



# **The Flagship School Trust**

## **Section 10 Consultation Report**

Proposed free school – opening September 2021

19th October 2020 – 29th November 2020



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## Executive summary

The Flagship School Trust has been set up to open a new free school academy in Hastings, East Sussex. This special school will cater for neuro-diverse children and young people who have high functioning autistic spectrum disorder and associated social, emotional and mental health needs. The school was approved by the Department for Education in 2018 and moved into pre-opening immediately after.

The Flagship School will be a brand new purpose-built building on the site of the former Helenswood Upper School, on the Ridge. The School will open in September 2021, initially for 24 pupils in year groups 5, 6, 7 and 8; for 9-13 year olds. By 2024, the School will have capacity for 72 pupils aged 7-16 years.

The need for this school has already been acknowledged by local parents/carers, the Local Authority and the Department for Education. It has been included as a core part of East Sussex's Strategic Development Plan for addressing the needs of pupils with SEN in East Sussex. There is currently a shortage of places for high function children with ASD and/ or SEMH in the Hastings and Rother area. This is forecasted to grow over the next 10 years from 118 places needed in 2020/21 to 229 places in 2030/2031 for pupils aged 4 to 18.

As part of the pre-opening work, the Trust has completed an 'appropriate' (as set out in Section 10 of the Academies Act, 2010) formal consultation exercise to determine whether they should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education, pending approval of the Secretary of State. The formal consultation ran from 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

This document reports on:

- Activities undertaken prior to the formal consultation, which served to increase awareness;
- The information provided to stakeholders on the nature of the proposal;
- The range of stakeholders consulted;
- Final results of the formal consultation;
- Conclusions of the Trust.

The local community has responded very positively throughout the period of the consultation. A broad variety of stakeholders have engaged with the consultation and the overarching response demonstrated significant support from local residents, community organisations and prospective parents. Respondents set out a high level of support for a school on the site, and for the need for a special school for this cohort of pupils. There were three respondents who were not in agreement that the school should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State, however two of these respondents were still supportive that the school should open and of the ethos of the school. The third respondent was unsupportive because they did not agree with the Government's free school policy rather than the school itself. Respondents set out a high level of support for the school with 93% of respondents stating that they agree that the Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State. Comments shared with the Trust via the consultation survey are included in this document. As a result of the consultation, The Flagship Trust will continue its plans to enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

## Stakeholder engagement prior to the formal consultation period

The Trust undertook significant stakeholder engagement activities prior to the formal consultation period, which meant that at the start of the formal consultation (19<sup>th</sup> October 2020), many community members were already aware of The Flagship School and the nature of the proposal.

Specifically, the following events were used as an opportunity to inform parents and community members about the project:

- Meeting with Hastings Borough Council's Leader and Deputy Lead, Chief Executive and Assistant Director
- Meeting with the two local councillors from the ward where the school will be based
- Several meetings with groups of parents
- Meetings with schools across Hastings including the University of Brighton Trust Schools
- Facebook and Twitter updates
- Website updates
- Newsletter to followers

## Consultation methodology

The Trust identified areas and organisations across Hastings and Rother and East Sussex, who should be consulted to ensure the consultation reached prospective parents, organisations and the community. The questions asked aimed to cover the most important aspects of the consultation, whilst remaining concise and clear to the different audiences:

1. Which group do you represent?
2. Do you support the proposal to open The Flagship School?
3. Do you support the vision and ethos for the school?
4. Do you think The Flagship School Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary for Education to open?
5. Let us know if you have any additional comments.

To accompany this, leaflets were distributed to 5000 community members in the local area with a hard copy of the survey and a website address for community members to respond. This included 1000 personalised leaflets, which were sent to the homes and businesses nearest to the school. The remaining 4000 leaflets were sent to cover a further 2-mile radius. Below is a map which outlines the geographical space that has been covered. The contents of the leaflets are shown in appendix one and appendix two.



Map displaying distribution of leaflets surrounding The Flagship School



The survey was also placed on the website and received 87 responses. The Trust was pleased with the number of responses received and that, for each question posed, there was an overwhelming majority in favour. 97% of the respondents were supportive of the school opening and 98% were supportive of the vision.

The stakeholder list included 400 key contacts (appendix eight) which consisted of:

- Schools
- Parent groups
- Councillors
- Voluntary groups and organisations
- Places of worship
- Various local businesses

These key stakeholders received a letter and leaflet which was sent via email.

Two press advertisements were placed in The Hastings Observer. These advertisements ran from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October to the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 and the 30<sup>th</sup> of October to the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. Several digital banners on the newspaper website generated 52 clicks in week one of the advertisement being run. Please see appendix three for details of the adverts.

