

Kent County Council

Specification for the proposed new Paddock Wood Primary School



Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC) has identified the need to establish a new Primary School in Paddock Wood to open in September 2028. In accordance with section 7 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the local authority is therefore inviting proposals for a new school to meet this need.

KCC, as the Local Authority (LA), has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2026-30 (KCP) 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:

[Commissioning Plan for Education Provision - Kent County Council](#)

For provision planning purposes KCC's forecasting methodology produces forecasts according to planning groups. These planning groups are nationally recognised by central Government.

Paddock Wood has seen significant housebuilding in recent years, consequently the forecast for the Paddock Wood planning group shows deficits throughout the KCP Plan period. In the short term, the demand for places can be accommodated in the neighbouring planning groups or within one of the small schools within the planning group offering over PAN. However, from 2028-29 the demand is forecast to be 1 FE or greater and there are fewer places available in neighbouring planning groups.

To meet this demand for places within the Paddock Wood planning group we will seek to establish a new primary school within the town to open in September 2028. The new school will include classroom space to accommodate 1 FE and core facilities sufficient for 2 FE to support future expansion when needed.

The proposed school will be a mainstream, co-educational primary school for pupils aged 4 to 11, with a 26 place nursery provision and a 14 place specialist resource provision for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) need types.

Analysis of Demand

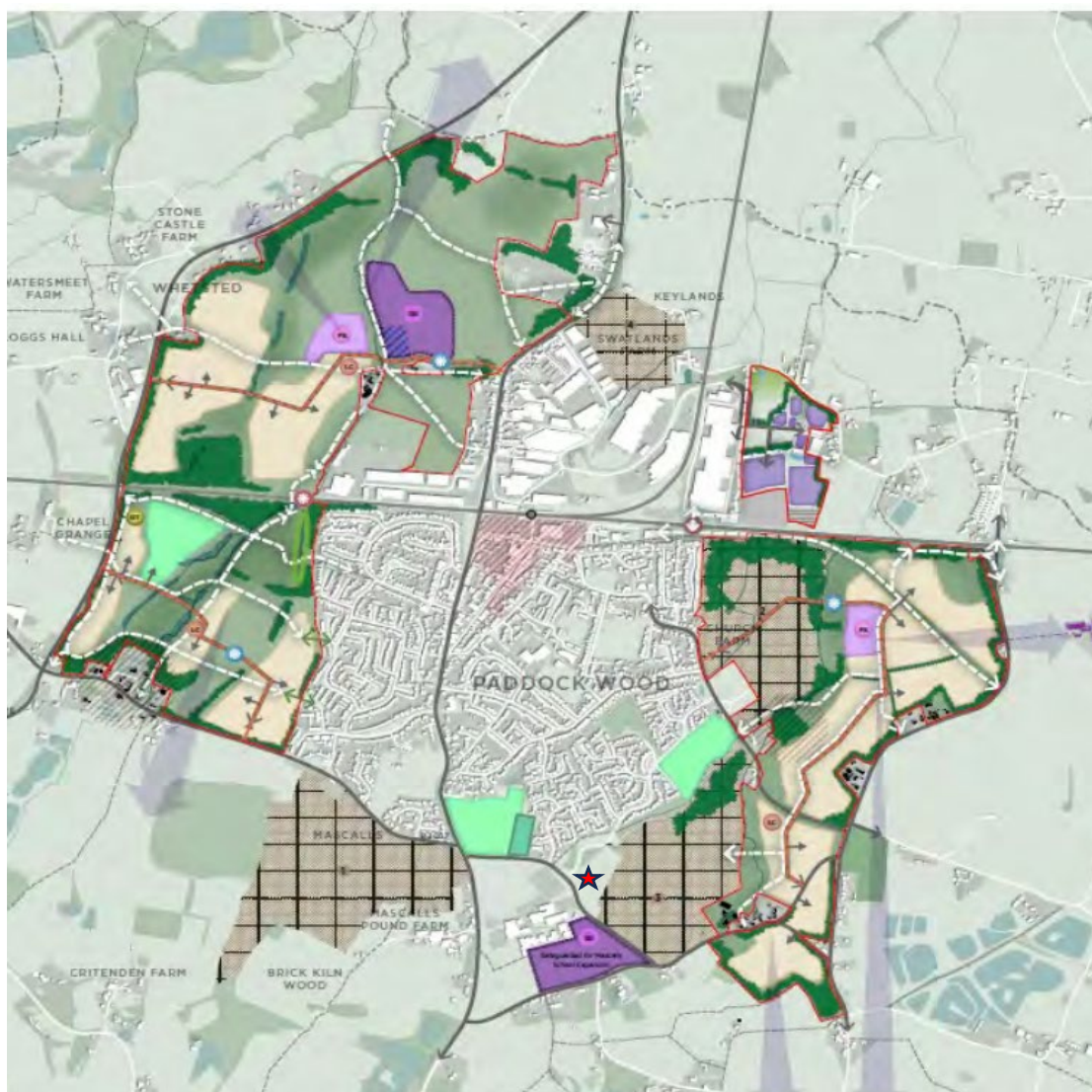
Paddock Wood is a small town within Tunbridge Wells Borough. Over recent decades it has taken significant amounts of housing growth and in the Borough's adopted Local Plan, is planned to increase significantly.

