

**Proposal to alter the designation of the Specialist Resource Provision at Temple Hill Primary Academy, from speech, language and communication needs to Autistic Spectrum Disorder and speech, language and communication needs, and to expand the provision from 15 places to 45, from September 2026.**

8th June 2026

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

## **1. Introduction**

We would like to hear your views on a proposal to expand and change the designation of the Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at Temple Hill Primary Academy from September 2026. This would ultimately create a further 30 places, making a total of 45 places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) 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 attached.

## **2. What is a Specialist Resource Provision?**

SRP's support pupils with an EHCP who need specialist support over and above that which is provided by their mainstream school utilising its available funding.

An SRP is an integral part of a mainstream school. These are led by school staff that 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 pupils 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 pupils 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 change of designation from SLCN to ASD and/or SLCN will focus on a wider cohort of pupils who have communication challenges at the heart of their needs.

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Claire Misy, Chief Executive Officer

*As united as we are different.*

### 3. Reason for the proposal

Kent County Council (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 in Kent with an EHCP. This is an increase of 1,229 young people compared to January 2024. ASD remains the most common type of need in Kent, with 9,535 EHCPs listing it as the primary SEND need. SLCN was the third highest, with 3,583 having it as the primary SEND need type. Forecasts suggest that over the next 5 years, the number of children and young people with an EHCP for ASD will increase by about 500, and SLCN by over 900. Some of these pupils will need the additional support a primary school-based SRP can offer.

In January 2025, there were 452 primary aged pupils in the Dartford Borough who had an EHCP with ASD and/or SLCN as their primary SEND need type. Of these,

- 272 were attending a mainstream school,
- 39 an SRP within a mainstream school,
- 126 a maintained special school, and
- 15 an independent school (independent special or otherwise).

KCC have informed The Golden Thread Alliance and Temple Hill Primary Academy that there is a need for additional SRP places for pupils with ASD and/or SLCN in the primary sector in Dartford. Currently there are five other primary SRPs in the Borough. These are at:

- Oakfield Primary Academy, it offers 15 places for pupils with SLCN,
- Fleetdown Primary Academy, it offers 12 places for pupils with HI,
- Ebbsfleet Green Primary School, it offers 15 places for pupils with ASD,
- Leigh Academy Cherry Orchard, it offers 15 places for pupils with SLCN, and
- Langafel CE Primary School, it offers 30 places for pupils with ASD.

In January 2025, primary aged pupils with an EHCP with a primary SEND need type of ASD in Dartford, were travelling on average 7.7 miles to access an appropriate specialist provision, whilst across Kent this was 6.5 miles. Travelling such distances is not always in the best interest of the pupils. More local SRPs would reduce journeys and enable more pupils to go to school nearer to where they live.

### 4. Why Temple Hill Primary Academy?

KCC and The Golden Thread Alliance are 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 body at Temple Hill Primary Academy have the skills to support a larger SRP for pupils with ASD and/or SLCN.

The school already works proactively to successfully support 15 pupils with SLCN in the SRP. Additionally, the school operates its own internal SEN provision, primarily for pupils with ASD, known as Waves Class. This is not a KCC commissioned provision but is recognised by KCC as being a valued resource to support a number of children placed at the school, who have additional and complex needs. This proposal would formalise the arrangements for waves class, incorporating it into the existing SRP and increasing the number of pupils it can support.

The proposal will not impact the current SRP arrangements or the pupils who attend the provision. For pupils for whom the primary need is SLCN, there will continue to be a specifically designated area of the school for up to 15 pupils, where their needs can be met. The area of the school currently used for Waves, will be upgraded, reconfigured and then utilised to accommodate up to 30 pupils whose primary need is ASD, acknowledging that many of those pupils will have communication challenges at the heart of their needs.

We feel that the school can do more to help pupils with a greater degree of need, so they can remain part of this community.

Temple Hill Primary Academy has been rated as a GOOD school by OFSTED. In their most recent report (November 2024), OFSTED highlighted that:

- *Everyone is welcome at this friendly, inclusive school.*
- *Pupils have a keen sense of the importance of equality. The school is united and harmonious.*
- *The school serves and supports pupils and their families well. For example, parents and carers of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) rightly say that the school does all that it can to help their children to be happy and successful.*
- *Pupils with SEND have their needs identified quickly. Teachers make appropriate adaptations so that pupils with SEND learn successfully. For example, in computing a range of different programs are used to support pupils with coding. Teachers regularly check what all pupils know and remember. They identify and address any confusion or knowledge gaps.*

The expansion and change of designation to the SRP will further develop the staff body enabling them to support not just the pupils within the expanded SRP, but pupils across the school who may have ASD and/or SLCN characteristics to a lesser extent.

## **5. Where will the Specialist Resource Provision be accommodated?**

Current accommodation at the school, comprising of three classrooms, along with the outside area, will be repurposed and modernised to provide the larger SRP. There will be a specific area for pupils with ASD, and specific area for pupils with SLCN. It will be a safe space for the pupils in a specific 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.

