Consultation on the Proposal to Expand White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts, Dover.

14 October – 29 November 2013

White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts is part of The Dover Federation of the Arts.

The Federation creates as large a framework in the sky as possible, within which our family of children, students, teachers, support staff, parents, directors, friends and the wider community can fly.

Produced by the Board of Directors, The Dover Federation for the Arts Multi Academy Trust, with support from Kent County Council.
Foreword
The Directors of The Dover Federation for the Arts Multi Academy Trust are pleased to bring you this proposal to expand White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts. Currently, we admit 30 children into our one Reception class each year. Kent County Council (KCC) has asked us to consider expansion and we are pleased to be consulting with all those affected.

The Directors believe we can expand to a two form entry school yet sustain the ethos of our school, its high academic standards, and the values which parents seek for their children. We now ask you for your views on this proposal as we look to plan for the future.

About White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts
White Cliffs Primary College currently provides education to 186 children aged 4-11 years. It is part of the Dover Federation for the Arts Multi Academy Trust and is a successful school rated Outstanding by Ofsted. It has become increasingly popular over the last few years and received 42 applications for Reception places for September 2013. The school occupies a 1.7 hectare site, which is considered to be sufficient for a two form entry school.

What do we want to do?
The Board of Directors, in conjunction with KCC is proposing to increase the school’s published admission number from 30 to 60, so that pupils would be admitted into two Reception classes each year. If agreed, this expansion would begin in September 2015. Thereafter, further Reception classes will open each year, thus taking seven years for the school to fully expand. This would bring the number of children on roll at the school up to a maximum of 420.

Why do we want to expand?
KCC approached the school in May 2013 with a request that we consider expanding from 210 places to 420 places. This was in response to the pressure on Reception class places experienced in Dover for admission in September 2013. KCC is committed to ensuring that there are sufficient school places available to families within their local area and that, wherever possible, those places are available at schools which are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted and which are preferred by parents.

Increasing demand for primary school places is currently a national issue. The position in Kent mirrors this, with primary school rolls forecast to rise from 106,000 in 2010/11 to 127,000 in 2016/17.

There is an ongoing need for additional primary school places in Dover Town and White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts is ideally placed to help provide these places. We share KCC’s aspiration that all children should be able to access local schools which provide high quality education.

The costs of the expansion would be met by KCC through its Targeted Basic Need funding. Permanent accommodation in keeping with the current buildings will be provided. We will work closely with KCC to ensure that building works are carried out safely and in a way which minimises disruption to pupils and staff during the project.
How you can respond to this consultation
We are consulting with parents, local schools and the community about the proposal. The consultation will run from 14 October to 29 November 2013. The Directors and KCC hope that all stakeholders and interested parties will make their views about this proposal known.
You can respond in one of three ways:
• complete the response form at the back of this document and send it to the address shown on the response form
• write a letter and send it to the address shown on the response form
• email your response to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Parents are asked to complete only one form, even if you have more than one child at the school. Please return your form by 11am on 29 November at the latest.

There will be a public meeting on 14 November at 7.00pm in the school hall. This will be an opportunity for you to hear more about the proposal, to ask questions of the Directors, CEO/Principal and KCC staff and to make your views known.

How will a decision be reached?
The Board of Directors will consider all views put forward during the consultation period. KCC will do likewise. If both the Board of Directors and KCC decide to proceed with the proposal, the Board of Directors will submit a business case to the Education Funding Agency. This will include the consultation responses and the Board of Directors’ response to the consultation. The Education Funding Agency will analyse the business case and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will then either approve or reject the proposal.

When will a decision be reached?
We hope a final decision will be made by the end of January 2014.
How to give your views

Complete and return the response form to:
David Adams, Area Education Officer, South Kent Office, Kroner House, Eurogate
Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. Fax (01233) 652163

Come to the Public Meeting at White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts on 14 November
2013 at 7.00pm.

Email your comments to:-  school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

(We will note all you say but will not be able to respond individually to response
forms, letters or emails.)

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Public Consultation Response Form: White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts

Please return no later than 11 am on 29 November 2013

Do you agree with the proposal?      Yes   No

I am (please delete as appropriate):
A Parent/Carer / Member of Staff / Director / Pupil of White Cliffs Primary College

Or – other interested party .............................................. (please state)

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PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS BELOW

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