Kent County Council is proposing to increase the designated number of St Anthony’s School from 96 to 112.

St Anthony’s (Special) School is a day provision for boys and girls aged 5 to 16 with behaviour and learning difficulties and social communication difficulties, including ASD.

Why do we need to increase the designated number?

As the strategic commissioner of school provision, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the residents of Kent. This duty applies to special school provision, as well as mainstream settings. Over time, in order to meet our responsibilities a number of our special schools have been asked to admit additional pupils. In some cases this has led the schools involved to exceed their designated numbers to the extent that we now need to undertake a consultation to permanently increase the designated number and regularise the situation.

To facilitate this increase in the designated number, we are planning to increase the secondary age capacity at St Anthony’s and establish two 6 to 8 place satellite Specialist Resourced Provision for Primary ASD Thanet pupils. This would allow St Anthony’s to develop its existing site and accommodation for secondary aged pupils. The capital improvements planned will significantly enhance the current facilities and include the provision of a new Sports Hall.

We would like your views

You can have your say by:

- Emailing us at school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- Writing to Marisa White, Area Education Officer, East Kent Office, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3SS or handing the letter in at the school.
- If you have any questions, please send them to the email address above.

The closing date for sending in responses to the consultation is 6 October 2014. We will pass all comments and views received to our Cabinet Member who will make a decision on whether we should proceed with this proposal. If he decides to proceed we will publish a Public Notice on 3 November 2014, this will run for 4 weeks and provide you with another opportunity to submit any comments.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Marisa White
Area Education Officer