



Education Consultation

Gravesend Grammar School

Monday 30 September to Friday 1 November



30 September 2019

The trustees of the Decus Educational Trust and Kent County Council are seeking views on a proposal to expand Gravesend Grammar School, Church Walk, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2PR by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 174 places to 210 places from September 2021.

Dear Parents/ Carers, Students, Staff, Governors and other Stakeholders

1. Why are we consulting on proposals for Gravesend Grammar School?

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out the future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be viewed from this link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>.

It is anticipated that there will be significant short and medium-term pressure for additional Year 7 places in the Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group which indicates that additional capacity will be needed for 2019/20 and in later years.

Therefore, KCC has asked Gravesend Grammar School to provide additional places for local children by expanding the school.

2. What is the local demand for places?

KCC forecasts indicate a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesham from the start of the 2019-20 academic year. The Gravesend and Longfield Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 36 Year 7 places (1FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 62 places (2FE) for the 2021-22 intake and increases again to 99 places (3.3FE) by 2023/24

Year 7 Forecast Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken and Planned Housing is Delivered

	2017-18 capacity	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25 capacity
Gravesham and Longfield Selective	354	-36	-40	-62	-61	-99	-81	354

The Gravesend and Longfield Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 84 places across the total roll (Years 7) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 239 places for the 2021-22 intake and increases again to 412 places by 2024/25

Years 7-11 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken and Planned Housing is Delivered.

	2017-18 capacity	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25 capacity
Gravesham and Longfield Selective	1,702	-84	-156	-239	-289	-365	-412	1,770

The Kent Commissioning Plan 2019-23 reflects the need to commission additional capacity to address this demand as follows:

Planning Group	By 2019-20	By 2020-21	By 2021-22	By 2022-23	Between 2023-27	Between 2027-2030
Gravesham and Longfield Selective	1FE expansion		1FE expansion		1FE expansion	

As part of the measures being taken to address the capacity issues illustrated above, KCC is proposing that Gravesend Grammar School increase their PAN to 210 for 2021.

3. Why Gravesend Grammar School?

Gravesend Grammar School is a popular school that was judged Outstanding in every area by Ofsted in June 2015.

The school site lends itself to expansion for a number of reasons including the age and sustainability of existing structures, proximity to local demand and sympathetic leadership and governance.

4. How will the expansion be delivered?

Gravesend Grammar School has a Published Admission Number of 174 but will often offer over their PAN to meet local demand.

KCC propose increasing the amount of school social space including, dining, recreational and circulation space over the expansion period. KCC propose planning and building a new block at the school, together with other infill work. This work would be completed before the September 2021 intake. This build would enable the school to offer 210 Year 7 places for September 2021.

5. How will the school deal with any possible increased traffic and congestion?

Traffic and parking assessments will be carried out as part of the design and planning process. The school's travel plan would need to be updated and would be utilised by the school to encourage families to find alternative ways of travelling to school in order to reduce the number of car journeys.

6. Will the expansion adversely affect the school's operation during the building work?

All of the building works will be planned carefully, and contractors will work with the school to ensure that works are scheduled to keep disruption to an absolute minimum. The building site will be a secure area to ensure the health and safety of the students, staff, parents and visitors to the school.

7. Will there be enough external play and sports ground space?

As part of the feasibility, the design team will focus on providing sufficient outdoor circulation space for a 7 form entry school. The school will plan how best to use the space to provide sufficient access for students during and outside of the school day.

8. What additional funding will Gravesend Grammar School receive?

Revenue Funding:

Furniture and Equipment - £6,000 per new learning space will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the school to purchase the required equipment. In addition, an allowance of up to £2500 may be payable to outfit the teaching room with appropriate ICT equipment, such as touch screens or projection equipment.

Pupil Growth Funding

The school will receive growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum.

9. The consultation process – indicative timeline

Date	Activity
30 September 2019	Public Consultation start date.
15 October 2019	A 'drop-in' information session will be held at Gravesend Grammar School.
01 November 2019	Public consultation end date
15 November 2019	Report to the KCC Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee. Education Consultation providing the consultation outcome and seeking cabinet endorsement to allocate capital funding
by 22 November 2019	KCC Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education considers consultation responses and the Cabinet Committee's recommendation and makes the decision whether to release of capital funding.
Late November 2019	Statutory Public Notice Issued
December 2019	Formal decision made

10. I have a question – who can I ask?

If you have any questions, please contact the school.

11. How can I give my views?

There are a number of ways to give us your views on this proposal:

- A 'drop-in' information session is being held at Gravesend Grammar School on 15 October 2019, 3.30 pm to 6.00 pm. This provides an opportunity to ask questions and complete a response form.
- By sending the response form by post to: Chair of the Trust, Gravesend Grammar School, Church Walk, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2PR

- Hand your response form in at the school office. All written responses need to be received by midday on 1 November 2019
- By emailing: westj@gravesendgrammar.com

12. What happens next?

This consultation stage closes on 1 November 2019. The Trust will produce a report summarising the responses received during the consultation period. This will be considered by the Trustees.

A report will then be presented to the KCC CYPE Cabinet Committee who will recommend the future direction of the proposal.

If the decision is to progress the proposal, the Trust will publish a statutory public notice in accordance with current legislation.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Ralph
Chair of the Trust
Decus Educational Trust

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 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2019 to 2023 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

RESPONSE FORM – Gravesend Grammar School Expansion

Please complete this response and return:

- by sending to Chair of the Trust, Gravesend Grammar School, Church Walk, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2PR
- to the school office. All written responses need to be received by midday on 1 November 2019
- by emailing your response to westj@gravesendgrammar.com

Do you agree with the plan to expand Gravesend Grammar School Published Admission Number from 174 places to 210 for the September 2021 intake?

Yes

No

Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?

* Parent/Carer / Member of Staff / Trustee / Pupil

* Please delete as appropriate

OR - Other interested party (please state interest).

Name

Address

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Please provide your comments below: (continue overleaf if required)