



Department  
for Education

## Free school bid form

### For local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools

Published: July 2018

#### Contents

[The bid form explained](#)

[Overview](#)

[Confirmation](#)

[A1 - who is putting this bid forward](#)

[A2 - evidence of commissions](#)

[Table A2 continued](#)

[B - type of school](#)

[C1 - current context](#)

[Table C1i - for special schools](#)

[Table C1ii - for AP schools](#)

[C2 - strategy for high needs](#)

[C3 - why you want a new school](#)

[C4 - expected outcomes](#)

[D - site](#)

#### The bid form explained

**This free school bid form is for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision (AP) free schools.**

Local authorities (either as a lead or sole bidder) can submit a bid for one special and one AP school in total in their area. Given the limited number of new schools we will create in this wave, it is highly unlikely that we will approve more than one school in any one local authority area. In the most exceptional of circumstances where you plan to make the case for two new schools in your area, you will need to complete a separate bid form for each school, although you should cross-reference where appropriate.

The overview section on the second tab asks for information about the number of bids you are submitting (i.e. one or two), the priority of each bid (if you are submitting two), what (if any) other bids you are supporting, and your expected future need for new special and AP schools (and when they are needed). If you are submitting two bids, you only need to complete the overview page on one form.

If your bid is successful, the opportunity will be advertised nationally, and if a strong proposal comes forward, the new school will be delivered and funded as part of the department's central free schools programme.

Before completing your bid, please ensure that you have read the ['guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools'](#) carefully, as this sets out the criteria by which your bid will be judged. Please provide all the information required.

The form should be completed by a local authority representative (or representatives, if it is a joint bid) with the approval of the Director(s) of Children's Services (DCS).

**This bid form consists of 14 tabs in total (including this one). Please ensure you read all tabs carefully.** You must complete the following tabs in full: overview, confirmation, A1, A2, B, C1, C2, C3, C4 and D. You will also need to complete tab 'A2 continued' if applicable and either tab 'Table C1i' or tab 'Table C1ii' depending on whether your bid is for a special or an AP free school.

Completed bid forms, specifications, and any supporting documentation (e.g. site plans, letters from commissioners)

**should be submitted by midday on 15 October 2018. Submit your bid by email to:**

[APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk](mailto:APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk). Please title your email as follows: **Special/AP free school bid – [insert name of local authority (or lead local authority if joint bid)]**. Your email should not exceed 9 megabytes in size; anything

larger will not be delivered. **If the bid is larger than 9 megabytes**, please split the documents and send two (or more) emails clearly indicating that the emails are connected (e.g. email 1 of 3).

**Free school bid forms should:**

- maintain the pre-set printing format;
- not include any comments; and
- not include photographs, images or logos.

This opportunity **does not replace the [presumption](#) process and does not replace a local authority's sufficiency duties.**

Annex A of the [guidance](#) sets out how the information you provide will be used.

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you only need to complete this section once (on the form of your preferred bid).
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Overview

While local authorities (either as a lead or sole bidder) can submit a bid for one special and one AP school in total in their area, it is highly unlikely that we will approve more than one school in any one local authority area in this wave. However, we would like you to inform us of expected future need for new schools.

Overview table	
<b>Name of your local authority</b>	Kent
<b>List the bid(s) you are submitting this wave, as either the lead or the sole local authority</b> (including type of school e.g. special or AP) – please list these in priority order so that the first is your preferred bid	New Secondary Special Free School on the Isle of Sheppey for pupils with an EHCP for Social, Emotional & Mental Health difficulties with Autism Spectrum Conditions or social communication difficulties.
<b>List the bid(s), if any, that another local authority is leading on and that you are supporting</b> (including the name of the lead local authority)	N/A
<b>Optional: brief description of your expected future need for new special and AP schools, and when they are needed</b>	Future needs for Special schools within Kent are detailed in the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2018-2022 under section 3.7 Special Educational Needs: <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2018-22.pdf">https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2018-22.pdf</a>

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Confirmation

**This confirmation must be signed by the relevant Director(s) of Children's Services at the local authority(ies) putting forward this bid.**

I am the Director(s) of Children's services at **Kent County Council** and I have seen this expression of interest and support it.