There are currently 4 major development sites with planning consent and under construction; totalling 713 units with permission; 464 of these homes have been built and occupied in the last 5 years with 249 under construction and due for completion in the next three years. The school site was secured via a section 106 agreement on one of these consented development sites, Mascalls Court Farm. In addition to this, further growth of 2,450 dwellings is identified within the Borough's Local Plan. These will take place across 5 land parcels; two of which are subject to current planning applications.

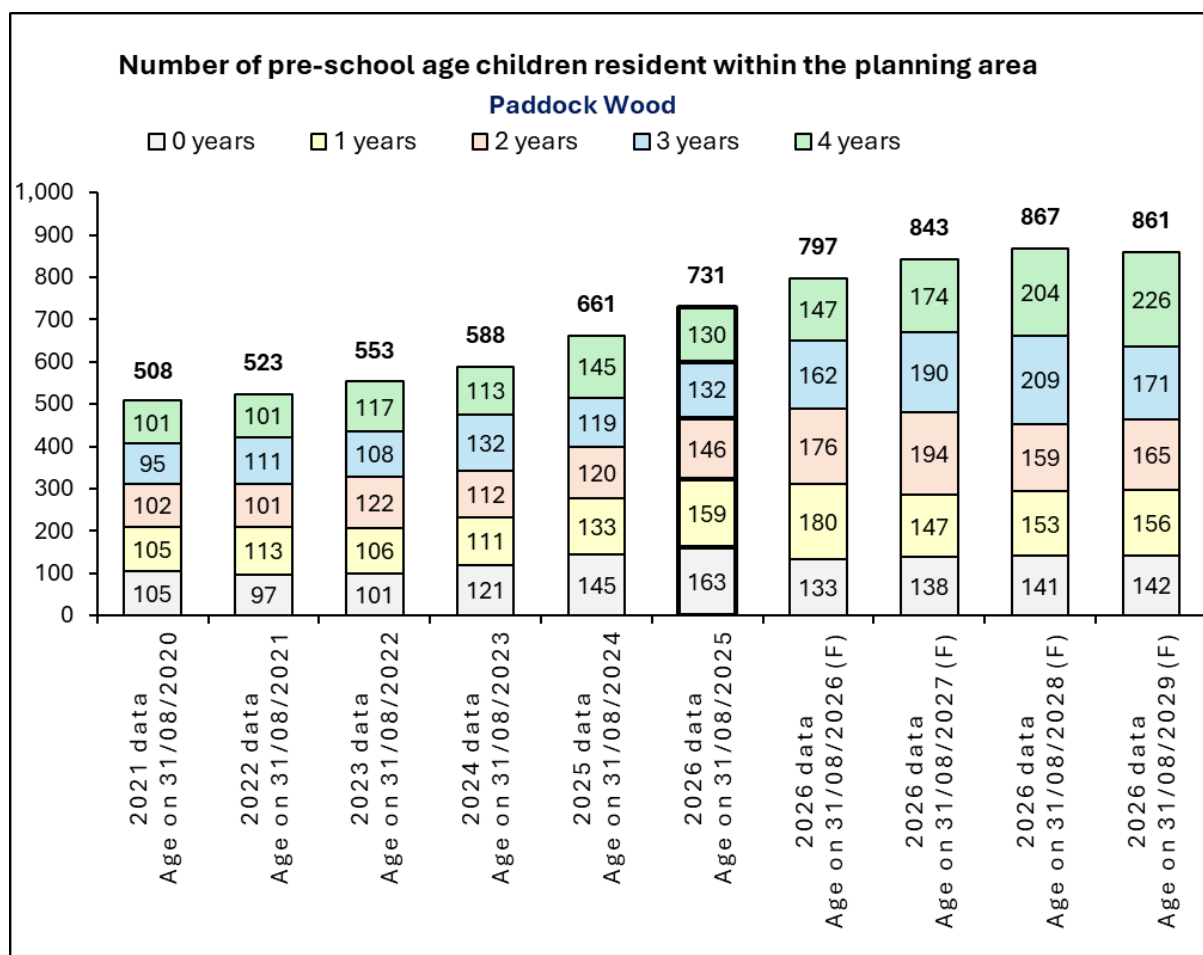
The phasing for the first 1564 units is shown below:

Ref	Site Address	Lower	Mid	Upper	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	2030-2038
STR/SS1	The Strategy for Paddock Wood and east Capel	2374	2453	2532	80	230	320	320	1564
STR/SS1	East Parcel (Redrow)				30	80	100	100	290
STR/SS1	East Parcel (Persimmon)				50	80	80	80	270
STR/SS1	East Parcel (Remaining Land)				0	0	0	0	64
STR/SS1	West Parcel (Crest)				0	30	80	80	580
STR/SS1	West Parcel (Dandara)				0	40	60	60	360

The masterplan below shows the planned expansion of the town, those sites hatched are under construction, with 464 units completed. The star indicates the site of the proposed primary school.



The pre-school aged population within the Paddock Wood planning group increased by 43.9% from 2020 to 2025 and significant growth in the pre-school population is forecast to continue until 2028. The forecast indicates an increase in excess of 1 FE for the 4 year old cohort by 2027, which is then expected to increase again by a further 1 FE in 2028 and 2029. The growth in the pre-school population is illustrated by the table below: (this includes 2025 data in bold, which was not factored into the current KCP forecasts):



Along with an increase in 0 year olds, there can be observed strong cohort growth – indicative of children born elsewhere moving into new homes in the area.

The KCP forecast below shows deficits for Reception places in the Paddock Wood planning group for the entire Plan period. The demand for places is consistently in excess of 1 FE for the Plan period, with the exception of 2029 when it drops to just under 1 FE for that year.

Planning Group	2024/25 capacity	2026/27 (F)	2027/28 (F)	2028/29 (F)	2029/30 (F)	2030/31 (F)	2031/32 (F)	2032/33 (F)	2033/34 (F)	2034/35 (F)	2034/35 capacity
Paddock Wood	120	-7	-27	-50	-29	-38	-44	-47	-48	-49	120

(above forecasts do not incorporate 2025 preschool data which shows a further increase in the cohort sizes)

Paddock Wood currently has one primary school that is situated on a compact site that has limited scope for future expansion. The nearest schools that border Paddock Wood are smaller schools in rural locations with very limited scope for substantial expansion. They collectively do not have sufficient places available to accommodate the growing demand driven by new housing development.

The nearest schools with places available are within Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells town centres which would mean travel distances of around 5 miles from the new school site; for many children located to the East of the new school site it would entail greater distances. Pupils travelling these distances would be eligible for free school transport. This would have a substantial and long-term impact on KCC's school transport budget.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

KCC, as the LA, details its approach to delivering its statutory requirements for those with additional and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within the Kent SEND Strategy 2025–2028. The strategy reflects the authority's vision of an inclusive, supportive, and ambitious education system for all in partnership with children, young people, parents and carers and from representatives, across the system and the Kent SEND Partnership Board. The LA believes that with high aspirations, equitable access to educational opportunities, and the right support, many children and young people with SEND can achieve successful long-term outcomes. It aims to remove barriers to learning and participation in mainstream education, allowing children to learn and grow in their local communities, when this is the best option for the child and ensure that special schools are utilised for those with the most complex needs.

The Strategy highlights 5 key Ambitions:

