



18th October 2016

To Parents/ Carers, Staff and other interested parties

Saint George's Church of England School and the Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust are proposing to change the age range of Saint George's Church of England School to create an all-through school for pupils aged 4 to 19 from September 2018, which will add 60 places in each primary year with an eventual total roll of 420 primary school pupils. Secondary school numbers are unaffected by this proposal.

This letter explains our reasons for the proposal, and how the decision making process works. Please let us have your views and comments on the proposal by completing the consultation response form attached.

1. Why do we need to change the age range of Saint George's Church of England School?

Gravesham's population is increasing with more families moving into the area and as a result, Kent County Council needs to add additional primary school places to manage the increase in demand. One strategy for providing additional primary school places is to use the space available on secondary school sites to add primary provision, creating an all-through school. The staff and governors of Saint George's Church of England School have agreed to consult on a proposal to change of age range for the school and enlarge the school by the addition of a primary school provision.

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

We are in the very early stages of consulting on this proposal. Initial scoping of the site has shown there is sufficient space for a primary school provision. Plans and designs are being drawn up in liaison with the school to provide primary school buildings and facilities. We need to consult firstly on educational aspects of changing the age range to create an all-through school.

The building work will be part of a separate planning consultation process and once plans have been drawn up, you will have the opportunity to comment on them. Property Department will hold a pre-planning consultation drop-in event at the school, where 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 everyone's views before submitting final plans for approval.

3. What are the benefits of an all-through school?

There are many generally accepted benefits of all-through schools including:

- Providing a seamless education for young people from the start of their schooling through to 6th form.
- Avoiding the dip in performance that can happen as pupils change schools.
- Improving continuity and progress with a common approach to curriculum planning and delivery. This would create flexibility and opportunity to meet individual pupil's needs by tailoring learning experiences.
- Increasing opportunity for staff to work in a larger team. This would help the professional development of staff and provide more opportunity to take on new responsibilities.
- Sharing specialist accommodation and learning resources.
- Closer contact for parents and carers with school staff over a longer period of time.

4. What will the admission arrangements be for the new primary provision?

The Governing Body of the school will be the Admissions Authority and if the proposal goes ahead they will determine the admissions arrangements for the new primary provision. It is proposed that the number of Reception Year places available for entry in September 2018 would be 30. The school would also seek to offer 30 Year 1 places for September 2018. Future admission numbers would be determined by the school in consultation with the local authority.

The oversubscription criteria for entry to the Reception Class would include:

Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care - a child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with their parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who is the subject of a care order under Part IV of the Act. This applies equally to children who immediately after being looked after by the local authority became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. (As defined by Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or Section 8 or 14A of the Children Act 1989).

Children or one of whose parents/guardians is a member of a Church of England church.

Children or one of whose parents/guardians is a member of a church which is a member of Churches Together in England or the Evangelical Alliance or attached to a place of worship, or equivalent religious centre, of a faith other than the Christian faith. This would normally be for a period of at least 1 year. The appropriate priest, minister or religious leader will be required to confirm this on this Supplementary Information Form at the time of application.

Children who have a brother, sister or step or half siblings including fostered and adopted siblings living at the same home address attending Saint George's School at the time of applying. The school reserves the right to ask for proof of relationship.

Tie Breaks

In the event of there being more applicants than places remaining within a particular criterion, priority will be given to home - school distance. The school uses measurements provided by the Local Authority. Further information on how distances are calculated is available in the Admissions Booklet provided by the Local Authority.

Pupils attending the primary provision will be guaranteed a place at the secondary provision. Pupils will be able to take the Kent Test if parents wish them to.

5. How can I give my views?

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

- Come to a consultation meeting for parents/carers, members of staff, governors and other interested parties at the school on **Tuesday 1st November at 3:30 pm** where there will be the opportunity to ask questions, give your views and complete a response form.
- Complete and return the attached response form to Stephen Carey, Executive Headteacher, Saint George's Church of England School, Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS. Alternatively, you may hand your response form in at the school. All written responses need to be received by midday on Monday 28th November 2016.
- Email your comments to: offadmin@sgsce.co.uk

6. What happens next?

- This consultation stage closes on Monday 28th November 2016.

A report summarizing the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to the full governing body for consideration, who will then decide whether to proceed with the change of age range and publish statutory proposals in the form of a public notice. The public notice would be published in a local newspaper and for a period of four weeks following the publication date any person can comment on the proposals.

Parallel to this, a report will be prepared to the Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, who will then take a decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal and allocate funding.

Whether the proposal to provide primary school provision on the St George's Church of England Foundation School site goes ahead or not will also be dependent on the planning process. The proposed new buildings and facilities will be subject to separate planning requirements which will include further public consultation.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Carey
Headteacher

Public Consultation Response Form

- Proposal to change the age range of Saint George's Church of England School

Please return no later than midday on Monday 28th November 2016 to Stephen Carey, Executive Headteacher, Saint George's Church of England School, Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS. Alternatively you may hand your letter in at the school.

- Email: offadmin@sgsce.co.uk

Do you agree with the proposal? Yes No Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?

- A parent of children currently attending Saint George's Church of England School
- A member of staff at Saint George's Church of England School
- A governor at Saint George's Church of England School
- A student attending Saint George's Church of England School
- A parent of children at a local school
- A member of staff at a local school
- A governor at a local school
- A parent of pre-school aged children
- Other – please specify

Name

Address

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Saint George's Church of England School 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.

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, please look at the school website

Please provide your comments overleaf.....

Your comments....

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing comments.

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.....