## Consultation events

Three Zoom events were held to discuss the consultation with members of the community.

Date	Attendees
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> October, 2:00pm	6
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 10:00am	8
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November, 8:00pm	10

Another event via Zoom was held specifically for head teachers.

Date	Attendees
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November, 8:00am	10

No concerns were raised at these meetings. Attendees provided a number of positive comments in support of the school. Questions and thoughts raised during these events include:

1. What do you mean by neuro-diverse?
  - We have a broad definition of neuro-diverse. It is important we have the right approach to meet the needs of a range of pupils with neuro-diverse needs.
2. When does the construction of the school start? Is there a chance it would get delayed?
  - It is currently going through planning. It will open in September 2021, starting in temporary accommodation.

3. Half of the Helenswood Upper School site will be for the school, what will the other half be and how will that impact the school?
  - The whole of the site is owned by the Department for Education, it will possibly become part of the Hastings plan however we do not have any further information than that. There is enough land available for our school.
4. Questions regarding the admissions process for the school.
  - The Trust representatives explained the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessment process, the expected needs of pupils attending the school and the role of East Sussex Council in commissioning places.
5. Question regarding the therapy offer at the school.
  - The Trust explained that pupils will have a range of activities at the start of the day to help prepare them for learning and provided several examples.
6. What years will the school be taking in its first year of opening?
  - One 5 and 6 class, one year 7 class and one year 8 class.
7. What resources are going to be at The Flagship School?
  - Overtime, we want to provide support for pupils with special needs in mainstream schools. We are funded in the same way as other special schools in East Sussex and as a result, resources provided are dependent on sustainability and ensuring we are meeting the needs of pupils in our school.
8. Are there any plans to have post-16 provision at the school?
  - Our priority is to establish the school to capacity as proposed before considering expanding to post-16.
9. How will the curriculum be adapted to meet a broad range of children's interests and needs?
  - We will deliver a number of core subjects including maths, English, science and computing which will include programming as an area where many of our expected pupils' interests lie. At key stages two and three we will have a cross-curriculum approach and at key stage four, we will have an individualised programme for pupils.
10. Have you linked in with any other specialist schools?
  - We have linked with St John's School Seaford and a number of other relevant organisations across the county to support special needs children.
11. Can you explain the purpose of the consultation and the survey?
  - It is to gather feedback from the local community and to ensure the academy trust follows its statutory duty to engage with the community before entering into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State.
12. What is your ethos around your restraint policy?
  - Our policy is behaviour is communication. Relationships are important, de-escalation is critical. Safety will be important and we want all pupils to feel safe in our school. There will be space for pupils to de-escalate as well as access to sensory rooms, etc. Coaching and support will be available for pupils to de-escalate. Where there are instances that pupils are putting themselves or others at risks then we have no alternative other than to hold children.
13. Will it be a non-excluding school?
  - Reparations will be critical. We will want to ensure that we have spaces in the school to remove children from the classroom until they are ready to be integrated again, rather than send them home.
14. What will the class sizes be?
  - Eight children per class with a teacher and a teaching assistant in each class.

## Positive feedback

"I just want to say it sounds incredibly positive. I think the pitch and the cohort you're looking at often fall through the gaps in other provision. They don't always fit in the special or mainstream schools available. I think the whole ethos and thinking around curriculum and the approach sounds very positive."

"It is so heartening to hear of a group of parents opening this school."

"I think what you're doing is amazing. It really is going to help a lot of people."

## Social media communication

Below are the different forms of online communication tools that have been set up to reach the community.

**School website:** [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk)

**School email:** [office@theflagshipschool.org.uk](mailto:office@theflagshipschool.org.uk)

**Facebook page:** @flagshipschool

**Twitter account:** @flagshipschool

The Facebook page views were up by 34% during the period of 19<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. The number of times people saw the Facebook post was up by over 600% to over 8000 times. The post has been engaged with (commented, liked or shared) over 645 times and the page has 26 new followers. The Facebook advert reached 5432 users.

The Twitter account had over 1.3k impressions in response to the consultation tweets and gained 41 followers.

The website saw 1500 visits during the period of the consultation.

Other social media engagement included posts in the Local Mumsnet and Nextdoor groups.