I confirm that the information provided in this bid form is correct to the best of my/our knowledge.

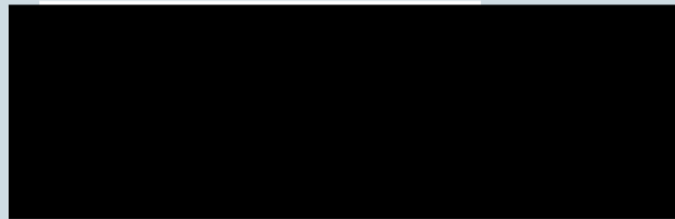
I further confirm that the local authority(ies) and, if applicable, other commissioners (e.g. local schools commissioning AP places) named in section A of this bid have developed this proposal in partnership and, if the bid is successful, will commit to commissioning the number of places at the school as specified in this bid, and to paying the relevant top-up funding (indicative funding specified in this bid, to be confirmed by the local authority(ies) if the bid is successful).

I also confirm that I am aware of the financial consequences of the commissioning on our high needs budget(s).

In addition, I intend to commission places beyond the first two years, as per the proposed school growth profile (pupil/capacity build up).

**NB: an electronic signature is acceptable. If multiple local authorities are submitting this bid, complete a signature box for each local authority.**

Signed:



**Position:** Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education and Director of Children's Services at Kent County Council

**Print name:** Matt Dunkley CBE

**Date:** 15-Oct

**Signed:**  
**Position:** Director of Children's Services at **[INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]**  
**Print name:**  
**Date:**

**Signed:**  
**Position:** Director of Children's Services at **[INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]**  
**Print name:**  
**Date:**

**Signed:**  
**Position:** Director of Children's Services at **[INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]**  
**Print name:**  
**Date:**

**Signed:**  
**Position:** Director of Children's Services at **[INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]**  
**Print name:**  
**Date:**

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



## Free school bid form [1 of 1]

1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section A1 – local authority(ies) putting forward this bid

Please complete table A1. If this is a joint bid, information must be provided for each local authority involved and the lead local authority must be stated. **Please note that including a local authority on this list means they have committed to commissioning places.**

If you are the sole local authority submitting a bid (i.e. it is not a joint bid), then you must provide the reason why in box A1.

Table A1 - local authority(ies) putting forward this bid		
Name of local authority	Name of person leading	Contact details
<b>Lead local authority:</b> [select name of lead local authority in cell C30 below. This would be the local authority in which the school would be located]	Jared Nehra	Telephone: [REDACTED] Mobile: Email: [REDACTED] Address: KCC Area Education Officer (West Kent), West
Kent		
[If applicable, select name of second local authority in cell C36 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of third local authority in cell C42 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of fourth local authority in cell C48 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of fifth local authority in cell C54 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:

**Box A1 - if you are submitting a solo bid, please explain why**

Kent is a large predominately rural county and the proposed school would be situated in the north of the county on the Isle of Sheppey. In practical terms the school location is not near to any other Counties/Authorities and therefore we would not anticipate a great deal of cross over from other Local Authorities. However, we have consulted with colleagues from the Medway Authority (which is the only other Authority within relatively close proximity in terms of travel time/distance) to ensure that the our commissioning intentions are complementary.

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section A2 – evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned

You must complete table A2 on this tab, showing how many places you would use at the school for the first two years of the school's operation. If there are multiple commissioners, you also need to complete the larger table on tab 'Table A2 continued'.

