Education Consultation Document
Proposal to Expand Sellindge Primary School

The Governing Body of Sellindge Primary School would like to hear your views on their proposal to permanently expand the School to a one form entry primary school (intake of 30 children into the Reception Year) from September 2018. This document explains how you can respond to the consultation.

Date of Public Meeting: Thursday 28th April 2016 at 5:30 pm
Draft plans available to view on the 28th April:
Parents-3:30pm-4:15pm
Public 4:45pm-5:30pm
Venue:
Sellindge Primary School Hall,
Main Road, Sellindge, Ashford, TN25 6JY

This document can also be viewed at: www.sellindge-ashford.co.uk/welcome

If you require further information please email: office@sellindge-ashford.kent.sch.uk
1. Introduction

We are pleased to bring you our proposal to increase Sellindge Primary School to one form of entry by adding three classrooms and taking the admission number from 15 to 30 per year from September 2018.

We are currently undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on this proposal. The consultation period will run from 18 April 2016 to 16 May 2016. There will be a public meeting on 28 April 2016 which will give you the opportunity to make your views known and to ask any questions you may have.

This document gives you details of the proposal, information on the background to it, and outlines the current position. There is a form at the end which we ask you to complete and return to us by 16 May 2016.

2. Why change is necessary

A new housing development of 250 homes is planned for the site opposite the school. Building is anticipated to commence in 2016, possibly taking some four years to complete. The developer is providing additional land for the School to enable the building to expand without loss of outside space.

Sellindge Primary School is a popular and successful school, rated Outstanding by Ofsted. It is regularly oversubscribed. In 2016, 58 families have applied for the 15 Year R places, 20 of these were first preferences. The majority of the applications have come from Sellindge and the surrounding locality with the furthest first preference application being 3 miles from the School.

The School currently has 116 pupils on roll. Without the new housing, the roll is forecast growing to grow to 137 during the next four years. The new housing is likely to generate some 70 additional primary aged children and the School cannot accommodate these pupils without additional teaching space.

We wish to see village children able to attend their local school and not having to travel some miles to an alternative school. Expanding Sellindge Primary School to enable local children to attend is the logical option and is also in line with Kent County Council’s expectation of expanding popular, successful schools.

3. Additional classrooms

The School would have a building project to provide three additional classrooms, which will be high quality, fit for purpose learning environments for pupils and will match/enhance the current school building. We will need to seek planning consent and develop detailed plans. The building work would be completed in time for admission of additional children for September 2018 and there will be opportunities for you to see plans and further details at the public meeting on Thursday 28 April 2016.

4. Between now and 2018

We appreciate that the School is already accommodating more children than its capacity and that forecasts show that this is unlikely to change. As a School, we would wish to be able to admit all children in the village and will do all we can to enable this to happen if demand from the new housing requires this before the new classrooms are completed.
5. Can you guarantee that local children will have a place at the School?
It is proposed that the growth of the School is gradual with up to 15 additional children entering Reception each year. It would take up to seven years for the School to become a 1FE school. Although we can make no guarantees, we want local children, including families moving into the new housing development, to have easy access to a school place.

6. What will this mean for the children?
Currently, the School operates five teaching groups. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are in single age classes, while Years 3 to 6 are taught in mixed year groups with 30 pupils in each class. This proposal would mean that over time all children would be taught in dedicated year groups of 30, providing an opportunity for them to be taught and assessed with their peer group. They will remain with this peer group through primary school. As the School grows, it will increase its staffing. This will bring a greater range of skills and expertise, and there may also be opportunities to provide a wider range of clubs for the children.

7. Traffic and parking
The planned housing development includes traffic calming measures for the A20. The developer agreed to increase the size of the village hall car park and this will be used by the School for the drop off and pick up times. The School will revisit its school travel plan.

8. Consultation Process
This is the early stage of the consultation process and no final decisions have yet been made. This process is designed to establish the views of parents/carers, pupils, staff and the public.

The Governing Body will hold public meeting at the school on 28 April 2016 where you will have an opportunity to give your views. Governors, the School staff and KCC officers will be able to answer any questions you may have. An indicative timeline is set out at the foot of the page.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS
There are a number of ways you can let us have your views:

1. Complete and return the response form to:
The Governing Body, C/O Sellindge Primary School, Main Road, Sellindge, Ashford, TN25 6JY

2. Email your comments to: office@sellindge-ashford.kent.sch.uk

3. Come to the public meeting at the school on Thursday 28 April 2016 at 5:30pm
You can view the consultation information online: www.sellindge-ashford.co.uk

We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
This consultation stage closes on 16 May 2016. A report summarising the responses received will be submitted to the Governing Body which will determine whether to proceed with the expansion, subject to Kent County Council agreeing to fund this. Kent County
Council’s Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform will also consider the consultation outcome and decide whether to provide funding for the expansion.

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.sellindge-ashford.co.uk

And finally …
Sellindge Primary School prides itself on being a community village school and the Headteacher, staff and Governing Body are confident that whilst the School may become larger over the coming years it will still retain its ethos and its place at the heart of the village community.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 April to 16 May 2016</td>
<td>Public Consultation Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 April 2016</td>
<td>Public meeting at the school: 5:30pm - 7:30pm Draft plans available for parents to view 3:30-4:15pm Draft plans available for the public to view 5:00-530pm prior to the consultation meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 May 2016</td>
<td>The Governing Body considers the consultation responses and determines whether to proceed with the expansion, subject to Kent County Council providing the resources to support this.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June/July 2016</td>
<td>Kent County Council’s Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform considers the Governing Body’s decision and the consultation responses and decides whether to make the capital and revenue funding available to enable the expansion to proceed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 September 2018</td>
<td>Expansion implemented</td>
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Additional Information:
- Kent County Council annually produces a Commissioning Plan for Education provision which sets out the need for changes to school provision, such as the need for extra places. The Plan can be view at https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision
Public Consultation Response Form: Sellindge Primary School

Please return to: The Governing Body, C/O Sellindge Primary School, Main Road, Sellindge, Ashford, TN25 6JY - no later than 11am, 16 May 2016

Do you agree with the proposal?  

Yes  No

I am: *A Parent or Carer / Member of Staff / Governor / Pupil of Sellindge Primary School;

OR - Other interested party ……………………………………… (please state interest).

Name

Address

Your comments....

Please continue overleaf if necessary ......