The Governing Body with the support of Kent County Council propose to increase the designated number of places at Grange Park School, Borough Green Road, Wrotham, Kent, TN15 7RD from 79 to 100 places from 1 April 2016.

Grange Park School is a specialist provision for children and young people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The school is based on three sites: the main site at Wrotham for 11 to 19 year olds and two satellites for 16 to 19 year olds at Mid Kent College, Gillingham and Hadlow College.

The main site at Wrotham is housed in a brand new building which was purpose built to provide an autism friendly learning environment for our pupils. The satellite at Mid Kent College is within the mainstream setting but students are supported by Grange Park staff to enable them to access the full range of educational opportunities available to them.

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. Therefore, we wish to consult you on the proposal to permanently increase the designated number Grange Park School to 100.

These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’.

There may be questions which parents and others will have regarding this proposal. We have therefore provided some brief Frequently Asked Questions below and further information will be available through the consultation process. Our primary concern is to ensure the continued well-being and education of the children at Grange Park School whatever the outcome of the consultation.

**Does this mean the school will expand?**

The proposed alteration will notionally provide 21 additional special educational needs (SEN) places in the area in line with KCC’s aspirations to increase the number of SEN school places across the County, as set out in the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19, a copy of which is available from the website at: [www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision). However it is not proposed to increase the actual number of commissioned places at the school.
Where can I find out more about what you are putting in place for SEND children?
We have produced a Strategy that sets out our plans for children with SEN and Disabilities (SEND). The SEND Strategy shows how we will be creating 209 extra places in special schools and 164 in mainstream schools. It is available on the website at: www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy

I have a question – who can I ask?
If you have any questions please contact the school or email AEN.resources@kent.gov.uk

We would like to hear your views on this proposal
A drop-in information session has been organised for parents on 19 November 2015 between 10am and 11am, to take place at Grange Park School, Borough Green Road, Wrotham, Kent, TN15 7RD.

Or you can have your say by:
- Emailing us at school.consultations@kent.gov.uk; or completing a response form which is available on the website:
- Writing to Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer for West Kent, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ. (You can hand the letter into the school, no later than midday on 30 November 2015).

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

What Happens Next?
If you are intending to contact us with your views, please do this by midday on 30 November 2015.

The consultation process – indicative timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 November 2015</td>
<td>Education consultation commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 November 2015</td>
<td>Parents drop-in information session at Grange Park School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 November 2015</td>
<td>Consultation closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 December 2015</td>
<td>The outcome of the consultation is considered at the Education and Young People’s Cabinet Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2015 – Jan 2016</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform decides whether to continue with the proposal. If so, KCC will publish a public notice for a four week period in a local newspaper and at the school. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan - Feb 2016</td>
<td>Subject to no objection, the Education Public Notice is issued (4 weeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td>Decision is confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2016</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All comments and views received will be reported to the Education and Young People’s Services Cabinet Committee. Following the meeting the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform will consider all the information and make a decision on whether to proceed with this proposal. If he decides to proceed we will then publish a Public Notice in January 2016, which will run for 4 weeks and provide you with another opportunity to submit any comments.

Jared Nehra
Area Education Officer for West Kent
Kent County Council
GRANGE PARK SCHOOL
EDUCATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Proposal to increase the designated number of places at Grange Park School, Borough Green Road, Wrotham, Kent, TN15 7RD from 79 to 100 places from 1 April 2016

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

Which of the following best describes you?

☐ Parent of pupil(s) currently attending Grange Park School
☐ Member of staff at Grange Park School
☐ A Governor at Grange Park School
☐ Parent of pupils at another school
☐ Member of staff at another local school
☐ A Governor at another local school
☐ Other (please specify)………………………………………………………………………

Name ……………………………………………………………………………..

Address ……………………………………………………………………………

Your comments…

Please continue overleaf, if necessary
GRANGE PARK SCHOOL
EDUCATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Proposal to increase the designated number of places at Grange Park School, Borough Green Road, Wrotham, Kent, TN15 7RD from 79 to 100 places from 1 April 2016

Please return no later than midday on 30 November 2015 to:

- Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer for West Kent, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ; or
- hand it in at Grange Park School office; or
- email school.consultations@kent.gov.uk;

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.