



Special School Review



Parents Newsletter Issue 3

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What has happened since the last Newsletter was published in April 2004?

Please see the table below for information on all outstanding schools.

Items outstanding	Schools	Dates
Public meetings	Valence, Wyvern, Broomhill Bank & Oakley	Dec 04 - June 05
Public Notice period	As above	Mar 05 - Sep 05
Kent School Organisation Committee (KSOC) (if needed)	As above	Jul 05, Sep 05 or Nov 05

The following schools were all referred to Kent Schools Organisation Committee (KSOC) on the dates shown. The redesignations of Portal House and Milestone and the amalgamation and redesignation of St Thomas & St Bartholomew's were all approved.

Date	School	Status
KSOC: Jan 04	Portal House	Redesignated Sep 04
KSOC: Jan 04	St Thomas & St Bartholomew	Amalgamated Sep 04 – now known as Meadowfield School
KSOC: May 04	Milestone	Agreed – redesignating Sep 05

The following schools were all referred to the Adjudicator.

Date	School	Status
KSOC: May 04	Bower Grove	Approved by Adjudicator
KSOC: Jul 04	Gap House & Laleham	Amended by Adjudicator
KSOC: Jul 04	Foxwood & Highview	Rejected by Adjudicator.

What is the role of the Schools Adjudicator?

If the Kent School Organisation Committee (KSOC) cannot agree on proposals, they are referred to the Schools Adjudicator. The Adjudicator aims to deal with each case " ... impartially, knowledgeably and confidently. There is a Chief Adjudicator, Dr Philip Hunter, and 12 others. All are independent of the DfES. They cannot make decisions relating to a Local Education Authority they have worked in during the previous 10 years or in which they live. The Office of the Schools Adjudicator provides administrative support to the Adjudicators and is responsible for putting in place an effective framework for the decision making process." Their charter is available on their Website at www.schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk

What happened to those schools referred to the Adjudicator?

The Adjudicator can, if they choose, hold meetings where the schools concerned and the LEA are invited so that all points are listened to.

- **Bower Grove** and **Five Acre Wood** were **approved** and will therefore be implemented on 1 September 2005.
- The amalgamation of **Gap House** and **Laleham** was **approved**, with the following amendments:
 - (a) The date of Implementation has been changed from 1 January 2005 to 11 April 2005.
 - (b) The age range of the new school will be 3 to 16 not 5 to 16.
 - (c) The designated number is to be increased by up to 12 pupils aged 3 and 4.
- The proposed amalgamation of **Foxwood** and **Highview** was **rejected**. The Area Education Officer is talking to both schools and it is likely that a new consultation will take place in due course. However, the previous proposal cannot just be repeated. To ensure that these schools will fit into the proposed picture of SEN provision in Kent and are included in the Special School Review KCC needs to start again with a fresh proposal.

How much progress has been made on the review of the units attached to mainstream schools?

We have now completed our consultation and have analysed the results. Work is now in progress to determine future-need types for Resourced Mainstream Provision. More information will be available early in the summer term 2005.

What progress is happening regarding pre-school units?

The working party (which includes representative heads who currently have Early Years provision) has almost completed a modeling framework for Early Years provision that will be commissioned from the Profound, Severe and Complex Needs Schools. A costed proposal has been drawn up by applying the model to each of these schools. Many of the units will be on the same sites as the schools. A paper is due to go to Paul Carter by the end of February 2005.

What progress has been made regarding the 16+ consultation?

The Strategic Plan for the 16+ provision has been drafted and is due to be distributed early in 2005. The final outcome should be known by September 2005. Applications for any necessary planning consents will be lodged in the New Year.

Q: I understand there are severe shortages of speech therapists. Is anything being done to address this?

A: Joanna Wainwright, Assistant Director (Pupils & Students) has been in discussion with Christchurch College regarding Speech & Language Therapy training. A two-year course aimed at graduates in health-related areas is proposed. Courses should be available in September 2006.

Q: What is a SMILE Centre?

