



Proposal to open a 20 place Specialist Resources Provision (SRP) for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) at Bysing Wood Primary School from January 2027.

Dear parents/carers, pupils, staff and other interested parties

Introduction

We would like to hear your views on a proposal to open a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) at Bysing Wood Primary School from January 2027. This would, in time, provide 20 specialist places for pupils in Reception to Year 6 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for ASD and/or SLCN.

This letter explains reasons for the proposal, and how the decision-making process works. Please let us have your views and comments on the proposal by completing the Consultation Response Form which is attached.

What is a Specialist Resourced Provision (SRP)?

Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) is defined as “places that are reserved at a mainstream school for pupils with SEN, who are included within the mainstream school and activities, but require a base and/or some specialist facilities”.

An SRP is an integral part of a mainstream school. These are led by teachers and school staff who have the appropriate experience and specialist qualifications needed to support the pupils. It has dedicated teaching spaces and the additional resources and staff to provide the support required. The students supported have an EHCP with a primary Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) type aligned to the designation of the SRP.

The pupils integrate into mainstream classes when they are able to do so, and into other aspects of mainstream school life whenever possible. This enables students supported by the SRP to benefit from mainstream education alongside their peers, in their local community, whilst receiving specialist support and having a designated space when they need it.

The proposed designation of ASD and SLCN will focus on students who have communication challenges at the heart of their needs.

Reasons for the proposal

KCC is responsible for maintaining EHCPs for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years. According to data from the SEN2 census (January 2025), there were 20,635 children and young people with an EHCP residing in Kent - an increase of 1,229 young people compared to January 2024. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) remains the most common need type in the county, with 9,535 EHCPs (46%). SLCN was the third highest with 3,583 EHCPs (17%).

In January 2025, across the Swale District, there were 383 primary aged students with ASD as their primary need and 345 with SLCN, a total of 728. The children and young people attended the following provisions:

- 328 at a mainstream school,
- 40 at an SRP within a mainstream school,
- 399 at a maintained special school
- 21 at an independent school (independent special or otherwise).

Forecasts suggest that the number of children and young people with an EHCP for ASD will increase by about 500 over the next 5 years and those with an EHCP for SLCN by over 900. A number of these students will require the additional support that a primary school based SRP can offer.

KCC have informed EKC Schools Trust and Bysing Wood Primary School that there is a need for an SRP in Faversham following the SRP review. Additional SRP places for pupils with ASD and SLCN in the primary sector in Swale District are needed and specifically in Faversham. Currently there are 3 primary SRPs in the District. Two on the Isle of Sheppey these are at Thistle Hill primary for ASD and West Minster Primary school for SLCN. One SRP in Sittingbourne for SLCN at The Oaks Infant and Minterne Junior schools. There is currently not an SRP for ASD in Faversham and this provision will help to fill this gap.

In January 2025, primary aged pupils with an EHCP with a primary SEND need type of ASD and SLCN in Faversham area, were travelling on average 8.8 miles to access an appropriate specialist provision, whilst across Kent this was 6.5 miles. Travelling such distances is rarely in the best interest of the pupils. More local SRPs would reduce journey times and distances enabling more pupils to go to a school nearer to where they live.

Why Bysing Wood Primary School?

KCC and EKC Schools Trust are both fully committed to ensuring that children with SEND can be educated in their local community, alongside their siblings and friends. Both believe that the staff at Bysing Wood Primary School have the skills to support pupils with ASD and or SLCN in an SRP.

The school already successfully support a number of pupils with a variety of special education need types through different curriculum pathways. It has space and capacity on the school site to provide an SRP.

In the most recent OFSTED report (June 2024), it was judged to be Good for its overall effectiveness.

This is a welcoming and inclusive school, where all pupils are valued and supported, whatever their needs may be. There is a positive culture built on a shared commitment for pupils to 'Believe, Wonder, Progress, Succeed'. Pupils portray a great sense of belonging to the school community. They are happy to come to school and enjoy learning. They are very enthusiastic about the 'forest school', where, they said, they have fun but also learn to work together, persevere and take risks.

The addition of a new SRP would further develop the staff body enabling them to support not just the pupils within the SRP, but pupils across the school who may have ASD and or SLCN characteristics to a lesser extent.

Where will the SRP be accommodated?

Current accommodation at the school will be repurposed to provide the SRP. It will be a safe space for the pupils in a specific discrete area within the school – this area will include an enclosed outdoor

learning space for these pupils, providing them with a consistent 'home' to access the support of the SRP staff and a place where they can spend recreation time should they so wish.