In addition, if you are submitting a bid for a new AP free school, you must also:

- Attach commitments in writing from any commissioners other than local authorities (e.g. local schools) indicating their firm intention to commission a specific number of places in the first two years, including the top-up funding they will pay for the children occupying the places;
- Attach evidence that the commissioners have made an informed decision, for example, confirmation that commissioners have seen your bid, and are aware of the characteristics of the new school and the outcomes you want to achieve; and,
- Provide information in box A2 about the commissioning and funding model used in your area(s). To note, we will ask for further details about how you have engaged with the commissioners, and their level of involvement, later in section C3.

**Box A2 - for AP schools only, please use this space to describe the commissioning and funding model(s)**

N/A

**Table A2 - evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned (to be completed for both special and AP schools)**

Commissioner	Year of operation	Number of EY places	Number of KS1 places	Number of KS2 places	Number of KS3 places	Number of KS4 places	Number of 16-19 places
[NAME OF MAIN LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE TAB 'TABLE A2 CONTINUED' FOR ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONERS]	First year of opening				30	10	
	Second year of opening				40	20	





1. *This table must be completed if there are multiple commissioners .*
2. *If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.*
3. *Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.*

**Table A2 continued**

You must complete table A2 on the previous tab, showing how many places you would use at the school for the first two years of the school's operation. If there are multiple commissioners, you also need to complete the table on this tab.

Table A2 continued - evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned (to be completed for both special and AP schools)							
Commissioner	Year of operation	Number of EY places	Number of KS1 places	Number of KS2 places	Number of KS3 places	Number of KS4 places	Number of 16-19 places
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section B – what type of school is wanted

**There are no assessment criteria for section B.** Please provide key information about the school you would like to commission in table Bi. Additionally, please set out the expected pupil build up (how the school would fill year-on-year once it opens) in table Bii.

Table Bi - what type of school is wanted	
Type of school	Special free school
Category of provision/needs (if more than one type, with different top-up rates, please explain)	Social, Emotional & Mental Health difficulties with Autism Spectrum Conditions or social communication difficulties.
Age range	11 to 16
Per-pupil revenue funding you would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain)	We would expect to pay ██████ per pupil. This is the average rate for an ASD pupil in a Kent Maintained Special School.
Gender (co-educational/boys/girls)	Co-educational
Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity - including 16-19 places, but not including nursery places)	120
Type of places offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	Full Time
Number of nursery places, if applicable	0
Number of 16-19 places, if applicable	0
Describe any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)	All Special schools and Specialist Resourced Provisions provide outreach and in-reach opportunities to the district mainstream schools. As part of the district Local Inclusion Forum Team (LIFT) Executive Group the new Special school will establish their outreach and in-reach offer to other schools on the Isle of Sheppey. The level of offer will be agreed once the school is operational.

Table Bii - pupil build up							
	Year of opening	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
Nursery							
Reception							
Key stage 1 (Y1-2)							
Key stage 2 (Y3-6)							
Key stage 3 (Y7-9)	30	40	50	60	60	60	60
Key stage 4 (Y10-11)	10	20	30	60	60	60	60
16-19: commissioner referred							
Totals	40	60	80	120	120	120	120

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

## Section C1 – the current context in your area

We are looking for bids in areas where a new school will most support local authorities to manage current and/or anticipated pressures on special school places or on the overall high needs budget, so that the needs of children can be better met. We will not be inclined to approve bids that have the side effect of decreasing the inclusion in mainstream schools of children with SEN, or who are at risk of permanent or fixed term exclusions, or of creating excess spare capacity in existing special or AP school. Bids will score more highly if they can demonstrate that a new school will be filled by students who would otherwise be going to more expensive or poor performing provision.

Please use box C1 to provide information about existing provision in your area, future expected growth and use of your high needs budget. You should also use this box to provide commentary around the information sources listed in Annex B of the [guidance](#) that we will use to support our assessment of this section.

