KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Directorate:
Education and Young People’s Services

Name of policy, procedure, project or service
School Project

What is being assessed?
Proposal to increase the designated number of places offered at Five Acre Wood School, Boughton Lane, Maidstone ME15 9QF from 210 to 275 from October 2014. It is also proposed that 15 places will be provided in a Satellite provision based at East Borough Primary School, Vinters Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5DX.

Responsible Owner/ Senior Officer
Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer – West Kent

Date of Initial Screening

Version 1: May 2014
Version 2: June 2014
| Characteristic          | Could this policy, procedure, project or service affect this group less favourably than others in Kent? YES/NO | If yes how? | Assessment of potential impact | Provide details: a) Is internal action required? If yes what? | b) Is further assessment required? If yes, why? | Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group? YES/NO | Explain how good practice can promote equal opportunities |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Age                    | No                                                                                                      |             | High                          | None                                                                          |                                               | Yes. Positive as the additional places will mean that more families and young people will benefit from the specialist facilities provided by the school. |
| Disability             | No – any new provision will be compliant with the Equality Act 2010.                                     |             | High                          | None                                                                          |                                               | Yes. There will be more places available to meet the needs of young people with SEN and/or disability. Facilities will be provided within the existing school site to better meet the needs of young people. |
| Gender                 | N/A                                                                                                      |             | N/A                          | N/A                                                                           |                                               | The school is for boys and girls aged between 4 and 19 years.                                                                            |
| Gender identity        | N/A                                                                                                      |             | N/A                          | N/A                                                                           |                                               | N/A                                                                                                                                         |
| Race                   | No                                                                                                       |             | High                          | None                                                                          |                                               | Yes.                                                                                                                                        |
| Religion or belief     | No. The school will welcome children of faith or no faith.                                                |             | High                          | None                                                                          | N/A                                                                           | Yes. The school curriculum covers all religions                                                                                             |
| Sexual orientation     | N/A                                                                                                      |             | N/A                          | N/A                                                                           | N/A                                                                           | N/A                                                                                                                                         |
| Pregnancy and maternity| N/A                                                                                                      |             | N/A                          | N/A                                                                           | N/A                                                                           | N/A                                                                                                                                         |
| Marriage and Civil Partnerships | N/A                                                                                                    |             | N/A                          | N/A                                                                           | N/A                                                                           | N/A                                                                                                                                         |
Part 1: INITIAL SCREENING
Proportionality - Based on the answers in the above screening grid what weighting would you ascribe to this function – LOW

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
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<tr>
<td>Low relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a judgement.</td>
<td>Medium relevance or Insufficient information/evidence to make a judgement.</td>
<td>High relevance to equality, /likely to have adverse impact on protected groups</td>
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Context
Kent County Council (KCC) has published a strategy to improve the outcomes for Kent’s children and young people with SEN and those who are disabled (SEND) as our current special school capacity has not kept pace with changing needs and we are spending too much on transporting children to schools far away from their local communities. The SEND Strategy is available on the website at: http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/childrens-social-care-and-families-policies/children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2013-2018 sets out our commissioning intentions for SEN which include overarching aims to:

- Create at least 275 additional places for ASD and BESN


Aims and Objectives
- This project is for the provision of school places for students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs and aims to improve the health, well being and attainment of the students.

- The proposed alteration will offer a total of 65 additional SEN places within the Maidstone district which reflects KCC’s aspirations to increase the number of SEN school places across the County.

- It is also proposed that a Satellite provision be established at East Borough Primary School for 15 pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs for complex learning difficulties. It is intended that the Satellite will have its own accommodation within East Borough Primary School and will operate on the Five Acre Wood School model. It will be staffed by Five Acre Wood School and pupils attending the satellite will continue to have access to the support they need. Pupils at the satellite will be on the roll of Five Acre Wood School and their statements of special educational needs will name Five Acre Wood School.
Background documents are:
- Kent’s Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18
- Bold Steps for Kent
- Kent’s Strategy for Special Education Needs and Disability

KCC and the Governing Bodies of Five Acre Wood School and East Borough Primary School believe these proposals will enable the school to use their knowledge and expertise to the full and accommodate local Maidstone children with a statement of Special Educational Needs in a caring, nurturing environment.

**Beneficiaries**
- Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs
- Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs for complex learning difficulties
- The Local Authority

An assessment of the individual needs of the child will identified that they are suitable for Satellite provision. Those children who are identified as meeting the criteria will benefit from having some opportunities to join in mainstream school activities such as assemblies, break and lunchtimes, where suitable.

