

EQIA
Section A

EQIA Title

Knole Academy Sevenoaks 30 Place SRP

Responsible Person

Joanne Robinson – SENCo

Approved by

David Collins – Headteacher

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

Project/Programme

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Responsible Head of Service

David Collins – Headteacher

Responsible Director

Stephen Carey – Chief Executive Officer of Aletheia Academies Trust

Aims and Objectives

Proposal to open a 30 place Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) at Knole Academy from September 2027.

Context:

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.

In January 2025, there were 322 secondary aged students in the Sevenoaks District who had an EHCP with ASD and/or SLCN as their primary SEND need type. Of these,

- 90 were attending a mainstream school,
- 26 an SRP within a mainstream school,
- 150 a maintained special school, and
- 56 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 SLCN by over 900. A number of these students

will require the additional support a secondary school-based SRP can offer.

Currently there is one secondary SRP in the District. This is at Orchards Academy. It offers 12 places for students with ASD. Due to the demonstrable need for additional secondary SRP places in Sevenoaks, Knole Academy have expressed an interest in operating a similar provision.

In January 2025, secondary aged students with an EHCP with a primary SEND need type of ASD in Sevenoaks, were travelling on average 11 miles to access an appropriate specialist provision, whilst across Kent this was 9.9 miles. Travelling such distances is not always in the best interest of the students. More local SRPs would reduce journeys and enable more students to go to school nearer to where they live.

(Data is from the SEN2 2025 return which is a statutory data collection that gathers information on EHCPs, which is collected in January each year and submitted to the DfE)

The Proposal:

The proposal is to open a SRP for children with ASD and/or SLCN at Knole Academy from September 2027. This would ultimately provide 30 places for students in Years 7 to 11 with an EHCP for ASD and/or SLCN.

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

- Provide a much-needed resource that will support the growing number of secondary aged students with ASD and/or SLCN across the District. It will reduce distances students 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 students within the school.
- Support students with ASD and/or SLCN in the transition from primary to secondary school and then from secondary school into post-16 provision, apprenticeships or employment.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

No

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

This EQIA is an initiatory document and is part of the Public Consultation.

The consultation will be adverted to parents/carers and students at the school, staff, all schools in the Sevenoaks area, Cabinet Committee Members, local Members, the District of Sevenoaks and the London Boroughs of Bexley and Bromley, the Diocese of Rochester and of Southwark, Department for Education, KCC colleagues, including early years for cascading to settings, and the trades unions.

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?
Service Users/clients Service users/clients
Staff Staff/Volunteers
Residents/Communities/Citizens Residents/communities/citizens
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
SRP places will benefit residents including those with protected characteristics. High positive impact for young people aged 11-16 years: Currently there is one secondary SRP in the District. This is at Orchards Academy. It offers 12 places for students with ASD. The SRP at Knole Academy will address the requirement for additional SRP places in Sevenoaks and will support students with ASD and/or SLCN. Medium positive impact: The provision will be for both boys and girls with an EHCP. As statistically fewer girls have an ECHP with ASD as their primary need type, it could be seen that girls will benefit less than boys from the opening of the SRP. However, through training, SRP staff will develop the whole staff body enabling them to support all young people on roll who may have ASD characteristics. The school will provide for all students regardless of faith. The creation of specialist places will mean that parents/carers of young people aged 11-16 years who require the specialist support may be able to access a specialist facility at a more local secondary school reducing travel distances.
Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Applicable
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Applicable
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No
Negative impacts for Race
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Completed
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships

Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable