



INVITATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO RUN A NEW TWO FORM ENTRY PRIMARY SCHOOL IN EBBSFLEET IN THE DARTFORD BOROUGH OF KENT
Anticipated opening in September 2020

Introduction: Kent County Council is inviting applications to sponsor a new (Years R - 6) 2FE primary school to serve the Borough of Dartford.

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in the County is responsible for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and be the champion of children and their families in securing good quality education. Our Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent is key to achieving our aims and identifies the need for new school provision across Kent. This document and further information is available from the following link: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/provision-of-new-schools#tab-1>

Primary pupil numbers in the Dartford Borough are expected to grow over the coming years as more new housing development is completed.

Demand for school places in Dartford is predicated on four factors. Firstly, a birth rate which has historically been higher than both the Kent and National averages. Secondly, inward migration from London and abroad. Thirdly, significant house-building due originally to the Kent Thameside development and latterly, the Ebbsfleet Garden City development. Lastly, Dartford Borough Council has also recently identified that changes in living circumstances has resulted in larger families living in dwellings that traditionally would have housed smaller families.

Dartford's birth rate reduced after 2013 although the birth rate remains significantly higher than the National and County average. The number of births per year, peaked at 1560 in 2012, before falling to 1442 in 2013. The number of births has then increased every year over the last three years but has not exceeded the peak of 2012.

The Dartford Borough Core Strategy and Five-Year Housing Plan requires significant housing development (up to 17,300 new homes), of which 7,781 new dwellings are anticipated to be completed between 2016-21. Housing Development is focused on eight key sites, all of which will require new or additional education provision. These are: Eastern Quarry, Stone, Ebbsfleet Green, Ingress Park East, Ebbsfleet, Swanscombe Peninsula, Dartford Northern Gateway and Dartford Bridge. Much of this development will be under the auspices of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation.

The housing trajectories for development sites in the immediate vicinity of the new school over the next five years are shown at table 1 and at table 2.

Table 1 - Year on Year

Development Sites near to Alkerden	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	TOTALS
Craylands Lane		55	55				110
Ebbsfleet				100	300	300	700
Ebbsfleet Green	120	120	120	120	120	120	720
Eastern Quarry (EQ2)	295	300	350	350	300	300	1895
TOTALS	415	475	525	570	720	720	3425

Table 2 - Cumulative

Development Sites near to Alkerden	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Craylands Lane		55	110	110	110	110
Ebbsfleet				100	400	700
Ebbsfleet Green	120	240	360	480	600	720
Eastern Quarry (EQ2)	295	595	945	1295	1595	1895
CUMULATIVE TOTALS	415	890	1415	1985	2705	3425

Six Dartford Lower Super Output Areas appear in the list of England's 20% most deprived and includes areas of high social deprivation.

The Equality Impact Assessment provides school data relating to particular groups. This is available with the other documents at: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/provision-of-new-schools#tab-1>.

For more detail on the community, please visit – <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Research-and-figures-about-Kent/area-profiles>

Education Vision: Our vision is for Kent to be the most forward-looking area in England for education and learning so that we are the best place for children and young people to grow up, learn, develop and achieve.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/vision-and-priorities-for-improvement>

Kent should be a place where families thrive. A place where all children learn and develop well from the earliest years so that they are ready to succeed at school, have excellent foundations for learning and are equipped well for achievement in life, no matter what their background.

In Kent we should have the same expectations for every child and young person to make good progress in their learning, to achieve well and to have the best opportunities for an independent economic and social life as they become young adults.