**Consultation and data**

**Five Acre Wood School**
Five Acre Wood is larger in size than the average special school. All pupils at the school have a statement of special educational needs. These are mainly severe learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders and profound and multiple learning difficulties. Pupils are organised into classes which take account of their age, development, special educational needs and disabilities. There is one Reception class in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school’s provision for pupils over the age of 16 is located on the site of a mainstream secondary school some distance away from the main school. The largest ethnic group in the school is made up of pupils from White British backgrounds. The school has a smaller than average percentage of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds. A very small minority of pupils speak English as an additional language. Most of these are at a very early stage of learning English but are also at any early stage of learning any language. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is larger than average. The school holds the Inclusion Quality Mark.

A breakdown of these pupils by age groups is provided in the table below:

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The school’s vision is set out below:
Five Acre Wood School is a stimulating and safe learning community in which we all work together to nurture and maximise the potential of each and every individual and celebrate their achievements. Firm foundations and strong partnerships provide the platform for dynamic, challenging and personalised learning pathways, preparing our students for their life journey.

**East Borough Primary School**
This is a larger-than-average-sized primary school. Approximately one sixth of the pupils are eligible for pupil premium funding, which gives additional funding to those who are known to be eligible for free school meals, those looked after by the local authority and the children of service families. This is a lower proportion than that found nationally. The proportion of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs who are supported through school action is below average. The proportion supported at school action plus or with a statement of special educational needs is below average. Most pupils have a White British heritage. Approximately one fifth of the pupils have a minority ethnic heritage and most of these have any other White backgrounds. The governing body manages additional after-school provision, including clubs and holiday activities.

The school’s mission is "**Enjoy Learning.... Achieve Success**"

East Borough is a happy, caring community of learners where everyone is welcomed and valued.

By motivating and challenging learners in a creative, enjoyable and secure environment East Borough aims to develop thoughtful and responsible young people with high self-esteem and with the motivation, skills and knowledge to succeed in life.

By understanding what each child already knows, we aim to inspire learning through excellent teaching and a passion to bring a rich and varied curriculum to life. East Borough has high aspirations of what our learners can achieve. We encourage a love of learning, and as a school, are committed to ensuring that every learner achieves his/her full potential.

An innovative school, prepared to try ideas and take risks, East Borough responds positively to the rapidly changing world in which we live. We strive to ensure that children develop respect for themselves, each other, their families, our local community and the environment.

**The Community**
Five Acre Wood School falls within the South Ward of Maidstone.
East Borough Primary School falls within the East Ward of Maidstone

Proposed Consultation

- Local knowledge and discussions with the education community.
- A drop-in information session for parents of pupils attending Five Acre Wood School took place on 3 June 2014 between 4pm and 5pm at Five Acre Wood School, Boughton Lane, Maidstone ME15 9QF. The pre-planning consultation, open to other interested parties, took place on 3 June 2014 between 5pm to 7pm.
- A drop-in information session has been organised for parents of children attending East Borough Primary School at 9.00 – 10.00am on 14 July 2014 at East Borough Primary School, Vinters Road, Maidstone, ME14 5DX.
- The current consultation commenced on 19 May 2014. The consultation period has now been extended to enable views to be sought on the proposal to create a Satellite provision for 15 pupils at East Borough Primary School. The consultation will now close at midday on 23 July 2014. We will pass all comments and views received to the Cabinet Member for Education Health and Reform who will make a decision on whether we should proceed with these proposals. If he decides to proceed we will then publish a Public Notice in September 2014 which will run for 4 weeks.

Potential Impact

Adverse Impact:
No adverse impacts have been identified at this stage; however the consultation will enable the Local Authority to test out these assumptions.

Positive Impact:
Some positive impacts identified are:

- An increase in total number of places available for children and young people with a Statement of Special Educational Needs

JUDGEMENT

Option 1 – Screening Sufficient

Justification:

Option 2 – Internal Action Required

- Following this initial screening our judgement is that the statutory Public Consultation that will be undertaken will highlight any unknown issues and if necessary, will initiate a further EIA

Option 3 – Full Impact Assessment

Equality and Diversity Team Comments

Sign Off
I have noted the content of the equality impact assessment and agree the actions to mitigate the adverse impact(s) that have been identified.

Senior Officer
Signed: Name:
Job Title: 

Date: 

**DMT Member**

Signed: 

Job Title: 

Name: 

Date:
Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

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<th>Protected Characteristic</th>
<th>Issues identified</th>
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