In addition, please use table C1i (for special schools) or C1ii (for AP schools) - found on the next tabs - to describe the recent, current and projected trends of

### Box C1 - the current context in your area

*(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words, excluding your entries on table C1i/C1ii)*

KCC as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. Our means of doing this is through the County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22. This is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans for securing school places across all types and phases of education in Kent. In 2017/18, Kent commissioned a total of 4,597 specialist places; 3,642 in 21 Kent Maintained Special schools, and 1 Special School Academy and 955 in mainstream SRPs. The Kent Commissioning Plan identifies the need for over 900 new specialist places between 2018 to 2022. Increases in the Kent school age population has led to an increase in the number of pupils subject to EHCPs. It is anticipated that the demand for specialist places will continue to increase with the overall population growth. Between January 2017 and January 2018, there has been a 27% increase in the number of EHCPs in Kent to 10,379. The largest number of new EHCPs issued were in East Kent (Thanet, Swale and Canterbury) and Maidstone District.

The most prevalent and fastest growing need types in Kent are ASD and SEMH. Over the five-year period from 2013/14 to 2017/18 the number of ECHPs and Statements with ASD as the primary need type increased from 1663 (67.7%) to 4210. ASD accounted for 40% of the overall total, which is notably higher than the nationally figure of 28.2%. During the same period, the number of EHCP for SEMH increased from 1,227 to 1,784, a 45% increase.

In recent years, provision has been created to address pressures for Primary places across the County. However, this current bulge is moving through to Secondary and, where local provision cannot be found, pupils are travelling far greater distances to specialist provision. Forecasts indicate significantly greater pressure for Secondary provision within Special schools from 2018-19 onwards. Swale district (that includes the Isle of Sheppey) already has the highest number of EHCPs and Statements in the County at 1325 and this number is set to continue to increase. Growth forecasts indicate that the number of children and young people in Swale with ECHPs will increase by a further 23% between 2017 and 2024.

As there is no Special school on the Isle of Sheppey, significant numbers of pupils often have to travel long distances off the Island to the nearest suitable provision. Many travel to Maidstone schools and in particular Bower Grove, which is a co-educational Foundation Special School designated for Behaviour and Learning, catering for around 200 pupils on roll aged 5 to 16 years with SEMH and ASD. Travel time to Bower Grove each day would be in the region of one and a half hours from Sheppey and one hour from Sittingbourne, depending on traffic. Currently 64 children travel from Swale District each day to Bower Grove School, 31 of whom come from the Isle of Sheppey.

Word count: 487

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)

1. This table must be completed if you are submitting a bid for a special free school.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to tab 'C1 - current context' as well as the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

**Table C1i - trends in your specialist provision for all children with EHC plans**

Type of provision	Number of providers used	Please indicate the number of pupils with an EHC plan living in your local authority who are placed within these settings, and the total cost (including base, top-up and transportation if applicable) of all placements at each setting															
		2014				2018				Projected figures without the new school you want				Projected figures if your bid for a new school is successful			
		(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)	(pupils)	(cost)		
Resourced provision and units inside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Resourced provision and units outside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Special schools (either maintained or academies) inside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Special schools (either maintained or academies) outside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Independent / non-maintained special schools inside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Independent / non-maintained special schools outside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Mainstream schools inside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Mainstream schools outside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
General FE colleges (if relevant) inside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
General FE colleges (if relevant) outside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) inside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) outside local authority	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			

1. *This table must be completed if you are submitting a bid for an AP free school.*
2. *If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.*
3. *Please refer to tab 'C1 - current context' as well as the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.*
4. *Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.*

