



Statutory Proposal

Establishing a Voluntary-Aided Secondary School in Kingston upon Thames

This detailed Statutory Proposal encompasses a 4-week Representation period of Friday 23rd April 2021 – Friday 21st May 2021.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides for the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, as education authority for the relevant area, to be the decision-maker on this proposal. Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, that is by Friday 21st May 2021, any person or persons or organisation may object to or make comments on the proposal by emailing Matthew Paul, Associate Director for School Place Planning for Kingston, at:

matthew.paul@achievingforchildren.org.uk.

Correspondence should be denoted: *'Response to Proposed Kingston CofE Secondary School'*.

Statutory Proposal

1 Contact Details

Name of proposer: **Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, 48 Union Street, London. SE1 1TD.**

Website: <https://education.southwark.anglican.org/>

This proposal is made independently, without other proposers.

2 Relevant Experience of Proposer

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) has significant experience in education provision. It covers 12 local authorities across south London and part of Surrey, offering support and advice to 105 Church of England schools and academies and to Further Education and Higher Education chaplaincies in the Diocese. In particular, SDBE provides school improvement challenge and advice to the Diocese's schools and employs: Officers, Advisers and Consultants to work with these schools. 93% of the Diocese's schools are currently judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, compared to 86% nationally.

3 Category

SDBE's proposal is to establish a voluntary-aided secondary school, for pupils aged 11-16 years. Kingston Church of England Secondary School will be state funded by the Department for Education and will be operated by Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) and the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

4 Evidence of Consultation

All applicable statutory requirements have been complied with, as per the document Department for Education's statutory guidance 'Opening and Closing Maintained Schools', November 2019 .

It is important to note that consultation about the proposed establishment of the secondary school has been ongoing since early 2017.

In early 2017, an Application Stage Stakeholders Database was developed by the SDBE project team that worked on the original application. This database featured key local stakeholders including schools and faith settings. These identified stakeholders were encouraged, via a global email sent on the 25th January 2017, to further promote the then *application* via their Facebook pages, twitter feeds, newsletters and other communication channels. Schools were provided with a specific flyer about the application for distribution to their parents.

The Application Stage Stakeholders Database included coverage of the following stakeholders:

- Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and surrounding local authorities
- The Archdiocese of Southwark
- Schools from all faiths and cohorts in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
- Community members from all faiths – including via places of worships – in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
- Local libraries
- Local Leisure Centres.

Indeed, details consulting on and communicating about the proposed application were sent via letter by the SDBE in late January 2017 to schools in the borough and other stakeholders. This communication included an invitation to attend two information events, held in February 2017, about the plans to establish Kingston CofE Secondary School. The Director offered to meet with headteachers and did so with one secondary headteacher, whilst receiving written feedback from another. The two events were held at: (a) St. John's CofE Primary School, in Kingston, and (b) St Andrews and St Marks CE Junior School, in Surbiton.

Parents and members of the community that attended the information events were able to see a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the key features of the proposed school and the background and experience of SDBE. Additionally, from the perspective of ongoing consultation, an online survey was established. This survey has been hosted on the Kingston CofE Secondary School website and as of 22nd April 2021 it has received 305 responses - the majority of which (90%) were supportive of the plan to establish the Secondary School.

In January and February 2021, SDBE received further feedback via a further online survey that was hosted on the Kingston Church of England Secondary School website. This online survey was augmented by a public e-meeting facilitated via Zoom on Wednesday 10th February, which was attended by 52 people. Once again the parents and members of the community that attended the e-session were able to see a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the key

features of the proposed school and the background and experience of SDBE. A Question and Answer session was also facilitated.

There were 400 responses to the January and February 2021 online survey. **Two-thirds of respondents to that on-line survey denoted their support for the establishment of Kingston CofE Secondary School and its proposal to open in September 2024.**

This supplemented the feedback that was also received as an outcome of the ongoing consultation that had commenced in January 2017.

Support was received from a wide spectrum of stakeholders including local parents/carers, local residents and representatives of South West London-based schools and educational establishments (who constituted 10% of all of the supporters). Additional findings from this online survey were:

- 91% of respondents to the on-line survey evidently supported the establishment of a Specialist Resource Provision which would be an integral part of the school and which would be co-located on the site of Kingston CofE Secondary School
- An evident and tangible theme was that the establishment of Kingston CofE Secondary School would furnish greater *choice* among local parents/carers as to the type of secondary education their child(ren) could access
- Support for the establishment of Kingston CofE Secondary School repeatedly aligned to a recognition (from stakeholders, including local residents) that the Kingston locality was experiencing an expansion in dwelling numbers (for example, at the Cambridge estate) and therefore an associated increase in the number of resident local families
- Support for the admissions policy was denoted by two-thirds of the respondents to the on-line survey – however, the theme of localised geography and which families could access the proposed school (aligned to an area of residence) was evidently a subject which was recurrently highlighted by such respondents
- Opposition to the establishment of Kingston CofE Secondary School was most frequently qualified – by a relevant respondent to the on-line survey – as being due to an antipathy to faith schools.
- Opposition to the proposed *site* of Kingston CofE Secondary School¹ were most frequently aligned to environmental issues and themes, including the fact that it was a green space hosting trees, and the fact that it evidently hosted a population of slow worms for which successful translocation to another site could pose challenges
- A number of respondents who disagreed with the establishment of Kingston CofE Secondary School challenged its need aligned to (*their* perception of) likely forecast increases/changes to pupil numbers for the Royal Borough

In view of the support for the proposal, but also mindful of the sensitivities which have emerged in the consultation process, the Diocesan Trustees have decided to go forward to the next stage in the statutory process, known as the Representation stage, by publishing this statutory Public Notice.

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Subject to full feasibility and formal relevant local authority committee approval in due course, the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (Council) will lease part of the Kingsmeadow site for the school. That location will enable the school principally to serve future cohorts of children living in Kingston and Norbiton - the areas where some children have been unplaced at the initial offers stage for the last few years.

5 Objective and reason for the new school

The objective of this Statutory Proposal is to outline the fundamental plans for the establishment of an outstanding secondary school, which will be an inclusive, academically non-selective, co-educational Church of England secondary school with 900 places that will serve young people and young people in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, and surrounding areas.

Kingston CofE Secondary School will not replace an existing school.

The establishment of the school has been considered necessary in order to enable local parents, families and students to have more choice, including with regard to a choice of Christian, specifically Church of England, education. It is also the case that the places which the school would provide would help to meet the basic need for state-funded secondary school places within Kingston Borough. The Council's latest School Place Planning Strategy (adopted in November 2020) identified that demand for places within the borough has grown considerably in recent years (by more than 16% between 2015 and 2019) and is set to increase further due to a variety of factors, including: larger cohorts of children attending Kingston primary schools and the 'pupil yield' from recently completed and forthcoming housing developments. As the Council is unable, by law, to open a school of its own and does not have the requisite available capital either to hold a 'competition' to create a new free school or to expand existing schools, a new voluntary-aided secondary school is the only way in which those additional places could realistically be provided.

6 Extended Services – in the form of a Specialist Resource Provision

It is also proposed that the school will host a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) when the school opens, in September 2024. This SRP will eventually educate and support up to 20 pupils, who have Social Communication Needs, including Autism – and Mild to Moderate Learning Difficulties. (See point 11, page 5 for further details).

The school and its resources/services will become a centre of excellence for the community and it will make its facilities available for community use.

7 Pupil Numbers and Admissions

Kingston CofE Secondary School will be an inclusive, open to all faiths and no faith, academically non-selective, co-educational Church of England secondary school for pupils aged 11-16 years with (when it reaches full capacity in the 2028-2029 school year) 900 places providing high quality education.

It will admit 180 places per year and will open for its first Year 7 cohort in September 2024.

The school will grow incrementally year on year as future Year 7 cohorts join. Our proposed first year intake reflects where demand for places has been identified. When starting a new school we believe that it is really important to nurture the first year and establish the culture of the new school. Our first Year 7 classes will also be our first classes to take GCSEs.

It is further proposed that a proportion of the places will be allocated as 'Foundation' places and:

- The lower and upper age limits of the school will be 11 years and 16 years
- The school will not provide nursery education
- The school will not provide for boarding pupils
- It is not intended that the school will have a Sixth Form provision

8 Vision and Religious Character

The secondary school's vision will be based around a broad and balanced education. It will be highly inclusive, have a distinctive Christian character, and will offer its pupils the opportunity to grow and develop within that broad and balanced curriculum framework underpinned by Christian values. Essentially, there will be a culture of strong ambition and high performance for its pupils within a caring Christian ethos.

High quality Religious Education will be a key feature of the school. Pupils will be able to participate in a daily act of Collective Worship. SDBE will be applying to the Secretary of State for the school to be designated with a religious character, which will be Church of England.

All trustees, governors and staff will work to ensure that every student achieves their maximum potential in a safe, supportive environment which will be well resourced and managed.

The establishment of a Church of England school will widen choice at the secondary phase for parents and carers, as there is currently no Church of England secondary provision in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. Key features of the secondary school and the way it will enhance the quality of education in the area will be:

- To celebrate the skills, talents and successes of pupils and staff within a community founded upon Christian values
- To provide the skills necessary for pupils to become outstanding learners both whilst they remain at our school and also throughout their lives
- To encourage pupils to develop independent learning skills and to support each other in achieving this important goal
- To aim to meet the needs of all our pupils by offering them every opportunity to learn and develop, in order to fulfil their individual potential
- To ensure that pupils can draw significant benefit from the pastoral care available and chaplaincy support
- To offer a wide-ranging enrichment programme, which will be provided during an extended day and which may include a breakfast/before school club and after-school supervised homework club. This will support personal as well as academic development while also offering parent-friendly provision
- To develop life-long skills for pupils which will prepare them for work and employment in the future

9 Area or Community that the Secondary School will Serve

The school will serve and will increase parental choice for the diverse communities of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and the surrounding areas/boroughs.

10 Admission Arrangements and Implementation

Kingston Church of England Secondary School will be a non-academically selective, co-educational inclusive school. It will be open to all children from all backgrounds. Children from families of any faith or no faith will be able to gain admission.

All new schools that open through the Voluntary-Aided schools capital scheme are required to have strong local integration and community cohesion plans to ensure that pupils from all faiths

and none feel welcome at the school and have the same freedoms as existing voluntary aided schools, including determining their admission arrangements.

The Admissions Policy for the school will meet the statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code, the School Admissions Appeals Code and admissions law. Our admissions process will be inclusive, open, fair and transparent.

Essentially, the new school will have six forms of entry with 30 pupils per form, giving a Planned Admissions Number (PAN) of 180. Each year 180 pupils will be admitted to Year 7. The school intends that 120 of the 180 places per year group will be 'open' places with no reference to faith.

Up to 60 places will be 'Foundation' places for children of families who can demonstrate Anglican or other Christian commitment. (As above) the remaining 120 places will be available as 'open' places, the majority of which will be allocated on the basis of proximity to the school. Any unfilled Foundation places will become 'open' places.

In accordance with the law, children with an Education Health and Care Plan will be admitted to the school where the Local Authority has specifically named Kingston Church of England Secondary School as the most appropriate placement.

In the event of there being greater demand than there are places available to the school, places will be offered using over subscription criteria – effectively based on distance from the school – in keeping with the School Admissions Code.

11 Specialist Resource Provision

It is proposed that a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) should be established when the school opens, in September 2024 for up to 20 pupils across the school over time.

This provision will be for pupils who have Social Communication Needs, including Autism, and Mild to Moderate Learning Difficulties. Each pupil would be broadly able to work within the curriculum expectations of a mainstream secondary school, but may need to access regular small group and 1-1 sessions to ensure social emotional progress or address gaps in learning. All pupils placed in the SRP would have an EHCP or, very rarely, would be undergoing statutory assessment for an EHCP.

It is proposed that the SRP would be housed within the school's main buildings to maximise its position as an integral part of the secondary school's overall offer and inclusive practice.

A qualified and experienced teacher will be appointed to manage this provision.

As the SRP would only be available for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans, a Local Authority-led panel would assign placements for all the SRPs of the same designation.

The range of needs which the SRP would meet would be clearly and differentially outlined within the service level agreement with the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames so that all parties would be aware of the distinctive offer of this provision to meet the needs of the children and young people placed there.

12 Effects on Standards and Contributions to School Improvement

SDBE has been an Academy Sponsor since March 2015. In addition to the educational professionals on the SDBE, the Diocesan family of schools will provide expertise as required to ensure that Kingston Church of England Secondary School has the support and challenge needed to help the leadership deliver high quality education for pupils from the outset, and ensure that these standards are maintained. SDBE comprises a majority of very high performing schools that understand the nature of accountability that this brings along with the rigour required to bring about change and long-term sustainability.

The autonomy of being a Voluntary Aided School will further enable SDBE and the proposed new school to draw on the strength of provision across our highly successful Diocese. Our Diocesan Board is highly effective and has an excellent track record of school improvement. Our schools have a strong trusting relationship with that Board. They see SDBE as a body which holds schools to account, is highly effective, but also nurturing. School staff will work with SDBE and Council advisers to contribute to school improvement. This will be achieved by sharing good practice, being part of local and regional networks and offering outreach to other schools especially through the expertise of the Specialist Resource Provision. Essentially, we have a long and established track record of providing quality education across South London and Surrey.

13 The School Day

The school day will begin with a breakfast club followed by registration in tutor groups and then a morning act of collective worship. Formal learning will start at approximately 8.30am and the core day will end at approximately 3.30pm.