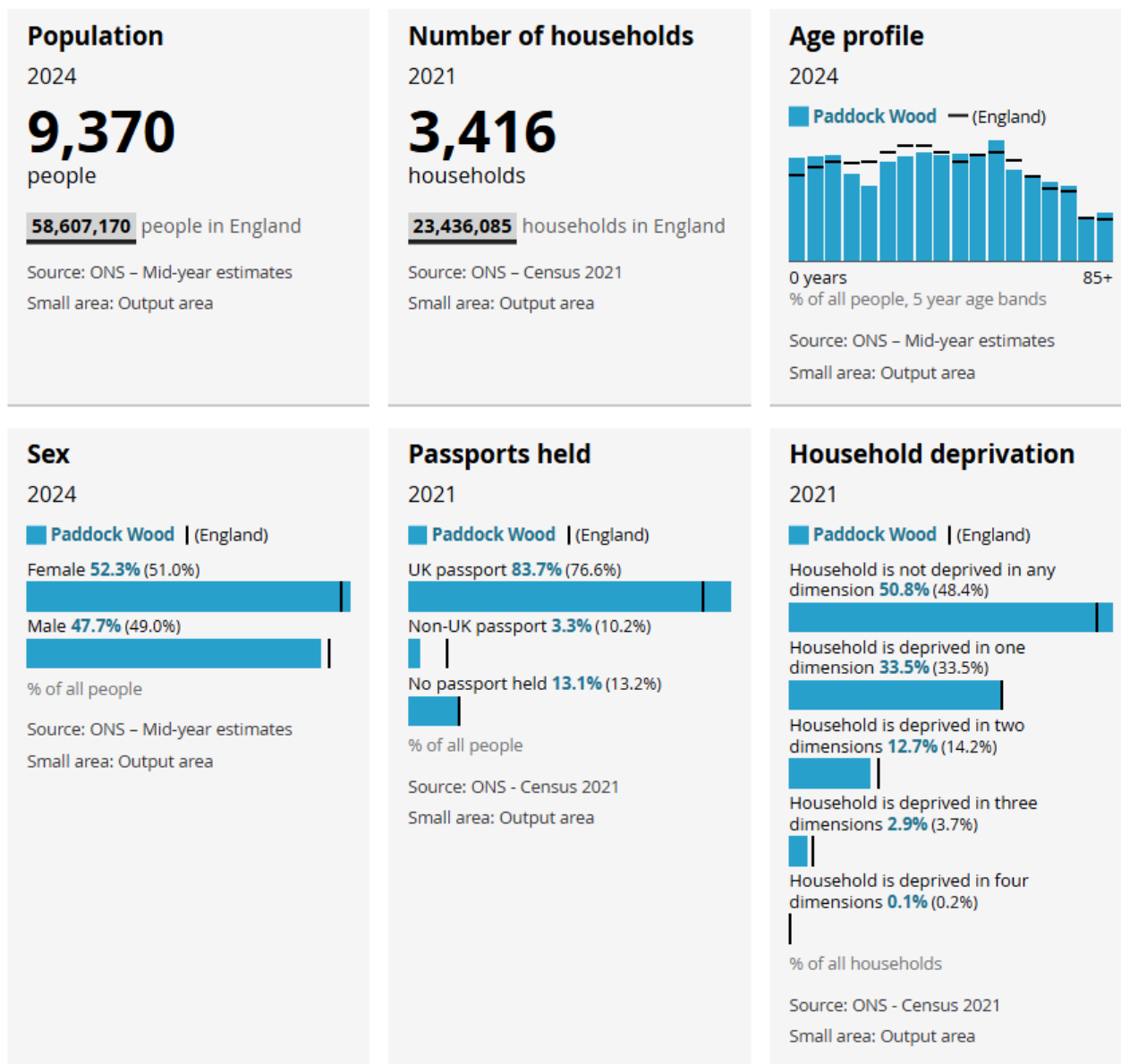
1. Improving the lived experience of children and families
2. Access to the right support at the right time in the right place
3. Achieving the best outcomes through inclusion and participation
4. Working together with children and young people with SEND and their families
5. Preparing for a successful future at the earliest opportunity

Ambition 3 is the most relevant to the planned new school. The new school includes a 14 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) that will provide places for children with SEND whose needs would otherwise not be able to be met within mainstream provision.

Ambition 3 aims to promote inclusive practices in all education provisions, ensuring that children with SEND can access a broad and balanced curriculum. The goal is to fully integrate children with SEND into education, enabling them to learn alongside their peers, participate in all aspects of school life, and receive the necessary support to succeed. The design of the new school will fully consider the needs of children with SEND, creating an accessible environment with acoustics, lighting, temperature control and resource spaces appropriate to the needs of children with SEND.

Paddock Wood Demographics

The need for the proposed new primary school is driven by housing developments in and around Paddock Wood town. Paddock Wood is within Tunbridge Wells District but is geographically separated from Tunbridge Wells (and Tonbridge) town centre and can be considered semi-rural. Office of National Statistics (ONS) data shows that Paddock Wood Ward had 9370 residents in 2024 – see key data broken down below:



The table below shows a breakdown by percentage of the primary aged resident in the Tunbridge Wells wards with Paddock Wood highlighted for convenience. Compared with the other wards within Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood has relatively higher levels of persistent absence, suspensions/exclusions, children with EHCPs and those in receipt of free school meals:

Ward	Persistent absence (<90%)	Severe absence (<50%)	Suspension / exclusion	SEN support	SEND EHCP	Free school meals	20% most deprived LSOA	Early help support	CSWS support	Child in need	Child protection	Child in care
Cranbrook, Sissinghurst & Frittenden	13.7%		1.6%	13.5%	2.2%	24.8%		5.9%	5.5%	0.8%	0.4%	
Culverden	12.9%		0.5%	9.8%	2.3%	9.8%		2.1%	2.6%	1.0%	0.5%	
Goudhurst, Lamberhurst & Horsmonden	7.4%			10.5%	2.2%	13.5%		3.4%	2.2%	0.3%	0.2%	
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst & Benenden	13.0%	*	0.7%	6.5%	3.4%	26.5%		5.4%	5.4%	1.8%	1.3%	
High Brooms	10.8%	*	0.6%	9.3%	4.2%	25.2%		4.5%	3.4%	2.3%		0.3%
Paddock Wood	13.9%	*	1.4%	10.1%	5.0%	24.6%		9.8%	5.5%	2.1%	0.7%	0.4%
Pantiles	10.8%	*	2.2%	12.4%	3.7%	23.3%	22.9%	3.5%	6.1%	1.0%	0.8%	
Park	7.0%	*	0.3%	6.3%	1.2%	8.9%		3.7%	3.4%	1.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Pembury & Capel	8.5%		1.0%	7.7%	2.3%	13.0%		3.7%	2.3%	1.0%	0.4%	0.2%
Rusthall & Speldhurst	10.6%	*	0.7%	12.9%	3.2%	16.2%		4.0%	2.0%	1.0%	0.4%	0.3%
Sherwood	15.8%	0.7%	2.1%	14.6%	4.5%	31.5%	21.4%	8.3%	6.5%	1.1%	0.3%	
Southborough & Bidborough	8.1%	*	0.1%	11.6%	2.4%	14.4%		4.7%	3.5%	0.7%	0.1%	0.3%
St James'	9.1%	*	0.7%	12.2%	3.5%	15.0%		4.4%	3.4%	1.3%	0.1%	
St John's	6.5%	*	0.9%	8.0%	4.6%	11.6%		4.4%	1.3%	0.4%		0.2%

Data provided by Kent Analytics based on January 2025 census.

Funding

The County Council will meet the capital costs of constructing the new school, including the nursery and the specialist resource provision. Capital funding is separate from the revenue funding described below.

The current estimated capital cost of the first phase is approximately £14 million based on a Summer 2028 completion. KCC has identified funding from its Education Capital Funding Budget, which is largely funded through Basic Need, to meet the capital costs of the project. The estimate remains subject to design development, planning approval, procurement and construction cost movements. A formal Record of Decision is due to be presented to the relevant KCC Cabinet Member in November 2026 authorising the spend.

Paddock Wood Primary School is being established to provide additional places required to meet basic need. Subject to the funding arrangements applying at the time and the school meeting the relevant eligibility conditions, revenue support will therefore be available through KCC's Growth Funding Policy. The policy is agreed annually by the Kent Schools' Funding Forum and is subject to Department for Education requirements.

The school will be eligible to apply for up to £76,195 in new-school start-up funding towards reasonable revenue costs incurred before opening. The successful Proposer will be required to submit a detailed expenditure plan to KCC, via the Assistant Director (Education). The amount awarded, up to the maximum available, will be determined following consideration and approval of that plan. This funding may not be used for capital expenditure.

As the school will open incrementally, KCC will provide reorganisation funding in accordance with the Growth Funding Policy applying at the relevant time. This funding is intended to address the effect of lagged pupil funding and support the school while its Reception intake progresses through successive year groups. The calculation will take account of the school's planned pupil numbers, actual pupil numbers and the applicable elements of the delegated funding formula. Any funding will be subject to approval and the conditions of the relevant policy.

The school may also receive a contribution towards the revenue costs of equipping new learning spaces as they are brought into use. Under the 2026–27 policy, the contribution for a mainstream primary learning space is up to £6,000. This is intended for non-capital items such as tables, chairs and moveable equipment, and is payable following approval and evidence of eligible expenditure. The rate and conditions applying when the school opens will be those set out in KCC's policy at that time.

Separate funding arrangements will apply to the specialist resource provision. Under the 2026–27 policy, SRP start-up support includes funding for one teacher from one term before pupils are admitted. Where necessary, additional first-year support may be provided so that total funding is equivalent to the specified teacher and a teaching assistant costs. The provision will move to KCC's normal specialist resource provision funding arrangements when funding generated through commissioned places and actual pupil numbers exceeds the start-up support. High needs funding will support commissioned places and applicable pupil top-up funding.

All amounts and arrangements quoted are based on KCC's Growth Funding Policy 2026–27. As the school is expected to open in September 2028, the final funding arrangements

will be subject to the Growth Funding Policy, school funding regulations and high needs funding arrangements applying at that time.

