



**WILMINGTON**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



**WILMINGTON**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

## Selective School Expansion Fund

### Introduction

Kent County Council has identified a shortage of places in North West Kent for children of secondary age. Census data illustrates that grammar school provision in the area is insufficient to meet both current and projected demand.

Wilmington Grammar School for Girls (WGSG) and Wilmington Grammar School for Boys (WGSB) are both successful and popular and each year demand for places is extremely high with over one thousand applications for the one-hundred-and-fifty places in each school. We would like to increase our intake from five forms of entry to six forms of entry in both of our schools to bring them in line with our neighbouring grammar schools.

<b>School</b>	<b>Number of Year 7 Forms of Entry</b>	<b>Total student population</b>
Wilmington Grammar School for Girls	5 forms of entry (150 students)	913
Wilmington Grammar School for Boys	5 forms of entry (150 students)	963
Dartford Grammar School for Girls	6 forms of entry (180 students)	1,147
Dartford Grammar School for Boys	6 forms of entry (180 students)	1,483
Bexley	7 forms of entry (224 students)	1,416
Chislehurst & Sidcup	6 forms of entry (192 students)	1,379
BETHS	6 forms of entry (192 students)	1,410
Gravesend	6 forms of entry (186 students)	1,223
Mayfield	6 forms of entry (180 students)	1,057

This expansion will require capital investment to provide additional classrooms and laboratory facilities and we plan to submit an application for funding through the Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF) as announced by the Government in February 2019. The expansion

will be reliant on a successful bid outcome and we invite you to express your views on the attached response form so that we are able to take into account the views of all our stakeholders.

## **The Proposal**

In order to accommodate six forms of entry, the suggestion is to create a free-standing block at Wilmington Grammar School for Boys which will be used predominantly for the teaching of our joint Sixth Form (WG6). Already plans are in place to create an internal pathway between the two schools to ensure more of a campus feel and stop children from having to walk along Common Lane to access school. The new building will also be accessible from Broad Lane as it is our intention to divert traffic away from the Common Lane/Parsons Lane area of Wilmington. Sixth Form tutors and students will use the alternative entrance point.

## **The Consultation**

The consultation starts on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and ends on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

A drop-in information session will be held at Wilmington Grammar School for Boys on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 from 4pm until 6pm.

We have also attached a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to this document to address some of the immediate queries stakeholders may have.

All responses to our consultation must be received by midnight on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in order to allow time for analysis prior to submission of the SSEF bid which has a deadline date of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

## **Giving Your Views**

Any person may support, object to or make comment on the proposal during the four-week consultation period by:

- Attending the drop-in information session on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- Handing a Consultation Response Form into the Reception of either of the Wilmington Grammar Schools.
- Emailing a completed form to [info@endeavour-mat.co.uk](mailto:info@endeavour-mat.co.uk)
- Sending a Consultation Response Form to Endeavour MAT, Wilmington Grange, Parsons Lane, Wilmington, Dartford, DA2 7BB.

Please mark your emails or written correspondence 'Selective Schools Expansion Fund' and provide your name, address and relationship to the school within your comments.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

<b>Q</b>	How is it known that there is an increasing demand for secondary school places?
<b>A</b>	Census data and demographic analysis data available to the Local Authority demonstrates the rise in secondary school students across Kent and the local areas.
<b>Q</b>	Would the admission arrangements need to change?
<b>A</b>	The Academy is its own admission authority. This means that Wilmington Grammar Schools are responsible for their own admissions arrangements and our admission policies are reviewed in line with statutory requirements on an annual basis. In order to ensure we are able to successfully recruit students from disadvantaged backgrounds in addition to our usual cohort of students, Trustees will go out to consultation on a new admissions arrangement which would introduce a Pupil Premium Priority for 10% of places, rather than the current three-mile rule.
<b>Q</b>	How will Wilmington Grammar Schools aim to increase the number of disadvantaged students attending the school?
<b>A</b>	Wilmington Grammar Schools plan to work with local primary schools to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in preparing for the selection tests. We aim to work more closely with the families of these children to raise aspirations as well as challenge any preconceptions about the selective education at Wilmington Grammar Schools. Targeted activities, with particular emphasis on disadvantaged students, will be planned.
<b>Q</b>	Will the ethos and sense of community of the schools be maintained?
<b>A</b>	The expansion of the schools will not detract the Headteachers and the Governing Body from maintaining the strong ethos, values, standards and quality of education it has offered over the years. The Senior Leadership Teams and Governors are confident that the quality of teaching and learning and pastoral care will continue to be delivered to an excellent standard.
<b>Q</b>	Will WG6 students continue to play a part in school life?
<b>A</b>	WG6 students in both schools will continue to play a full part in the Wilmington community through acting as role models, peer mentors and senior students.
<b>Q</b>	Does the school need agreement from Kent County Council?
<b>A</b>	As an established Trust, Wilmington Grammar Schools are free to discuss their expansion plans with any local partners, including the Local Authority (LA). Kent County Council has made it clear in their Commissioning Plan for Education Provision that there is a significant shortage of selective school places and, as always, we plan to work in collaboration to ensure the best possible outcomes for the young people of Dartford and the local area.
<b>Q</b>	Would Wilmington Grammar Schools receive more funding?
<b>A</b>	Wilmington Grammar Schools would receive the same amount of per-student allocation as before. Therefore more students would generate more funding which would be used to support the additional staffing, resource and premises costs.
<b>Q</b>	Would Wilmington Grammar Schools be able to accommodate so many students?
<b>A</b>	Wilmington Grammar Schools have appointed experienced building and architectural consultants to undertake a thorough review of the movement of students and staff around the schools' sites. Their analysis and observations concluded that the site would be able to accommodate the additional students safely and securely.
<b>Q</b>	Does a bigger school mean bigger class sizes?
<b>A</b>	No, class sizes are expected to remain as they are currently with an average of thirty students per class in Key Stage 3 and slightly smaller classes in option groups and in higher key stages.
<b>Q</b>	Will there be disruption to the students education whilst the building work is going on?
<b>A</b>	Any disruption will be kept to a minimum. A team of experienced building contractors and project managers will be available to work closely with the Senior Leadership Team and school premises staff to ensure all goes smoothly and according to plans.
<b>Q</b>	Will teachers from both Wilmington Grammar Schools continue to teach Sixth Form students?
<b>A</b>	Although a Sixth Form common room, tutorial rooms and study area will be in the new building, students will continue to be taught by our expert teachers from both Wilmington Grammar Schools

## Wilmington Grammar Schools Consultation Response Form

Please complete and return this response form by no later than midnight on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 by:

- Handing in the form at the drop-in information session on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- Handing the form into the Reception of either of the Wilmington Grammar Schools.
- Emailing the form to [info@endeavour-mat.co.uk](mailto:info@endeavour-mat.co.uk)
- Posting the form to Endeavour MAT, Wilmington Grange, Parsons Lane, Wilmington, Dartford, DA2 7BB.

**Do you agree with the proposal to expand Wilmington Grammar Schools so that they can increase their PAN to 180 from September 2021?**

Yes                       No                       Undecided

**Which of the following best describes your relationship to the Wilmington Grammars?**

- Parent/ Carer
- Member of staff
- Governor
- Pupil
- Other interested party (please state nature of interest): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Comments** (continue overleaf if needed)

**Comments** (continued)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Endeavour MAT is a data controller under the General Data Protection Regulation and will comply with the requirements of the Regulations at all times and 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.