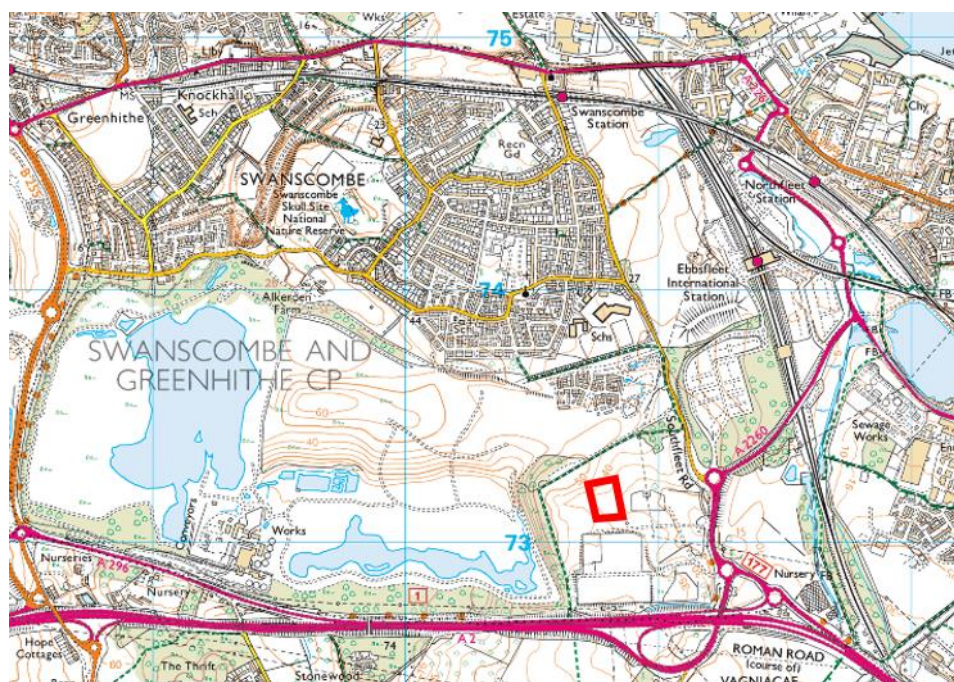
Every child and young person should go to a good or outstanding school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership with each other to share the best practice as they continue to improve.

Table 3: Key Dates

Event	Dates
Invitation for expressions of interest published	10 September 2018
Deadline for receipt of Expressions of Interest	12pm, 28 September 2018
KCC informs DfE of the Expressions of interest received	1 October 2018
Deadline for receipt of full applications	12pm, 19 October 2018
KCC informs DfE of all proposals received	22 October 2018
Promoter Assessment Panel meets	2 November 2018
Education Commission considers proposals	19 November 2018
KCC submits all proposals to the Secretary of State	w/c 19 November 2018
Secretary of State appoints the successful sponsor	Decision with RSC
Target date for opening of new school	1 September 2020

School Specification:

Location: The school will be situated on the Ebbsfleet Green development in the Ebbsfleet Valley. The approximate location of the site is outlined in red below.



Expected Opening Date: 1 September 2020.

Age Range: The school will be for boys and girls aged between 4 and 11 years. There will also be a facility to provide 26 early years places.

Capacity and Published Admission Number:

(See Table 4.)

Provision for Special Educational Needs: The academy will be expected to be fully inclusive and to educate children with SEN for whom mainstream education is considered appropriate.

The school will include a 15-place specialist resourced provision (SRP) for pupils whose primary barrier to learning is a diagnosis of Autism.

The SRP would open in conjunction with the mainstream school and would grow incrementally each year (see Table 6). It would be a centre of excellence which would be expected to support other providers to improve their practice. A service level agreement (SLA) would need to be put in place between the sponsor and the LA.

26 Place Early Years Provision: The early years sufficiency assessment for the area indicates a need to increase pre-school/nursery provision. Dedicated accommodation will be made available as part of the school building for pre-school provision. Promoters are required to agree to operate or commission the pre-school from the school site. It would be for the promoter to determine whether to operate the pre-school provision or enter into an agreement with an independent provider.

Admission Arrangements:

All promoters are required to follow the DfE School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code. Promoters will be required to participate in KCC's co-ordinated scheme for the normal admission rounds and KCC's In-year Fair Access policy and procedures.

The School Building: The school will be procured and built to the agreed ESFA specification for an 2FE primary school plus a 26 place early years facility and 15 place specialist resource provision. The school site and buildings will be leased to the Academy Trust for 125 years. It should be noted that initially the school building will open as 1FE with infrastructure for 2FE. The second Form of Entry will be brought online as demand dictates.