Local Engagement

Before publishing the invitation notice, KCC undertook consultation on whether a new school should be established in Paddock Wood.

The consultation ran for six weeks from 11 March to 22 April 2026. The following stakeholders were consulted:

- Schools in Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Malling and Maidstone Districts
- Elected Members (Kent County Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council)
- Parish and Town Councils
- Local MP
- Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester and Archdiocese of Southwark
- Residents' groups
- Local community groups

All stakeholders were able to access copies of the key documents on the KCC website.

Additionally, KCC held a discussion with representatives from the 13 most local schools, their MAT representatives where applicable and the Diocese of Rochester. This provided those attending with as much information and data as possible to inform their responses to the consultation.

Main Summary:

This summary includes information from all the responses received during the 6 weeks consultation period. There were 35 responses via emails and digital response forms.

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Local residents	14	2	1	17
Parents/carers	9	0	0	9
Members of staff at a local school	1	2	0	3
Other interested parties	5	1	0	6
Total	29	5	1	35

Comments given by respondents who indicated 'support' for the expansion:

- Support the expansion as it provides the school places needed to meet the demand generated by local housing development in Paddock Wood/provides needed places for local children (14)
- The vast majority of Local residents and parents were in support of the need for a new primary school, but registered concern regarding increased traffic and parking issues (8).

Comments given by respondents who indicated they were 'against' the expansion:

- Concern about the impact on other local schools (4)
- Concern regarding parking during pick up and drop off (3)
- Site too small/compact (2)

- Site on a flood plain (2)

Note: The numbers in brackets shown above represent the occurrence of broadly aligned comments.

Further details of the consultation responses can be found in Appendix 1, including the full responses from other local schools and the Diocese of Rochester and the View of the Kent County Council.

Application Process and Assessment Criteria

KCC is inviting proposals to establish and operate the new mainstream primary school in Paddock Wood. Proposals may be submitted for an academy school, voluntary school or foundation school in accordance with section 7 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The invitation period runs from Monday 7 September 2026 to Monday 19 October 2026.

Proposers should apply using the KCC Proposal Template and where necessary including supporting information. All documentation and information can be found at [Provision of new schools - Kent County Council](#).

Proposals should be submitted via email to the school.consultations@kent.gov.uk **by no later than midnight on 19 October 2026** for the attention of Nick Abrahams Assistant Director Education (West Kent). The County Council must publish all proposals within two weeks after the invitation period closes.

KCC will assess proposals using the Department for Education's model assessment criteria in Annex F. The four assessed sections will be scored and weighted in accordance with Annex F. '[Opening new schools Statutory guidance for Proposers and decision-makers](#)' and [Annex F](#).

The additional Kent-specific expectations below will be considered within the relevant Annex F sections and will not form separate, unpublished assessment criteria:

- How they will ensure that pupil achievement and rates of progress are above national expectations.
- How they will ensure vulnerable groups of pupils perform as well as other children.
- That they have a strong culture of working collaboratively with other education providers in an area and across areas
- How they will support the community in Paddock Wood, including their commitment to working in partnership with local stakeholders.
- How they will deliver high quality provision for children with SEN and disabilities and Children in Care.
- How the school will meet the local needs and engage in district based working
- How the school would meet the wide variety of learning needs in the system and to be aware that the CATIE dashboard will be used to monitor this
- How they would ensure that provision meets the Mainstream Core Standards [Special educational needs mainstream core standards \(kelsi.org.uk\)](#)

Following the representation period and completion of the relevant assessment and consultation stages, proposers will be notified by email whether they have been selected to progress to interview.

If you would like further information or wish to discuss your application, please contact Nick Abrahams, Nicholas.abrahams@kent.gov.uk to arrange a telephone conversation.

Expected timelines for the rest of the process:

Activity	Proposed Date(s)
Publish proposals to KCC website	By 23 October 2026
Representation period	23 Oct to 20 November 2026
Scoring and shortlisting	January 2027
Send out invitations for interviews	First 2 weeks of February 2027
Interview shortlisted Proposers	Last 2 weeks of February 2027
Seek SoS agreement on chosen Proposer	March 2027
Decision	March/April 2027

Section A: Essential Information

About the School:

The new school will be located in Dumbrell Drive, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge TN12 6FR. The image below shows the location and situation of the new school. The plan for the school is illustrative and will be refined during the design and planning permission processes:

up to 420. The school will be co-educational, for children aged between 4 and 11 years. The new school will also include a 26 place nursery and a 14 place SRP for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) need types.