Table C1ii - trends in alternative provision													
Type of provision	Number of providers used	Please indicate the no. of pupils living in your local authority who are placed within these settings, and the total cost (including base, top-up and transportation if applicable) of all placements at each setting				Projected figures without the new school you want				Projected figures if your bid for a new school is successful			
		2014 (pupils)	2014 (cost)	2018 (pupils)	2018 (cost)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2026 (pupils)	2026 (cost)
		Maintained PRUs inside local authority											
Maintained PRUs outside local authority													
Maintained AP free schools or academies inside local authority													
Maintained AP free schools or academies outside local authority													
Independent AP settings (registered) inside local authority													
Independent AP settings (registered) outside local authority													
Independent AP settings (unregistered) inside local authority													
Independent AP settings (unregistered) outside local authority													
AP units located in or attached to mainstream schools inside local authority													
AP units located in or attached to mainstream schools outside local authority													
Places designated for AP commissioned from special schools inside local authority													
Places designated for AP commissioned from special schools outside local authority													
Places designated for AP in further education settings inside local authority													
Places designated for AP in further education settings outside local authority													
Other AP inside local authority – please specify													
Other AP outside local authority – please specify													



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section C2 – your strategy for high needs provision

You must use this section to tell us about your strategy for high needs provision. The purpose of this section is to help us understand your plan for children with SEND or those requiring alternative provision and make a judgement about whether the school you are proposing fits within your strategy.

#### Box C2 - your strategy for high needs provision

*(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 1000 words)*

Kent's SEND Strategy was reviewed and refreshed in 2017 and sets out three overarching aims to:

- Improve the educational, health and emotional wellbeing outcomes for Kent's children and young people with SEN and disabilities.
- Ensure Kent delivers the statutory changes (required by the Children and Families Act 2014).
- Address the gaps in provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, improve the quality of provision, develop the broadest range of providers, and encourage a mixed economy of provision.

Kent's Strategy sets out an intention to provide additional places for pupils with needs in the following three areas: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH). The document details Kent's key SEN priorities, including ensuring 'there is effective use of High Needs funding in delivering the kinds of support and interventions for learners that impact successfully on improving their progress and attainment'.

The proposed new school will provide the required specialist provision to meet the needs of local children and reduce travel time and costs. The proposed free school is in line with the SEND strategy and specifically responds to the following priorities to:

- \* Improve provision for, and easy access to, appropriate local services in childcare, education, care and health which meet the needs of families and ensure fewer children will need to be educated out of their local area and out of the county. This includes delivering the additional places in Special Schools, new Free Schools and Specialist Resourced Provisions as set out in this Strategy'
- \* Develop the broadest range of providers to increase parental choice and offer provision which offers a flexible match to the needs of children and young people. We aim to have a continuum of provision across mainstream and special education, colleges and training providers, so that the needs of all children and young people in Kent can be met locally. We expect this to result in less need for extended journeys and reduced costs for SEN transport.
- \* Deliver greater local integration and co-ordination of education, health and care services and plans for children and families in Kent ensuring this is extended to young people aged 25 where it is appropriate, and promote positive and seamless transitions at all stages between the ages of 0-25.
- \* Improve the effective and efficient use of our resources to meet increasing demand and remove perverse incentives so that costs do not escalate'

The full SEN strategy can be access online via the following link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy/strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

Word count:

415

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)





1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section C3 – why you want a new school and how it fits with your strategy and the local landscape

We want to open new schools where they are the right solution for the area. We are looking for bids where a new school will help local authorities meet children's needs, fit into the local authority's strategic plan for high needs provision and complement the local education offer.

Please use box C3 to explain the rationale for a new school.

In addition, please use table C3 to provide evidence of engagement with others and attach any supporting evidence of this (e.g. letters) when you submit your bid.

#### Box C3 - why you want a new school and how it fits with your overall strategy (we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words)

The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2018-22 sets out the need for new Secondary Special School provision on the Isle of Sheppey for students with ASD and SEMH needs. Currently there is no special school on the Island, which is home to the largest number of EHCPs and statements in the County at 1,325, with significant future growth forecast. The result is that students requiring a Special School place are transported off the Island to a combination of maintained Special School provision in Maidstone and costly independent provision. Consequently, students spend up to 3 hours in transport, at considerable cost to the SEN Transport budget and with an inevitable impact on those children's learning.

