



Consultation

Extending the Age Range of the New Secondary School that will serve the new community in the Ebbsfleet Valley

12 June 2019

To Parents / Carers, Staff, Colleagues and other interested parties

The Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust, working with Kent County Council are proposing to change the age range of the new school at Alkerden, Ebbsfleet, to create an all-through school for pupils aged 2 to 19, which will eventually add 60 places in each primary year group with an eventual total roll of 420 primary school pupils. In addition, the change will create 26 Nursery school places and provide 15 primary places in a Specialist Resourced Provision for children whose barrier to learning is ASD. The already agreed numbers and structure of the secondary school intakes are unaffected by this proposal.

The consultation will start on 12th June 2019 and will conclude at midday on 9th July 2019. 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 the new school at Alkerden, Ebbsfleet?

In 2018, Kent County Council (KCC) held a competition to identify a promoter to establish a new school in the part of Ebbsfleet Valley known as Alkerden. The Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust were the successful bidder.

The site for the new school will provide sufficient land and buildings to accommodate an 8FE secondary school with a secondary specialist resource-based provision, a 2FE primary provision with a 15 place primary specialist resource-based provision for pupils whose primary barrier to learning is ASD and a twenty-six place Nursery provision. Within the competition documentation, KCC stipulated that any provider must indicate whether they would be willing to establish an all-through provision.

KCC have informed us that their preference is to open the 2FE primary provision with a 15 place SRP and nursery, as a component of an all-through school. As the secondary provider, Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust is consulting on whether the new secondary school should accommodate the primary and nursery establishment that is planned for the site.

2. Why are KCC opting for a change of age range solution, rather than a competition or wave application process?

Kent County Council did not originally seek an all-through school as it was already planned that a primary provision would open after the Secondary provision. It was felt by officers that it was good practice to keep options open, until it became absolutely necessary to make a decision.

As design of the Secondary School has progressed, the work has highlighted on-site challenges that affect the feasibility of building a separate 2FE primary school with a discrete curtilage, with additional access, catering, services and perimeter issues.

Before making the decision to seek an all-through solution, KCC liaised with our Trust and confirmed that we were content to take on 2FE of primary in the new school. The Trust CEO, Stephen Carey, has also liaised with the Regional Schools Commissioner's (RSC) office for South London and South East England. The RSC's office has confirmed that they can see the rationale for an all-through model in this case and would be open to an application to vary the age range from the current agreed 11-18 age range to include nursery and primary provision. This application would

be considered by the regional Headteacher Board in line with the standard procedure for significant changes.

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

We are in the early stages of consulting on this proposal. However, plans and designs are being drawn up in liaison with the landowners, Henley Camland, the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and KCC to provide school buildings and facilities for both a secondary school and primary provision. We need to consult on the educational aspect of changing the age range to create an all-through school before the decision is taken on which design to adopt and submit for planning.

The design and layout of the site and buildings will be part of a separate planning process and once plans have been finalised, you will have the opportunity to comment on them, through a planning consultation process.

In respect of the proposal to change the age range of the new school at Alkerden, we will be holding a consultation drop-in event where all stakeholders, including local residents, will have an opportunity to speak to us and KCC colleagues about the proposal. We hope to be able to present early site plans for the new school, including the 2FE primary, with 15 place SRP and twenty-six place nursery provision.

4. 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.

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

The Governing Body of the new school will be the Admissions Authority and if the proposal goes ahead, they will determine the admissions arrangements for the nursery, primary and secondary provision, in consultation with the local authority.

During the original competition for the secondary provision, we committed to establishing a school that welcomed students of all faiths and those with no faith. It is proposed that the admission criteria for the primary and nursery provision will be reflect that same ethos.

Admission to the Nursery

Admission to the nursery will be by application as for any other Early Years provision.

Nursery to Primary Admission

Although the nursery school is a part of the school, the Kent County Council primary admission process requires that all children apply for a primary school place. In the event of oversubscription, we propose the following admission criteria:

1. Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care

2. Children who have a brother, sister or step or half siblings including fostered and adopted siblings living at the same home address attending the primary or secondary provision at the new school at Alkerden, at the time of applying.
3. Children of staff in either or both of the following circumstances:
 - a. where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made,
 - b. and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post in the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage for the requirements of the post
4. Children who have a demonstrable and significant need to attend the school for health and special access reasons.
5. All other applicants, with priority being awarded by home - school distance. The school uses measurements provided by the Local Authority.

Primary to Secondary Admission

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

6. What numbers will the new primary open with?

The school will open September 2021, initially with only secondary pupils being admitted. It is anticipated that the Primary and Nursery provisions would open after that time as the demand dictates. It is proposed that the number of Reception Year places available in the Primary provision's first year of opening would be 30. The school would also seek to offer 30 Year 1 places at that time. These numbers will be under continuous review with Kent County Council commissioning intentions and if demand indicates that more provision is required, we will be open to amending this proposed opening model.

7. 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 potential parents/carers, members of staff, governors and other interested parties at Saint George's CE School on Tuesday 25th June, 3:30pm to 6pm 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 CEO, Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust, St George's CE School, Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS.
- Hand your response form in at the school. All written responses need to be received by midday on 9th July 2019.
- Email your comments to: office@sgsce.co.uk

8. What happens next?

This consultation stage closes by midday on 9th July 2019.

A report summarising the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to the governing body for consideration, who will then decide whether to proceed with the change of age range.

Yours sincerely

Zoe Bucknell
Chair, Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust

Public Consultation Response Form

Proposal to change the age range of the new school at Alkerden, Ebbsfleet to include primary, nursery provision and SRP

Please return no later than midday 9th July 2019 to:

Post: CEO, Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust, St George's CE School, Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS

Hand: Hand your response in to the school office at the above address

Email: Send to: office@sgsce.co.uk

Do you agree with the proposal? Yes No Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?

- A parent likely to seek a place at the new Alkerden School
- A member of staff
- A school governor
- A local resident
- Other – please specify

Name

Address
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The Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust 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....

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