We are planning for the school to fill incrementally starting with Year R (reception year) and a split Year 1/2 class in 2028, growing year on year to its 210 capacity – see table below:

Academic Year	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total Pupils
2028/29	30	15	15	0	0	0	0	60
2029/30	30	30	15	15	0	0	0	90
2030/31	30	30	30	15	15	0	0	120
2031/32	30	30	30	30	15	15	0	150
2032/33	30	30	30	30	30	15	15	180
2033/34	30	30	30	30	30	30	15	195
2034/35	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210

The table above shows the future Year R to Year 6 mainstream capacity by School Year. Pupil numbers associated with both the nursery and the SRP are above those of the mainstream roll. It is recognised that as the Year 1/2 class progresses into the second year that it would cross key stages; this is not ideal. The County Council is not seeking to commission full classes in Yr1 and Yr2 at opening, this is to avoid causing detriment to existing schools in the wider area; as the population in the town grows it is foreseeable that this split year group class would become two classes, however the timing of that split will be dependant on demand and the number of spare places available in existing schools in the wider area, which will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Proposers should base their submission on the pupil numbers above.

The accommodation associated with the nursery will be constructed as part of Phase 1, meaning the school will have the physical capacity to operate the nursery at 26 places; the County Council expects the Proposer to offer all 26 places within the first school year.

The physical accommodation for the SRP will also be fully constructed as part of Phase 1. KCC expects the specialist provision to build up gradually. The County Council does not intend to place any children into the SRP in the first two years, with the first placements expected from 2030/31. This is to provide the new school with time to establish and to ensure SRP pupils have a peer group. For financial planning purposes only, proposers should assume no placements in 2028 or 2029 and up to four in 2030. This does not constitute a placement target or limit and will be discussed with the Proposer and reviewed annually.

Once a preferred Proposer has been identified, discussions will take place on an Admissions Policy for the school and the nursery.

The admission authority for the mainstream school will be required to adopt admission arrangements compliant with the School Admissions Code and participate in KCC's co-ordinated admissions scheme from the first admission round. Nursery admissions will be subject to separate arrangements. Places in the specialist provision will be commissioned by KCC through the relevant statutory special educational needs placement arrangements.

School Ethos

The new school should have an ambitious, inclusive and community-focused ethos, with high expectations for every child. It should place children's wellbeing, safety, achievement and preparation for their future at the centre of its work.

The school should reflect Kent's commitment to raising ambition, enabling curiosity and building resilience. It should provide a broad and balanced curriculum, high-quality teaching and an environment in which every child is known, valued and supported to achieve their potential. The school should identify and remove barriers to learning and participation, meet the expectations of Kent's Mainstream Core Standards and ensure that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities can participate fully in the life of the school.

As a new school serving a growing community, it should develop strong and lasting relationships with children, families, early years providers, local schools and the wider Paddock Wood community. It should work collaboratively through Kent's locality arrangements, including its Community of Schools, to strengthen inclusive practice, support effective transitions and help children attend and succeed in education close to home.

The school should be outward-looking and contribute positively to community life. Its ethos and facilities should support appropriate community use, effective partnership working and a shared sense of belonging, while maintaining proper arrangements for safeguarding, security and financial sustainability.

KCC will consider proposals with or without a religious character or particular educational philosophy fairly and in accordance with the published assessment criteria. Any proposed character or philosophy should be inclusive, compatible with the needs of the local community and support effective collaboration with other education providers.

It is expected that the chosen Proposer must have a strong ethos and evidence of effective practice to ensure inclusivity of all pupils and staff, and ensure all pupils are able to access high-quality teaching. The chosen Proposer will build an ongoing holistic understanding of their pupils and their needs, and facilities must reflect a culture of inclusivity.

Travel to School

The school is being commissioned in response to a growing population in Paddock Wood, led by housebuilding. Whilst the school has a fixed location within the town that is closer to some housing developments than others, the housing growth is all within 2 miles of the site and therefore the expectation is that most mainstream pupils will be able to walk or cycle to school or be accompanied by a parent or carer. Some pupils may qualify for free home-to-school transport, subject to the statutory eligibility criteria and KCC's transport policy

The school will be accessible through walking and cycling routes from the community it serves and will be close to major bus routes. A Traffic Impact Assessment will be carried out by the LA as part of the planning process for the build project. The appointed Proposer will then be required to develop a School Travel Plan encouraging safe travel to school which promotes walking and cycling.

The school will play an important role in the community of Paddock Wood. Its influence and engagement should extend further than simply the education of its pupils. It is expected that the facilities need to be accessible to the community out of school hours, its activities should seek to involve the wider population, and its ethos must be inclusive and outward looking.

The first phase of construction, to be complete in Summer 2028, will include the areas necessary for the school to operate to a 1FE capacity, along with central areas to accommodate a future 2FE capacity. The commissioning of the second FE will be based on the pace of development in Paddock Wood and an assessment of need; the date is not yet identified but may fall within the first 7 years of opening.

Section B: vision

Proposers should take account of the relevant criteria in [Opening new schools Statutory guidance for Proposers and decision-makers](#) and [Annex F](#).

As a minimum, please ensure you include the following:

- A strong educational vision and a curriculum delivery based on high standards of attainment for each key stage that includes all pupils.
- The deliverability and affordability of that vision
- Plans for appropriate engagement with parents and the local community during the pre-opening period and on-going engagement.
- Excellent support facilities to meet the needs of all children, including looked after children, those with Special Educational Needs.
- A commitment to excellent outcomes and high quality of teaching and learning
- A commitment to meet local needs and engage in district based working.

Section C: plan for education

Proposers should take account of the relevant criteria in [Opening new schools Statutory guidance for Proposers and decision-makers](#) and [Annex F](#).

As a minimum please ensure you include the following:

- An ambitious, broad, and balanced, deliverable curriculum plan which is consistent with the vision and pupil intake. This could include a curriculum table and pupil build up chart.
- Strategies for measuring pupil performance effectively and setting challenging targets.
- A staffing structure that will deliver the planned curriculum within the expected income levels; with a focus on consistently high-quality (including strategies for effective performance management). This could also include an organogram and staff build up chart.
- The needs of all children are fully provided for and how the SRP will be an integral part of the school.
- Demonstrate how you would meet the wide variety of learning needs in the system and to be aware that the CATIE dashboard will be used to monitor this.
- Demonstrate how you would meet the Mainstream Core Standards.
- Details of enrichment and extended services, for example, breakfast clubs, wraparound childcare (8-6pm), sports clubs, homework clubs and music/art clubs

Section D: capacity and capability

Proposers should take account of the relevant criteria in [Opening new schools Statutory guidance for Proposers and decision-makers](#) and [Annex F](#).

As a minimum please ensure you include the following:

- The resources you would draw on and/or deploy to support the development of the new school by the opening date.
- Clear evidence that you have the range of skills and abilities necessary to set up and then run a school effectively, including managing school finances; leadership; project management; marketing; human resources; safeguarding; and health and safety
- How the school would be organised and what the governance arrangements would look like, including a diagram of the proposed structures

Section E: finance

Proposers should take account of the relevant criteria in [Opening new schools Statutory guidance for Proposers and decision-makers](#) and [Annex F](#).

The Proposers' financial section should show clear plans for the financial viability of the school and demonstrate how good value for money will be achieved. The plans should detail the finances for the first three to five years from the opening of the school.

Equalities impact assessment

KCC has assessed the likely impact of the proposed school on existing educational provision and has undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment in accordance with its Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. If an academy proposal is approved, the Secretary of State will separately consider the impact of the proposed academy under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 before entering into a funding agreement.

KCC conducted an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) for the proposal to open the new primary school and the full assessment can be found in Appendix 2.

The positive impacts are:

Establishing a new school at Paddock Wood will provide a total of 210 additional primary school places (with the capacity to offer a further 210 places if needed latterly) that will help to ensure that children from Paddock Wood and the surrounding areas will be able to benefit from a local school. This will avoid the need to travel potentially excessive distances to access a school place.

The new building(s) will comply with the Department for Education's area guidelines for mainstream schools (BB103) and will offer accessible facilities to accommodate students, staff and visitors with disabilities.

The school will be co-educational, for children aged between 4 and 11 years. It will also include a 26 place nursery and a 14 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) need types.

The SRP will provide places for children with SEND whose needs would otherwise not be able to be met within mainstream provision. The goal is to fully integrate children with SEND into education, enabling them to learn alongside their peers, participate in all aspects of school life, and receive the necessary support to succeed.

The design of the new school will fully consider the needs of children with SEND, creating an accessible environment with acoustics, lighting, temperature control and resource spaces appropriate to the needs of children with SEND.

The new primary school will initially open as a 1 FE primary school, with a Year R class and a split Year 1 and 2 class. The roll will grow year on year, with the potential to expand to 2 FE at a future date as the housing development expands and houses are occupied. This phased approach is intended to limit the risk of creating excessive surplus capacity and reduce the potential impact on existing schools. Pupil forecasts, housing delivery and the effect on neighbouring provision will be monitored before any future expansion is taken forward.