To Parents/ Carers, Staff and local stakeholders

Consultation on Making a Change to Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School

The Governing Body and the Island Learning Trust, in conjunction with Kent County Council (KCC), is seeking the views of parents, staff and other stakeholders on plans to permanently increase the published admission number (PAN) from 60 to 90. This document is part of a four week consultation process which opens on Monday 14 November 2016 and closes on Monday 12 December 2016. At the end of the consultation period a decision will be taken by the Governing Body, the Island Learning Trust and the Regional Schools Commissioner as to whether to make the proposed change described below.

Introduction

Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School originally operated as a 4FE first school (600 school places) until the education system on the Isle of Sheppey changed from a three tier system (first, middle and upper schools) to a two tier system (primary and secondary schools). From September 2008, the school began operating as a primary school and the PAN for Year R reduced to 60 for entry in September 2009 and subsequent years. At that time the pupil population was in decline and the school had surplus places. Over the last 5 years, the pupil population on Sheppey has grown which has led to pressure on school places across all year groups. Swale Borough Council’s proposed local plan includes an increased number of dwellings to be built each year, which could cause more pressure on school places.

Proposal

The school is currently designated as a 2FE primary school, i.e. 420 places. However, as the school used to be much larger, over recent years it has taken additional children at the request of KCC in order to deal with pupil pressures local to the school. The school now operates with two classes per year group in Years R, 1, 2 and 6 and three classes per year group in Years 3, 4 and 5 and has 516 children on the school roll.

KCC has asked the school to consider operating 3 classes for all year groups in order to ensure that sufficient primary school places are available locally. We are therefore proposing that the PAN for the school increases from 60 to 90 for Reception Year entry in September 2017 and subsequent years. The school has enough classrooms to run three classes per year group and plans have recently been agreed that will improve facilities and create new intervention spaces and meeting rooms. The school is therefore confident that it will be able to meet the needs of up to 630 children and provide an excellent educational environment. The table below shows how the number of school places would increase each year as 30 additional Reception children were admitted.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Current Capacity</th>
<th>Planned Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KCC’s Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision).

Following consultation, the Governing Body and the Island Learning Trust will consider all views expressed by stakeholders and then make a decision on how to proceed. If the agreement is to continue with the proposal to run three classes per year group, then approval will be sought from the Regional Schools Commissioner.

**How to give your views on the planned changes**

If you have any questions about the plan to increase the school’s PAN from 60 to 90, please email them to office@minster-sheppey.kent.sch.uk.

You can also email us with your views and comments, or alternatively write a letter and hand it in at the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Wheeler
Minster in Sheppey Primary School

Proposal to increase the admission number so that we admit 90 children each year from September 2017

Do you agree that we should increase the school’s admission number from 60 to 90?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please add any comments

Name – optional if you would like an answer

Link – parent/ carer school/ playgroup
Staff
Governor/ committee member
Other

Post code