Revenue Funding:

1. Pupil Growth Funding: In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding during the first three years. For the purposes of providing a guaranteed budget we are assuming the following organisation.

Table 4. Proposed Admissions Numbers at the new school over the first 3 years

Academic Year	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2020/21	30	30	30				
2021/22	30	30	30	30			
2022/23	30	30	30	30	30		

Beyond this time, the structure will be determined by pupil numbers and the school's budget. The indicative 3 year budget, can be found here:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/provision-of-new-schools#tab-2>

On opening, the new school will be funded directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

2. **Furniture and Equipment** - £6k per designated classroom or full-sized learning space will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the Trust in order to undertake their own procurement.
3. **Start-up Costs:** A one-off £25,000 grant will be provided to the successful sponsor by the Department for Education to cover legal expenses. KCC's current policy (agreed with the Kent Schools Funding Forum) will provide a budget of £50,000 for start-up costs which will typically commence from January through to 31 August prior to the new school opening on 1 September 2020. KCC has significant experience of opening state maintained schools and academies using this funding mechanism. KCC will not pay further "Project Management Costs" to the sponsor. Therefore, potential sponsors will need to confirm that they would be prepared to proceed on this basis if they are selected.

Application Process and Assessment Criteria:

Potential proposers are asked to complete the Expression of Interest Form and return it to us by 12pm on 28 September 2018.

You will also need to complete the full application form and return it to us by 12pm on 19 October 2018.

Both documents are available via this link: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/provision-of-new-schools#tab-2>

The DfE will only consider entering into a funding agreement with an approved sponsor. Potential sponsors who are not on the DfE's approved sponsor list must go through that process before submitting an application. Details of how to apply to be an approved sponsor can be accessed via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sponsor-an-academy>. We will evaluate proposals received and provide the DfE with copies of the proposals and our assessment of them. Our assessment criteria mirrors, as far as possible, those used by the DfE. These focus on strategic vision, educational capacity and performance, financial planning and operational capacity and governance.

Additionally, we would expect promoters to demonstrate:

- 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 locally and in other parts of Kent to promote partnership working and community cohesion.
- That they would particularly need to work with Early Years and neighbouring secondary school providers to facilitate transition;
- How they would work in close partnership with KCC with regard to the operation of the SRP;

- How they will deliver high quality provision for all children with SEN and disabilities and Children in Care;
- Evidence from existing sponsors of a proven track record of school improvement or sustained high standards and how the proposed governance model will drive and support high standards.

You will need to submit a focussed and coherent education plan as part of Section C of the application. You will also need to submit a 3-year budget plan as part of Section F of the application. We would strongly suggest that you use the DfE template to show this (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mainstream-and-16-to-19-free-school-financial-template>). Please note that when producing your school budget plan, the total funding for the SRP should simply be added to the main revenue funding figure, in each year. No adjustments for the initial pupil led funding should be made to the SRP allocation.

This school will be one of the focal points for the community in the Ebbsfleet Garden City. Applicants should show how they propose to embrace the aspirations and ambitions of this new community.

KCC will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to its preferred provider. The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the South East, on behalf of the Secretary of State, will consider the local authority assessments and recommendations before deciding which sponsor is in the best position to take forward the new school. The RSC will inform the Local Authority and the successful sponsor of its decision and the Local Authority will inform any unsuccessful sponsors.

As soon as selected, we would expect early engagement with the sponsor, in particular to begin dialogue about local consultation and proposed admission arrangements. If you would like further information or wish to discuss your application, please contact Ian Watts, Area Education Officer (North Kent), Tel: 03000 414302.

If you are interested in running this new school in Dartford you need to submit an Expression of Interest by 12pm on 28 September 2018. You should send this electronically to school.consultations@kent.gov.uk for the attention of Ian Watts, Area Education Officer for North Kent

The full application form should be sent electronically no later than 12pm on 19 October 2018. to school.consultations@kent.gov.uk for the attention of Ian Watts, Area Education Officer for North Kent.

Background documents:

- Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2018-2022
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
- Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020:
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>