A range of **after-school enrichment** activities will operate through to approximately 5.00pm to widen the school curriculum and provide additional opportunities for skills acquisition in areas beyond the formal taught curriculum, together with personal development opportunities.

Activities will include a supervised homework club, performing arts productions, a debating society, sports and games including competitive matches, computer/internet clubs including programming and other technological activities, enterprise opportunities and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. These clubs, societies and sporting activities will form a varied programme staffed by teachers, parents, volunteers and paid experts, linked to the curriculum offered during the formal taught day to reinforce and supplement student enjoyment of learning and student progress.

14 Community Ethos

The secondary school will have a very strong community ethos and during this pre-opening phase will seek to liaise with and consult with other members of the local education and schools family. It is intended that the secondary school's outstanding resources will be accessible for the use of the community that it serves.

The Governing Body will build a firm partnership with parents, provide termly reports as well as continuous real-time online access to information using a secure parent area of the school website. We will strive to ensure parents always remain engaged and updated and will work continuously to enhance community cohesion. There will be strong mutually beneficial partnerships with the local family of schools, local business (from the perspective of employability) and charities to support mutually beneficial opportunities for pupils and the wider community.

Every pupil admitted will be welcomed, cherished and supported to help them achieve their full potential. The curriculum offer within which pupils learn will be broad and balanced. The Trust's high expectations for the future include ambitious targets for pupils which will be underpinned by a **commitment to outstanding pastoral care**, ensuring every student is known, supported and challenged to achieve throughout their time in school.

15 Location

Subject to formal local authority committee approval of planning permission in due course (anticipated in 2021 or 2022), the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (Council) **will lease** part of the Kingsmeadow site for the school at Jack Goodchild Way, Kingston Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 3PB. The **lease** is expected to be granted to SDBE as trustee of the school for a term of 125 years at a peppercorn rent for educational use only.

That location will enable the school principally to serve future cohorts of children living in Kingston and Norbiton - the areas where some children have been unplaced at the initial offers stage for the last few years.

The proposed site is not used for the purposes of another school.

16 Implementation and Project Costs

SDBE and the Council are jointly implementing these proposals.

The site is already owned by the Council and therefore there will be no cost of providing the site. The Department for Education's Education and Skills Funding Agency has confirmed it will provide 90% of the capital costs of the new build, landscaping, etc. for the proposed school. The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames has confirmed it will provide the other 10%. SDBE will not be contributing to capital costs but have and will be providing support to implement these proposals. The revenue funding for the school for its day-to-day operational costs, such as staffing and resources, will be provided in the same manner as any other maintained school within the borough.

17 Travel

It is anticipated that all pupils will be able to travel to and from school either by walking or by public transport. If the journey involves public transport other than the use of London buses, on which travel is free for school children resident within Greater London, then an application for home to school travel assistance can be made to the child's home local authority.

18 Curriculum

The school will meet the general requirements in relation to the curriculum contained in sections 78 and 80 of EA 2002. There will be no significant additions to section 80 of the EA 2002, including in relation to a 14-19 vocational education element.

Kingston Church of England Secondary School's curriculum model, based on the National Curriculum, will offer pupils a broad range of experiences and learning opportunities, enabling pupils of all abilities and backgrounds to succeed.

The school will also offer high quality spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It will promote British values.

State-of-the-art ICT and computing facilities will enable all pupils to gain full access to the curriculum. Continuous monitoring and assessment of the quality of teaching and each learner's progress will maximise pupil progress, create a culture of continuous improvement and facilitate early intervention where needed.

19 Voluntary-aided Schools

Kingston Church of England Secondary School's governing body will be able and willing to carry out its obligations under Schedule 3 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 – see: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/31/schedule/3>

SDBE will be the trustee of the school and will hold the leasehold interest in the site on trust for the purposes of the school, being a Church of England secondary school .

20 Staffing

The staffing structure for the new school will be established by the Headteacher and the Governing Body following appointment. We would expect to appoint a leadership team to start with the school no later than nine months before the opening of the secondary school. SDBE will provide guidance and assistance as required.

SDBE will set the highest standards for our pupils and expect these to be matched by every member of staff. In return, we will offer an educational environment and opportunities to match the best in the state and independent sectors.

All roles at the school will be published on this website and advertised in national, local and specialist media as appropriate.

21 Special Educational Needs (SEND)

In terms of our policy relating to pupils with SEN, the Kingston Church of England Secondary School will abide by the Special Educational Needs 2014 Code of Practice and will admit any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the school.

Further details about the proposed Specialist Resource Provision can be viewed at point 11, page 6.