A new Secondary Special Free School on the Isle of Sheppey will provide local children requiring a Special school place to access suitable provision within their local community, enhancing their opportunities to develop social links and become more independent. It will also help the County Council to ensure maximum effectiveness of High Needs budgets by reducing costs of SEN Transport and independent provision.

There is an existing Primary Specialist Resource Provision at Thistle Hill Academy for SEMH. Additionally, the proposed Aspire Free School will provide Primary Specialist provision for ASD from 2020/21. This existing and proposed provision will be complemented by the proposed new Secondary Special Free School and will ensure continuity of local provision for pupils transitioning to Secondary and requiring a Specialist place.

A summary of the Kent SEND Strategy and how this proposal aligns to it is set out in Section C2.

Links:

The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2018-22:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2018-22.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2018-22.pdf)

The SEND Strategy:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy/strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

<b>Table C3 - engagement with others</b>		
<b>Who</b>	<b>How you have engaged</b> (e.g. surveys, meetings)	<b>Summary of engagement</b> (e.g. summary of survey findings and/or conversations)
Your neighbouring local authorities – please specify	Medway No other relevant authorities	Email with colleagues from the Medway Authority (which is the only other Authority within relatively close proximity in terms of travel time/distance) to ensure that the our commissioning intentions are complementary.
Commissioning bodies in your area – please specify	Discussion at Board and Group Meeting	The provision of the new Special school has been discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board and raised with the SEND Standing Group
Local mainstream schools – please specify	Discussed at Meeting and Local Authority Briefings and Governors	The Area Education Officer for East Kent raised the provision of the new special school at the East Kent Kent Association of Head teachers and via Headteacher and Governor briefings for Swale District.
School representative bodies e.g. schools forum – please specify	As above, plus raised with Kent Special Education Needs Trust (KSENT). A cooperative group of Kent special schools.	as above, plus discussion at KSENT meeting.
Representatives of parents and carers and young people e.g. parent/carer forum – please specify	Email	Email to East Kent Parent Group to provide details of the propose and give an opportunity for feedback.
Any other partners e.g. community groups, FE colleges – please specify	We will work with the appointed academy trust to undertake further community engagement in the locality, including other education providers.	

[Previous tab](#)

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

## Section C4 – the expected outcomes

To be approvable, bids must demonstrate that the new school will:

- Help to achieve better outcomes for children and young people (compared with existing options); and,
- Support inclusion, including re-integration where appropriate and providing expertise to mainstream schools.

Please use box C4 to describe the impact you expect the school to have, as well as the potential risks and how you would mitigate those.

### Box C4 - expected outcomes

*(we expect your response to this section to be no more than around 500 words)*

The provision of the new special free school would:

1. Provide much needed and demonstrably required special education provision for pupils with ASD and SEMH, where none currently exists.
2. Enhance the educational experience for local children by significantly reducing journey times to school.
3. Enable children to establish relationships and to interact with children from their own community.
4. Support local mainstream schools on the Island with specialist expertise shared via outreach and in-reach work.
5. enhance local inclusion/fair access processes.
6. Reduce demands on the school transport budget and ensures efficient use of funding.
7. Reduce the requirement for high cost independent school placements outside of the local area.

Word count:

104



Free school bid form [1 of 1]

- 1. This section must be completed.
- 2. If you are submitting more than one bid, you must complete this section for each bid.
- 3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special or alternative provision free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
- 4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

### Section D – the proposed location and site

Finding a suitable site is an essential part of opening a free school. As part of preparing your bid you should investigate potential sites for the school and tell us about them in your bid. In this wave we will undertake a desktop assessment of site and consider the value for money, timescale and delivery risks in securing a site for the proposed school in the proposed area.