How will students gain a place in the SRP?

To access a place within an SRP, students must have an EHCP which identifies that their needs can be met in an SRP within a mainstream school. Admissions to the SRP will be determined by KCC in consultation with Bysing Wood Primary School. Pupils presently attending this school who may benefit from being taught in the SRP will be assessed in the same way. This would be in consultation with parents.

Funding

The revenue and capital funding required for the SRP will be provided by KCC if the proposal is approved by the Department of Education (DfE).

Summary of the consultation

In bringing forward this proposal all parties believe that opening an SRP for ASD and or SLCN students will:

- Provide a much-needed specialist resource that will support the growing number of primary aged students with ASD and SLCN in Faversham.
- Reduce distances pupils need to travel to access appropriate support.
- Build on the expertise that the School and the Trust has in educating children with special educational needs, including ASD and SLCN.
- Have a positive impact on the education and social understanding of other students within the school.
- Support pupils with ASD and SLCN in the transition from early years to primary school, and then from primary to secondary school.

Where can I find out more about what KCC are putting in place for SEN students?

KCC has produced a SEND Strategy 2025 to 2028 that sets out its plans for students with SEN and Disabilities (SEND) www.kent.gov.uk.sendstrategy

I have a question – who can I ask?

People who visit the school regularly can speak to Mr Harrison in person.

Alternatively, please contact the school on SRP@bysing-wood.kent.sch.uk

You can attend the drop-in information session detailed below.

The consultation process timeline

The table below sets out what happens next:

Date	Information
20th April 2026	Start of public consultation period lasting 3 weeks. Responses need to be received by ADD DATE AND TIME.
Tuesday 28th April 2026	A 'drop in' information session will be held at Bysing Wood Primary School.
11 th May 2026	Public Consultation closes. The results of the consultation will be referred to EKC Schools Trust and the Governing Body for consideration. A formal decision will be made whether or not to

	apply to the DfE to open the SRP at Bysing Wood Primary School, and the decision shared with KCC.
May/June 2026	Application to the DfE submitted.
January 2027	SRP open, subject to Secretary of State approval.

How can I give my views?

There are four ways to let us have your views on this proposal:

- Coming to a consultation drop-in session for parents/carers, members of staff, Governors and other interested parties at Bysing Wood Primary School on Tuesday 28th April 2026 from 3:30pm to 6pm. During the session you will have the opportunity to ask questions, give your views and complete a Response Form.
- Completing and posting the attached Response Form to Mr A Harrison, Headteacher, Bysing Wood Primary School, Lower Road, Faversham, ME13 7NU.
- Handing in your completed Response Form to the school office addressed to Mr A Harrison, Headteacher, Bysing Wood Primary School, Lower Road, Faversham, ME13 7NU.
- Emailing your comments to: SRP@bysing-wood.kent.sch.uk

All responses need to be received by midday on Monday 11th May 2026.

What happens next?

A report summarising the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to EKC Schools Trust and the full Governing Body for consideration.

On the basis that EKC Schools Trust, the Governing Body and KCC are all in agreement to progress the proposal, Bysing Wood Primary School will submit a significant change request to the DfE.

Yours faithfully



CEO
EKC Schools Trust



Headteacher of Bysing Wood Primary School
on behalf of the Governing Body

Response Form

We would like to hear your views on a proposal to open a 20 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) from January 2027 at Bysing Wood Primary School.

Please complete a response form **no later than midday on Monday 11th May 2026** by:

- Attending the drop-in session to ask any questions on Tuesday 28th April 2026 from 3:30pm to 6pm.
- Completing and posting the Response Form to Mr A Harrison, Head Teacher, Bysing Wood Primary School, Lower Road, Faversham, ME13 7NU.
- Handing in your completed Response Form to the school office addressed to Mr A Harrison, Head Teacher, Bysing Wood Primary School, Lower Road, Faversham, ME13 7NU.
- Emailing your comments to: SRP@bysing-wood.kent.sch.uk

Do you agree with the proposal to open a 20 place Specialist Resource Provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Speech, Language and Communication Needs from January 2027 at Bysing Wood Primary School?

Yes

No

Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?

A parent of children currently attending the school

A Governor at the school

A parent of children at a different local school

A Governor at a different local school

A member of staff at the school

A student attending the school

A member of staff at a different local school

A parent of pre-school aged children

Other (please state)

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Do you have any comments?

Please continue your comment overleaf if necessary

Bysing Wood Primary School are 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.

We 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.

The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. You can view the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2026 to 2030 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