Third parties supported the consultation process by promoting the survey via their own networks. This included:

- Hastings Borough Council – Newsletter, social media posts
- Hastings Voluntary Action – news story and social media posts
- Rother Voluntary Action – e-bulletin, new story on website
- Amaze Sussex – shared on social media

## Statutory consultation

As a result of the section 10 consultation survey, the Trust has received significant support for The Flagship School's ethos, support for it to open and support to enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

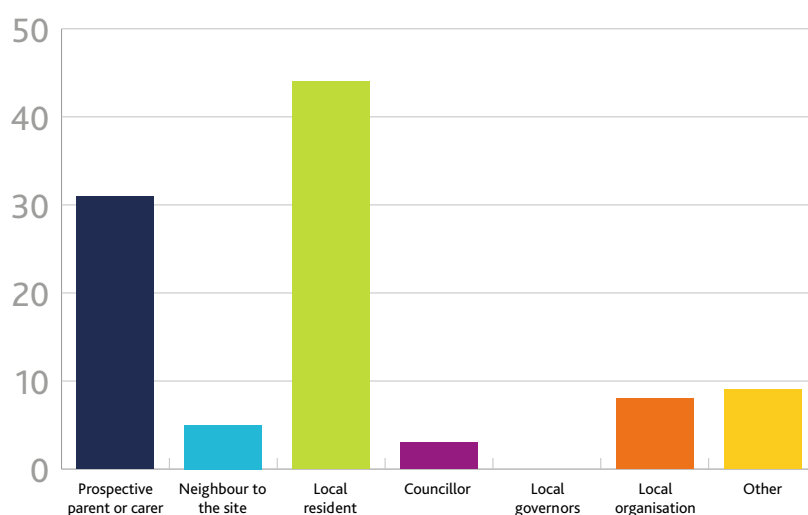
Results of the survey showed that:

- 87 survey responses were received in total.
- The vast majority of respondents were from local residents (44%) and parents and carers (31%).
- 97% of respondents supported the proposal to open The Flagship School.
- 98% of respondents supported the ethos of The Flagship School.
- 92% of respondents agreed that The Flagship Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

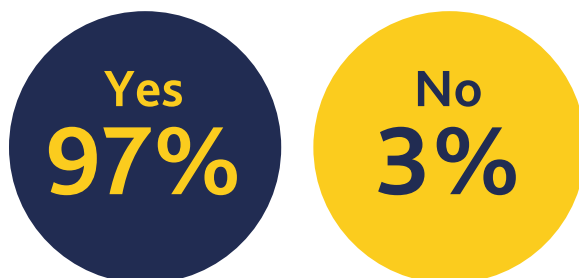
## Survey responses

The survey received a total of 87 responses to seven questions (including two GDPR questions for future engagement). 93% of respondents stated that they think the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State. Responses to the survey are presented below:

Q1: Which group do you represent? *Tick all the categories that apply:*



Q2: Do you support the proposal to open The Flagship School?

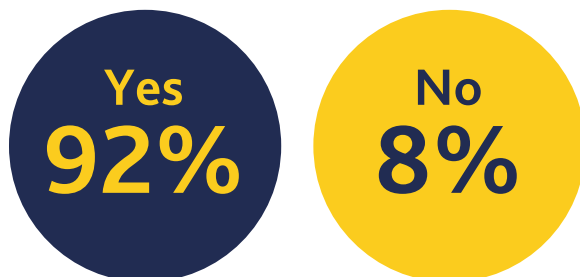


Q3: Do you support the vision and ethos for the school?





**Q4: Do you think The Flagship School Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open The Flagship School?** (example of a standard funding agreement can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-single-academy-trust](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-single-academy-trust))



Question 5 asked for any comments respondents wanted to provide. These are provided in the next section. The vast majority of comments suggest the school is needed within its community and local community members are supportive of The Flagship Trust opening the school and the school's ethos.

The survey included two questions as per GDPR requirements.

## Positive comments

One additional positive comment has not been published because it identifies individual details. Similarly, other comments have been edited to protect personal details.

Comments have been grouped regarding topic. A number of comments demonstrated evidence of the need for a new special school of this type in East Sussex County Council. Others were supportive that the proposed site would be used as a school building. Some respondents demonstrated early interest in engaging with the school once open – either as prospective parents and carers of pupils, community organisations interested in the school and individuals interested in joining the school as staff.

### Generally positive

*"Every little helps."*

Prospective parent/carer

*"This school will be a great asset to pupils with ASD and their families. We are lucky to have such a school in our vicinity - it has been needed for a long time."*

Local resident

*"Anything that will financially aid our borough's educational offer is to be welcomed."*

Councillor

*"I believe that this school may benefit group of children with special needs and enable them to reach full potential with appropriate nurturing support so they could contribute to public economic and social life in their future."*

Prospective parent or carer

*"This is a brilliant idea for kids that struggle in mainstream or have a diagnosis but mask in mainstream just to fit in."*

Prospective parent or carer

The respondent was supportive of the school's ethos, proposal to open The Flagship school and for the trust to sign a funding agreement.

