



Hartsdown
Academy

24 November 2021

To Parents/Carers, Staff and other interested Parties

Proposed changes to Hartsdown Academy

What we are consulting on:

We would like your opinion on the proposal to close the current Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) based at Hartsdown Academy for Hearing Impaired (HI) students from July 2022.

This consultation to close the SRP for HI at Hartsdown Academy is being run in parallel with the consultation to open a SRP for HI at Canterbury Academy.

Why are we proposing this change?

The Local Authority is responsible for maintaining Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years.

As of January 2021, this totalled 15,281 children and young people with an EHCP. This is an increase of 1,782 since January 2020, an increase of 13.2% compared to 10% nationally.

Hearing Impairment as a primary need is a low incidence need and only 1.3% of all EHCPs have a primary need of HI. In January 2021 there were 200 EHCPs in Kent for HI (0–25-year-olds) in Kent. For those students who require additional support to access mainstream school but not a specialist school place, an SRP place is required.

At Hartsdown Academy there is currently 1 student attending the SRP at for Hearing Impairment and this has reduced over a number of years. A review of SRP provision for HI in Kent identified a need for the provisions in East Kent to be centrally located, therefore being able to cater for students from a number of Districts in East and South Kent. It has therefore been proposed to close the HI SRP in Hartsdown and open a new provision at Canterbury Academy. A consultation to open the Canterbury Academy SRP is also currently being consulted on. By closing the SRP at Hartsdown Academy and opening the new provision at Canterbury Academy the SRP will be located to meet the wider need for the provision across East and South Kent.

Will this mean fewer places for local children with Hearing Impairment?

No. At the same time as closing the SRP at Hartsdown Academy we are proposing to open a new SRP for HI at Canterbury Academy. Canterbury Academy is ideally located to provide provision for a wide geographical area including Thanet, Canterbury, Ashford, Dover and Folkestone and Hythe.

When will the SRP Close?

It is intended that the SRP will close at the end of July 2022.

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Hartsdown Academy, George V Ave, Margate, CT9 5RET: 01843 227957 w: www.hartsdown.org e: info@hartsdown.org

What happens next?

Following the consultation, all comments and views received will be considered before the Academy Trust and Governing Body who will make a final decision. If they decide to proceed to close the provision a business case will be submitted to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) seeking approval from the Secretary of State.

We would like your views on this proposal to close the SRP for HI at Hartsdown Academy.

You can have your say by:

- Emailing us at: head@hartsdown.org
- Completing the attached response form and handing it in at the reception at Hartsdown Academy addressed to the Chair of Governors.
- Posting the response to the Chair of Governors, Hartsdown Academy, George V Avenue, Margate, CT9 5RE

The closing date for sending in a response is midday 6 January 2022.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Tate

Headteacher

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed 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.

The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. You can view the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2021 to 2025 at: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

You can view Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities at: www.kent.gov.uk/sendstrategy

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Consultation Response Form

Please complete this response form **no later than midday 6 January 2022** and return it by:

- Handing your completed form into reception at Hartsdown Academy.
- Emailing: head@hartsdown.org
- Posting to: Chair of Governors Hartsdown Academy, George V Avenue, Margate, CT9 5RE

Do you agree with the proposals to close the Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP) for Hearing Impairment students at Hartsdown Academy?

Yes

No

Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?

Parent/Carer

Member of staff

Governor

Pupil

Other (please state).....

Comments:

Please continue your comment overleaf if necessary

- Hartsdown Academy is the 'controller' under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and ensure that any personal information is processed fairly and lawfully. We will only share your responses for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

- KCC 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, go to www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
- The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. You can view the current Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent at: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

Comments continued