To Parents/ Carers, Staff, Governors and other interested parties

Kent County Council is proposing to change the age range of St George’s Church of England Foundation School in Broadstairs to create an all-through school for pupils aged 4 to 19 from September 2016.

This letter explains our reasons for the proposal, and how the decision making process works. Please let us have your views and comments on the proposal by completing the consultation response form attached.

1. Why do we need to change the age range of St George’s Church of England Foundation School?

Thanet’s population is increasing with more families moving into the area and as a result Kent County Council needs to add additional primary school places to manage the increase in demand. One strategy for providing additional primary school places is to use the space available on secondary school sites to add primary provision, creating an all-through school. The staff and governors of St George’s Church of England Foundation School are very keen to pursue this option and have therefore agreed to support the Local Authority’s proposal to consult on a change of age range for the school and enlarge the school by the addition of a primary school provision.

2. Are there plans to show how this primary provision will be delivered on site?

We are in the very early stages of consulting on this proposal. Initial scoping of the site has shown there is sufficient space for a primary school provision. Plans and designs are being drawn up in liaison with the school to provide primary school buildings and facilities. We need to consult firstly on educational aspects of changing the age range to create an all-through school. The building work will be part of a separate Planning consultation process and once plans have been drawn up, you will have the opportunity to comment on them. Our Property Department will hold a pre-planning consultation drop-in event at the school, where all stakeholders, including local residents, will have an opportunity to view the plans, ask questions and make comments. This will enable the design team to take into consideration everyone’s views before submitting final plans for approval.

3. What are the benefits of an all-through school?

There are many generally accepted benefits of all-through schools including:

- Providing a seamless education for young people from the start of their schooling through to 6th form.
- Avoiding the dip in performance that can happen as pupils change schools.
- Improving continuity and progress with a common approach to curriculum planning and delivery. This would create flexibility and opportunity to meet individual pupil’s needs by tailoring learning experiences.
• Increasing opportunity for staff to work in a larger team. This would help the professional development of staff and provide more opportunity to take on new responsibilities.
• Sharing specialist accommodation and learning resources.
• Closer contact for parents and carers with school staff over a longer period of time.

4. What will the admission arrangements be for the new primary provision?
It is proposed that the number of Reception Year places available for entry in September 2016 would be 60 (two classes of 30 children). The school would also open one Year 1 class and one Year 2 class with 30 places available in each class.

The Governing Body of the school will be the Admissions Authority and if the proposal goes ahead they will determine the admissions arrangements for the new primary provision. The oversubscription criteria for entry to the Reception Class would include children with a sibling attending the secondary provision in Years 7 to 11 at the time of entry to the Reception Class.

Families will still have to apply for a place in Year 7 at the school through the normal admissions process when they reach Year 6, but pupils attending the primary provision will be guaranteed a place at the secondary provision. Pupils will be able to take the Kent Test where parents wish them to.

5. How can I give my views?
There are a number of ways to let us have your views on this proposal:
• Come to a consultation meeting for parents/carers, members of staff, governors and other interested parties at the school on Tuesday 23 September at 7 pm where there will be the opportunity to ask questions, give your views and complete a response form.
• Complete and return the attached response form to Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3SS. Alternatively you may hand your response form in at the school. All written responses need to be received by midday on Monday 6 October.
• Email your comments to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
• Visit www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations for further information.

6. What happens next?
This consultation stage closes on Monday 6 October. A report summarizing the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform who will then decide whether to proceed with the change of age range 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 as to whether to proceed with the proposal.

Whether the proposal to provide primary school provision on the St George’s Church of England Foundation School site goes ahead or not will also be dependent on the planning process. The proposed new buildings and facilities will be subject to separate planning requirements which will include further public consultation.

Yours sincerely

M. White
Area Education Officer
Public Consultation Response Form

- Proposal to change the age range of St George’s Church of England Foundation School

Please return no later than midday Monday 6 October 2014 to:

- Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3SS. Alternatively you may hand your letter in at the school.
- Email: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal? Yes ☐  No ☐  Undecided ☐

Which of the following best describes you?

☐ A parent of children currently attending St George’s Church of England Foundation School
☐ A member of staff at St George’s Church of England Foundation School
☐ A governor at St George’s Church of England Foundation School
☐ A student attending St George’s Church of England Foundation School
☐ A parent of children at a local school
☐ A member of staff at a local school
☐ A governor at a local school
☐ A parent of pre-school aged children
☐ Other – please specify ……………………………………………………..

Name …………………………………………………………………………………………………

Address ………………………………………………………………………………………………

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

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

You can view the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2013 to 2018 at:

Please provide your comments overleaf…..
Your comments....

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.....