

Public Notice

Second Public Notice summarising proposals for a new primary school at Goat Lees, Ashford

In accordance with section 7(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Kent County Council give notice that following their notice of 12 February 2010 inviting proposals for a new mainstream school at within the Goat Lees estate, Ashford, which is situated adjacent to Trinity Road, Ashford, Kent the following proposals have been received.

Ashford Baptist Church, St John's Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PS has submitted a proposal to establish a new Foundation School with a Foundation.

Ashford Baptist Church Education Trust¹ will set up the school. Ashford Baptist Church's identity and work is motivated by the life, message and example of Jesus Christ. Their vision and ethos is shaped by their Christian belief and understanding of how a Christian approach enables children to fulfil their potential. The children's individual needs, their hopes and aspirations, their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being will be central to the ethos of the school. The foundation members will be drawn from members of Ashford Baptist Church.

The school's ethos will ensure education at the highest standard with a genuine appreciation for all.

There are currently no other schools in the area offering a distinctly Baptist perspective. The Church will bring a wealth of experience drawn from educational, business, community cohesion and environmental backgrounds.

The school will abide by the Admissions Code of Practice. Where there are more applications for admission than places available, the over-subscription criteria will be as follows: 1. Children in Local Authority Care; 2. Children with medical, health and special access reasons; 3. Children with siblings already in the school (dependent on the family remaining in the locality); 4. The proximity of the child's home to the school.

The school will be an integral part of the community. This will be done through a variety of relevant community programmes as well as through access to the school's facilities. Areas already identified are the park and its upkeep, a community garden on the school site, training for parents on e-safety and how they can work with their children in maths, science and reading. Extra-curricular activities, such as sports, the arts, technology, gardening, cookery and various others will be provided. The children will be fully involved in decision making regarding the choice of clubs.

Ashford Primary Headteachers Collaboration, c/o Rob Juniper, Phoenix Community Primary School, Belmont Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9LS has submitted a proposal to establish a new Foundation School (without a foundation).

The school will strive for excellence - in provision, achievement, practices, personal development and pastoral care. It will be welcoming and at the heart of the community. It will be a school embedded within the community for the community. Equality of opportunity will be at the heart of the ethos of the school in order to remove barriers to success. Although the school will have no particular religious affiliation it will equip each child morally, socially and educationally to take their place successfully in a multi-cultural world, able to respect each other and make a positive contribution.

The Collaboration will adhere to the Admissions Code of Practice and adopt the same admissions criteria as the existing community schools. The over-subscription criteria are: 1. Children in Local Authority Care; 2. Current family association; 3. Health and Special Access reasons; 4. Nearness of children's homes to school.

The extended services programme will open up experiences and provide equality of opportunity for children young people and their families. The school will continue to work within and across the present extended services offered locally; offer a varied menu of activities; encourage staff and community members to become involved in out of school activities; maintain a breakfast club and after school club; provide swift and easy access to a wide range of specialist support services such as speech and language therapy.

Complete copies of the proposal(s) can be obtained from: David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Kent County Council, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU or at http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations.aspx

A public meeting to discuss this proposal is to be held at Goat Lees Community Hall, Trinity Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4AB on Tuesday 20 July at 7pm.

Within six weeks after the date of publication of these proposals any person may object to, or make comments on, any of the proposals by sending their representations to David Adams at the address above.

Signed: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director

Publication Date: 2 July 2010

(Endnotes)

¹ The Trust has not yet been formed but is likely to be called Ashford Baptist Church Education Trust.

