools, one aided school, two controlled schools, one foundation school and one academy. Two of the schools have been judged as outstanding, one as good, four as satisfactory and one inadequate. The pupils currently on roll at St Philip Howard will be guaranteed a place at one of the schools in the locality and parents can state their preference when applying.

Provision for 16-19 year olds
7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

a) the educational or training achievements;
b) participation in education or training; and
c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

N/A
Need for places
8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Currently in the Herne Bay school planning area there is 12% surplus capacity. Should St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School close this surplus will be reduced to 6%. There are currently 176 spare places in other primary schools in the local area and therefore capacity is sufficient to accommodate the displaced pupils.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

At the time of the consultation’s start the religious composition of the school’s 80 pupils:

41 are recorded as Roman Catholic; 12 are recorded as Christian; 2 are recorded as Muslim; 3 are recorded as Hindu; 16 are recorded as having no religion; 3 are recorded as “other” religion; 3 are recorded as “not known”.

Individual meetings with parents were held to help identify those who wish to continue to express a preference for Catholic education. Discussions with the nearest Catholic primary school, through the Archdiocese of Southwark, to identify availability of places and capacity and action required to take additional pupils over and above current Published Admissions Number have taken place. Identification of other pupils where a faith place is a preference, although not necessarily RC, formed part of the school’s meetings with parents.

Current School Information
10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

The roll at the school has been on a downward trend for the past five years (though capacity currently stands at 185 pupils) low numbers are not expected to increase (see below for the trend).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number on Roll (September of each school year)</th>
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<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td>136</td>
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When analysis was carried out for the purpose of the consultation there were 91 children in the school. Breakdown by Year group at that point was:
Disability
The contextual information for the school from the Autumn term 2012 (based on a roll of 104 at that time) indicates that there were:
32 children eligible for Free School Meals;
2 children with Statements;
24 pupils with SEN but without statements.
15 pupils with English as an additional language.

Comparative data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Kent</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% eligible for FSM</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with statements</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% SEN without statements</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% EAL</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD score – January 2012</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMD rank (out of 450)</td>
<td>140</td>
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At the time of the issuance of the public notice, 40 children were on roll.

Displaced Pupils
11.   Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

a)   any interim arrangements;
b)   where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school’s reserved provision; and
c)   in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

Pupils will be offered places at the following schools:
Herne Bay Infant School – Community
Herne Bay Junior School – Foundation
Hampton Primary School – Academy
Briary Primary School – Community
Herne Church of England Infant School - Voluntary Controlled
Herne Church of England Junior School – Voluntary Aided
Reculver Church of England Primary School – Voluntary Controlled
The Archdiocese of Southwark will work with St Mary’s Catholic Primary School (Voluntary Aided) to provide places for families seeking a place at a Catholic Primary School.
12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

N/A

Impact on the Community
13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

Parents have not been electing to send their children to St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School in recent years and therefore the closure of the school is not expected to impact significantly on the local community. The closure of the school will however impact on the Catholic community. As indicated under section 9 discussions have taken place with the nearest Catholic primary school located 4.0 miles from St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School and places will be made available for those parents who wish to continue with a Catholic education for their children.

Community use of the school has been limited. Two groups (a Theatre Group and a Dance Group) have already found other premises from which to offer their services.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

No extended services were offered by the school at the time of the issuance of the public notice.

Travel
15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance by road from St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School to other schools in the area:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herne Bay Infant School - 0.7 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herne Bay Junior School – 0.7 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Primary School – 0.8 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briary Primary School – 1.4 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herne CE Infant School – 2.5 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herne CE Junior School – 1.7 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reculver Primary School – 2.8 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Whitstable – 4.0 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travel distances and time will be reduced for those children who live closer to the above schools.
16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

KCC’s Travel Policy will apply regarding travel assistance and each case will be looked at individually. Places will be offered at local primary schools to minimise the increase of car use.

Related Proposals
17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

N/A

Rural Primary Schools
18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and

d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,
as required by section 15(4)

N/A

Maintained nursery schools
19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children’s centre and the grounds for not doing so;
b) the LA’s assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and

c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

N/A
**Special educational provision**

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

N/A