Consultation on the proposal to expand Cliftonville Primary School, Margate.

10 January – 7 March 2014

Cliftonville Primary School is part of The Dane Court and King Ethelbert School Trust.

Produced by The Dane Court and King Ethelbert School Trust with support from Kent County Council.
Foreword
The Directors of The Dane Court and King Ethelbert School Trust and the Governing Body of Cliftonville Primary School are pleased to bring you this proposal to expand Cliftonville Primary School. Currently, we admit 90 children into our three Reception classes 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 and the Governing Body believe we can expand to a four form entry school yet sustain the ethos of our school, its good 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 Cliftonville Primary School
Cliftonville Primary School currently provides education to 630 children aged 4-11 years. It is part of The Dane Court and King Ethelbert Multi Academy Trust. With the retirement of the substantive headteacher in July 2012, the Governing Body, considered several options for the leadership of the school. A local solution was determined to provide sustainable school improvement.

What do we want to do?
The Board of Directors and the Governing Body, in conjunction with KCC, is proposing to increase the school’s published admission number from 90 to 120, so that pupils would be admitted into four 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 840. If the proposal goes ahead, it may be possible for a September 2014 intake of the extra Reception class with a permanent change to the Planned Admission Number from September 2015.

Why do we want to expand?
KCC approached the school in May 2013 with a request that we consider expanding from 630 places to 840 places. This was in response to the pressure on Reception class places experienced in Thanet. KCC is committed to ensuring that there are sufficient school places available to families within their local area 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 Thanet and in particular in the central Margate and Cliftonville area. Our school is therefore 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 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 10th January to 7th March 2014. The Academy Trust, the Governing Body 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 8 March at the latest.

There will be a public meeting on 17th January at 3.30 – 4.30pm in the school hall. This will be an opportunity for you to hear more about the proposal, to ask questions of the Academy Trust, Governing Body of Cliftonville Primary School, Executive Headteachers and KCC staff and to make your views known.

How will a decision be reached?
The Academy Trust and Governing Body 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 April 2014.
How to give your views

Complete and return the response form to:
Marisa White, Area Education Officer, East Kent Education Office, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, CT5 3SS

Come to the Public Meeting at Cliftonville Primary School on 17th January 2014 at 3.30pm

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: Cliftonville Primary School

Please return no later than 11 am on 8 March 2014

Do you agree with the proposal?  Yes ☐  No ☐

I am (please delete as appropriate):
A Parent/Carer / Member of Staff / Director / Governor

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

Name:

Address:

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS BELOW