A: SMILE, a resource base for education professionals, stands for "Supporting Multi-professional Inclusive Learning and Education". Staff at SMILE assist colleagues in mainstream schools to draw up programmes of study. The Centre also runs courses for teachers, who may also visit on a more informal basis to seek out materials, use the library, meet together to discuss and solve problems, or to obtain advice. Each of the District Profound Severe and Complex Needs Special Schools will have a SMILE Centre.

Q: Is it likely that Admissions to special schools will change?

A: Yes. We are looking into ways of streamlining the process and increasing the amount of parental involvement.

Q: What is happening with the building works at the schools?

A: Architects have been appointed, or are in the process of being appointed, to all the schools in Phase 1. It has been agreed that all Behaviour and Learning schools should have their specification increased by 100m² to enable them to work towards having a workable Gym/Sports Hall. All of the District Profound Severe and Complex Needs Special Schools should have a Hydrotherapy Pool. There will also be a standard ICT specification.

For more details on what is happening at your child's school please ask the school for information.

It is possible that while a school works towards its new designation and new pupil number it may, for example, "grow" before it reduces in size as there may be two or more need types of pupils to educate. You may, therefore, see a mobile or two appearing at your child's school for a number of years whilst this process happens.

Q: Have any new Headteachers been appointed in this academic year?

A: Phil Rankin is the new Headteacher at Meadowfield School (formed by the amalgamation of St Thomas' and St Bartholomew's in Sittingbourne). Keith Mileham is the new Headteacher at Laleham Gap School. Mike Phillipson has been appointed as acting Headteacher at Aspen II in Dover.

Q: How can I see a picture of the Special School Review for the whole of the County?

We are currently developing a new website for the Special School Review that we hope will be available shortly. In the meantime, please refer to the matrix overleaf which details the current position. If you have any enquiries about this, please contact Jill Clinton on 01227 284598 or e-mail jill.clinton@kent.gov.uk

Contact Details

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School	Address	Current Designation	New Designation					Proposed Implementation
			C & I	BESD	PSCN	B&L	Cty PSM	
The Orchard School	Canterbury	MLD						Sep 04
St Nicholas' School	Canterbury	SLD						Sep 04
Aspen School/Whitfield Unit	Dover	SLD						
Harbour School	Dover	MLD						Sep 04
Portal House School	Dover	EBD (res)						Sep 04
Meadowfield School (a)	Swale	MLD/SLD						Sep 04
St Anthony's School	Thanet	MLD						Sep 05
The Foreland School	Thanet	SLD						Sep 05
Stone Bay School	Thanet	S&PMLD (res)	res					Sep 05
LalehamGap School (b)	Thanet	SpLD/S&L (res)	res					Apr 05
Goldwyn Comm Special Schl	Ashford	EBD						Sep 04
The Wyvern School	Ashford	M & SLD						Sep 05
Bower Grove School	Maidstone	MLD						Sep 05
Five Acre Wood School	Maidstone	SLD						Sep 05
Highview School	Shepway	MLD						Sep 05
Foxwood School	Shepway	SLD (res)						Sep 05
Rowhill School	Dartford	MLD						Sep 04
The Ifield School	Gravesend	MLD						Sep 04
Valence School	Sevenoaks	PD (res)					res	Sep 05
Furness School	Sevenoaks	EBD (res)		res				Sep 04
Milestone School	Sevenoaks	SLD						Sep 05
Ridge View School	Tonbridge Malling	SLD						Sep 04
Grange Park School	Tonbridge Malling	S&PMLD						Sep 04
Broomhill Bank School	Tunbridge Wells	MLD (res)						Jan 06
Oakley School	Tunbridge Wells	CD (B&L)						Jan 06

- (a) Formerly St Thomas' & St Bartholomew's
(b) Formerly Gap House & Laleham Schools

Key: Current Designation	
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulties
EBD	Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulties
S&L	Speech & Language
PD	Physically Disabled
CD	Communication Difficulties
S&PMLD	Severe & Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties
Key: New Designation	
C&I	Communication & Interaction
BESD	Behavioural Emotional & Social Development Need
PSCN	Profound Severe & Complex Needs
B&L	Behaviour & Learning
PSM	Physical Sensory/Medical