Kent County Council is proposing to expand Marden Primary School, Goudhurst Road, Marden, TN12 9JX, from 280 places to 420 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 40 to 60 for Reception Year entry in September 2018.

1. Why do we need to expand Marden Primary School?

Kent County Council (KCC), with the support of the Governing Body would like to expand Marden Primary School to help provide more places for local children. KCC as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council’s Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2016-20 is a five year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be viewed from this link: http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision

To inform the process of forecasting primary school pupil numbers KCC receives information from the Kent Primary Care Agency to track the number of births and locations of pre-school age children. The pre-school age population is forecast into Primary school rolls according to trend-base intake patterns and ward area. Pupil forecasts are compared with school capacities to give the projected surplus or deficit places in each area.

For provision planning purposes KCC’s forecasting methodology produces forecasts according to planning groups. These planning groups are nationally recognised by central Government. The Maidstone district consists of 12 planning groups of schools. Marden Primary School falls within the Marden and Yalding planning group of schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School-based surplus / deficit capacity summary (Year R)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marden and Yalding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The forecast data outlined in the tables above highlights the increasing demand for primary school places, which cannot be met locally without increasing provision within the local area. However, it must be noted that the forecast data outlined above does not account for pressures arising from new housing developments.
Housing/Demand for school places

Maidstone Borough Council submitted their proposed Local Plan in May 2016, setting out the scale and location of proposed development up to 2031. The Borough is planning for 18,560 dwellings or 928 per annum. This compares to an average build rate of approximately 600 dwellings over the past 5 years.

During recent years a lack of demonstrable housing supply or clear plan for housing delivery in the Borough has resulted in a number of speculative planning applications being submitted; these have been challenging to accommodate, requiring solutions to be identified quickly.

The majority of the planned new housing in Marden is now within the planning system, the proposal to expand the Marden Primary School by September 2018 will provide places for the new pupils arising.

Why Marden Primary School?

Marden Primary School was judged a ‘Good’ school by Ofsted in March 2016. This proposal would secure Kent’s ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’.

With the support of the Governing Body, KCC is proposing to provide additional school places by expanding Marden Primary School to 2 forms of entry (from 40 to 60 Reception places each year). The Governing Body of the school and KCC have agreed to carry out a public consultation on the proposal to expand the school permanently, and if it were agreed that the proposal should go ahead, additional accommodation would be provided to enable the school to expand.

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

KCC Property Department are currently working with the school in order to establish how extra provision can be met. The additional accommodation required for the proposals will be subject to separate planning requirements, which will require further public consultation. It is KCC’s hope that 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 all views before submitting final plans for approval.

3. How will the school deal with any possible increased traffic and congestion?

Traffic and parking assessments will be carried out as part of the design and planning process. The school’s travel plan would need to be updated and would be utilised by the school to encourage families to find alternative ways of travelling to school in order to reduce the number of car journeys.

4. Will the school need to close during the building work?

No. All of the building works will be planned carefully and contractors will work with the school to ensure that works are scheduled to keep disruption to an absolute minimum. The building site will be a secure area to ensure the health and safety of the children, staff, parents and visitors to the school.
5. How will the expansion happen and how many children will there be at the school?

It is intended that the expansion would happen gradually, with 20 additional Year R places offered each year, so that the school would grow over a 7 year period until it reached a total of 420 pupils. The table below shows the anticipated increase in the overall capacity of the school, with 60 Reception places available each year from 2018/19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/21</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/22</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022/23</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023/24</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024/25</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. What additional funding will Marden Primary School Receive?

Revenue Funding: Furniture and Equipment: £6,000 per new classroom will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the School to purchase the required equipment.

Pupil Growth Funding: In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools’ Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding in Reception Year equivalent to 60 Reception Year pupils for three years (2018-2020).

7. The consultation process – indicative timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 September 2016 – 21 October 2016</td>
<td>Public Consultation Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 October 2016 (4.00 – 5.30)</td>
<td>A ‘drop-in’ information session will be held at Marden Primary School, Goudhurst Rd, TN12 9JX from 4.00pm – 5.30pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 November 2016</td>
<td>The outcome of the Education Consultation will be reported to the Education and Young People’s Services Cabinet Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform considers all the comments and decides whether to continue with the proposals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2017 – February 2017</td>
<td>If the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform decides to proceed with the proposals a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, displayed at the school and available on the school’s and KCC’s website. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal. The Public Notice will run for 4 weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform considers all responses made and decides whether to confirm his decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February – March 2017</td>
<td>Statutory Stakeholders have 4 weeks to appeal the decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>Subject to no objections, the proposals are implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. How can I give my views?

There are a number of ways to give us your views on this proposal:

- A ‘drop-in’ information session is being held at the school on 12 October 2016 at 4.00pm until 5.30pm, where there will be the opportunity to ask questions and complete a response form.
- By handing your response form into the Marden Primary School Reception Office
- By emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- By sending the response form to Jared Nehra, KCC Area Education Officer (West Kent), West Kent Area Office, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.
- All responses must be received by midday on 21 October 2016.
9. What happens next?

The consultation period runs from 23 September 2016 – 21 October 2016. If you are intending to contact us with your views, please do this by midday on 21 October 2016. The outcome of the consultation will be discussed at the Education and Young People’s Services Cabinet Committee in November. We will also pass all your comments to our Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform who will make a decision on whether to proceed with this proposal. If he decides to proceed we will then publish a Public Notice in January 2017, which will run for 4 weeks.

Whether the proposals for expansion go ahead or not will also be dependent on the planning process. The additional accommodation required for the proposals will be subject to separate planning requirements which will include further public consultation.

Jared Nehra
Area Education Officer, West Kent
MAR DEN PRIMAR Y S CHOOL
EDUCATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please complete this response form by no later than midday on 21 October 2016 and return it by:
- handing your response form into the Marden CEP School Reception Office
- emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- posting the response form to Jared Nehra, KCC Area Education Officer (West Kent), West Kent Area Office, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Do you agree with the proposal to expand Marden Primary School to 2 forms of entry for September 2018? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?
☐ Parent/Carer / ☐ Member of Staff / ☐ Governor / ☐ Pupil
OR - ☐ Other interested party ............................................................... (please state interest).

Name ................................................................. Address...............................................
..........................................................................................................................................

Comments

Please provide your comments overleaf if necessary

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- 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. KCC 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.
- KCC has 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 Kent County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2016 to 2020 at: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
Please complete this response form by no later than midday on 21 October 2016

Comments