## **6. How will pupils gain a place in the Specialist Resource Provision?**

To access a place within an SRP, pupils 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 Temple Hill Primary Academy. 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.

## 7. Funding

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

## 8. Summary of the consultation

In bringing forward this proposal all parties believe that expanding the SRP for ASD and/or SLCN pupils will:

- Provide a much-needed resource that will support the growing number of primary aged pupils with ASD and/or SLCN across the Borough. It will reduce distances pupils need to travel to access appropriate support,
- Build on the expertise that the school has in educating children with SEND including ASD and/or SLCN,
- Have a positive impact on the education and social understanding of other pupils within the school, and
- Support pupils with ASD and/or SLCN in the transition from early years to primary school, and then from primary to secondary school.

Admissions to the SRP will count above the school's Published Admission Number (PAN). Temple Hill Primary Academy's PAN for September 2026 is 120 - this equates to a total school roll of 840 pupils.

## 9. Where can I find out more about what KCC are putting in place for SEND pupils?

KCC has produced a SEND Strategy 2025 to 2028 that sets out its plans for pupils with SEN and Disabilities (SEND) [SEND Strategy - Kent County Council](#).

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

If you have any questions, please email: [thoffice@golden-thread.org](mailto:thoffice@golden-thread.org).

## 11. The consultation process – indicative timeline

Date	Activity
8th June 2026	Start of Public Consultation period lasting 3 weeks.
15th June 2026	Drop-in session at Temple Hill Primary Academy, 3pm to 6pm.
29th June 2026	Public Consultation closes. The results of the consultation will be referred to The Golden Thread Alliance for consideration. A formal decision will be made whether or not to apply to the DfE to expand the SRP designation to Temple Hill Primary Academy, and the decision shared with KCC.
Summer 2026	Should the decision be to continue, a report will be presented to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to agree the funding.
Summer 2026	Application submitted to the DfE.
September 2026	Implementation of the proposal, subject to Secretary of State approval.

## 12. How can I give my views?

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

- Come to the consultation drop-in session for parents/carers, members of staff, Governors and other interested parties at Temple Hill Primary Academy on 15th June 2026 3pm to 6pm where there will be the opportunity to ask questions, give your views and complete a Response Form.
- Completing the on-line format: [Temple Hill SRP 2026 Consultation – Fill out form](#)
- Complete and return (via post) the attached Response Form to Leon Dawson, Headteacher, Temple Hill Primary Academy, St Edmund’s Road, Temple Hill, Dartford, Kent, DA1 5ND.
- You may hand your Response Form in at the school office addressed to Leon Dawson, Headteacher. All written responses need to be received by midday on 29th June 2026
- Email your comments to: [thoffice@golden-thread.org](mailto:thoffice@golden-thread.org).

### 13. What happens next?

A report summarising the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to The Golden Thread Alliance and the full Governing Body for consideration.

On the basis that The Golden Thread Alliance, the Governing Body and KCC are all in agreement to progress the proposal, a report will be presented to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for funding to be agreed. If they agree to fund the proposal, the school will submit a significant change request to the DfE.

Please note that this proposal is conditional upon securing capital funding, obtaining approval from the DfE, and the successful outcome of any required planning applications.

Yours faithfully,



**Claire Misy**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**The Golden Thread Alliance**



**Leon Dawson**  
**Headteacher**  
**On behalf of the Governing**  
**Body**

## Response Form

Please complete a Response Form **no later than midday on 29th June 2026** by either:

- Completing the on-line form at: [Temple Hill SRP 2026 Consultation – Fill out form](#)
- Handing your completed form in at the school office addressed to Leon Dawson, Headteacher.
- Emailing: [thoffice@golden-thread.org](mailto:thoffice@golden-thread.org).
- Posting: Leon Dawson, Headteacher, Temple Hill Primary Academy, St Edmund’s Road, Temple Hill, Dartford, Kent, DA1 5ND.

**Do you agree with the proposal to alter the designation of the Specialist Resource Provision at Temple Hill Primary Academy, from speech, language and communication needs to Autistic Spectrum Disorder and speech, language and communication needs, and to expand the provision from 15 places to 45, from September 2026?**

 Yes

 No

 Undecided

**Which of the following best describes you?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	A parent of children currently attending the school
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Governor at the school
<input type="checkbox"/>	A parent of children at a different local school
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Governor at a different local school

<input type="checkbox"/>	A member of staff at the school
<input type="checkbox"/>	A pupil attending the school
<input type="checkbox"/>	A member of staff at a different local school
<input type="checkbox"/>	A parent of pre-school aged children

<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state) .....
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Temple Hill Primary Academy are data controllers under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. Temple Hill Primary Academy will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and, in this instance, used only 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. To view the document, please go to the school website: [Special Educational Needs & Disabilities | Temple Hill Primary Academy](#)

**Do you have any comments?**