**We will give preference to those projects where our site assessments shows that we are likely to secure a value for money site in a timely manner with an acceptable level of risk**, in particular, those bids that include an available site on a peppercorn basis. Making a site available on a peppercorn lease gives the greatest chance of the school opening successfully, and on time.

Please complete table D to tell us about where the school would be located and the preferred site.

Please also provide the name and contact details for the main local authority lead for sites. The ESFA may contact this person to ask questions about the site. **If you know any of these site details before submitting your bid, please let DfE know (by emailing [FSC.EOI@education.gov.uk](mailto:FSC.EOI@education.gov.uk)) so we can start conversations with you.**

.....

Please tick the box below to confirm that the relevant Lead Member for Corporate Property has seen this bid and is content with the information provided about site (if provided).

I confirm that the Lead Member of Corporate Property at Kent County Council has seen this expression of interest and supports it.

Please tick to confirm

Table D - the proposed location and site	
<p><b>Please describe the location in which you propose to set up your school being as specific as possible.</b> This could include the name of the area in which you would like to put the school, the part of a city, town or suburb. Please also consider how flexible you are - how far from your preferred location are you willing to go? Please include an annotated map as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk, if possible. If applicable, please also describe the potential impact of any specialism that you plan for your school to have on the site requirement.</p>	[REDACTED]
<p><b>Please tell us the postcode of a central location in your preferred area.</b> You need to provide this even if you have already identified a preferred site. It must be a full postcode e.g. SW1P 3BT, not SW1.</p>	[REDACTED]
<p><b>Your calculated building space</b> using the ESFA formula (see section D in the guidance) and any comments on this.</p>	
<b>If you have identified a preferred site, please complete the rest of the table:</b>	
<p><b>Full address and postcode of preferred site.</b> It must be a full postcode e.g. SW1P 3BT, not SW1.</p>	[REDACTED]
<p><b>In which local authority is your preferred site?</b></p>	Kent
<p><b>Please tell us how you found the site.</b></p>	The site has been identified by KCC's Strategic Asset Board for educational use.
<p><b>Please confirm the tenure.</b></p>	The local authority submitting the bid
<p><b>Please include information on purchase or lease price if known.</b></p>	N/A
<p><b>Who owns the site?</b></p>	The local authority submitting the bid
<p><b>Is the site available/on the market?</b> (Please attach agents' particulars as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk if available)</p>	No
<p><b>Name and contact details of owner and/or the agent or local authority representative</b></p>	Rebecca Spore Director of Infrastructure KCC Strategic and Corporate Services Sessions House, Maidstone Tel: [REDACTED]
<p><b>If the site is local authority owned, which local authority owns it?</b></p>	Kent

<p><b>If the site is local authority owned, please state if the local authority have confirmed that, if successful, the site may be used by the free school.</b> Please include terms (e.g. 125 year peppercorn lease). Please also provide details of any other local authority contribution towards the capital costs of the project (e.g. developer contributions).</p>	<p>KCC's standard academy lease arrangements would apply to a 125 year period.</p>
<p><b>What kind of site is it?</b></p>	<p>Cleared site requiring new build</p>
<p><b>What is the current use?</b></p>	<p>Other - please describe</p>
<p><b>If government building or other, please describe.</b></p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>Why have you chosen this site? What makes it suitable?</b></p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p><b>If known, how big is the building and the site?</b> Please attach any site and building plans as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk</p>	<p>The site is 3,414 hectares. Basic site plan submitted with bid.</p>
<p><b>Please comment on the condition of the building.</b> Please attach photos if available as an additional file and send it to APspecial.freeschool@education.gov.uk</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>If the named site is part of a housing development or the school is attracting Section 106 contributions, please give as much detail as possible,</b> including: the development and developer, timing and programme of build, number of housing units, status of planning application and any links to planning applications/decision notices, extent of funding coming from the developer plus confirmation of the local authority's position in relation to your free school using this site.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

[Previous tab](#)