*"I really wanted to put don't know at question 4 but there wasn't an option."*

Local resident

#### **Supportive of the need of a new special school of this type**

*"This ground breaking school is so needed. My daughter is hoping for a place as she fits the criteria. There are no special provision schools for children who academically are ok but can't cope with main stream due to social emotional delay or autism. This school has been a long time coming."*

Prospective parent/carer

*"I think it's vital that there is education for children with ASD in Hastings as so many are forced in to inappropriate placements or have to travel miles each day."*

Prospective parent/carer

*"I fully support the work of the Flagship School as we have a real need in the Hastings area for those students who need additional support or a need to learn in a different way as their needs are not being met but the current academy system. It is sad, in my opinion, that the Flagship School is having to look to access the independent schools pathway rather than receiving the funding needed to meet the needs of our local students as part of the mainstream education offering."*

Councillor

*"Sen schools are desperately needed. For many inclusion within mainstream is not possible."*

SEN Parent

*"Parents/carers and ourselves are very excited about this type of school opening in Hastings. It has been a long time coming. Children with these additional needs are not supported in local schools enough for them to achieve their potential. This impacts on ALL children in schools. I hope it will be staffed by people who have excellence in teaching young people with such a variety of additional needs."*

Local organisation

*"Fantastic resource for the town of for neurodiverse children and their families. Much welcomed and needed. Please can I be on your mailing list for information. Many thanks."*

Local resident

*"I have a 6 year old son who has diagnosed ASD (High functioning) and SPD. I also suspect ADHD. This school would be such a huge asset to Hastings. It is much needed in our area and I am so hugely relieved that this could become accessible to our son... When I heard the new Flagship school would be opening, and just around the corner from us too, I didn't believe it. I am so grateful that you are doing this, thank you. I love what I have seen of the ethos of the school, it's ground breaking... Over all, The Flagship school is much needed and would be a huge benefit to Hastings and all the misunderstood and gifted children who so desperately need it. Thank you..."*

This comment has been redacted to prevent identification of individuals.

Prospective parent or carer, Local resident

*"This school is badly needed to support the needs of those shown in the brochure."*

Local resident

*"This school is badly needed."*

Prospective parent or carer, Neighbour to the site, Local resident

*"This school is very much needed to enhance the educational chances of ALL local children. I speak as a retired education professional."*

Neighbour to the site, Local resident

### Interest to engage with the school

*"As a locally based organisation we are always interested in linking with schools and other youth groups to share our expertise. We are unable to offer direct funding support as we are a non-profit making organisation but would be willing to provide advice or coaches to aid any development within the school."*

Local organisation

*"Please could you, in time, send out information on how the different disabilities of the children (i.e. autism, mental health issues etc.,) impact on the children's lives and how it impacts or could impact on the local communities/residents in the areas around the school. I have helped to look after adults with different types of dementia, but have no personal experience of children with autism, mental health issues."*

Local resident

*"Our grandchildren would benefit enormously from this school."*

Local resident

*"Our eldest grandson, now 16, has not been helped, encouraged, understood or supported by mainstream education, before and since his diagnosis of ASD. Too late for him, this school may eventually help his... brother and possibly his cousins."*

Grandparent to prospective students (This comment has been redacted to prevent identification of individuals.)

### Supportive of site

*"I welcome this opportunity for young people in our town and feel it is a great use of the site."*

Local resident, Local organisation

*"I am pleased the school building is to be reopened and the school field will be used again. One idea could be for kids to start an allotment on the land."*

Local resident

## Negative comments

Respondent was supportive of the proposal and vision and ethos of the school. They selected "No" for question four with the comment below:

*"I am on two Facebook groups that tell of hundreds of children for whom a school like this would be amazing. Not fine in school is one and Attachment Disorder is the other. Both my grandchildren would have benefitted now sadly too late. The link to the government contract wasn't live so I went for the no option."*

Prospective parent/ carer

Respondent was supportive of the proposal and vision but not entering into a funding agreement.

*"Good to see prime land used again for education. Need urgently to get gardener to cut weeds/trees etc on boundaries."*

Local resident, neighbour to the site

Respondent was not supportive of the proposal, the vision and ethos of the school or for the trust to sign the funding agreement.

*"It would be far better to properly fund the schools that are democratically controlled than to waste large sums on an experiment that's proven to be a failure both in the UK and other nations. Free schools are a failed and dogmatic experiment."*

Local resident

## Trust response

As demonstrated above, negative responses to The Flagship School section 10 consultation are not in direct relation to the school itself. The comment that was in opposition to the Flagship Trust signing a funding agreement with the Secretary of State is in opposition to the overarching free school policy rather than the school or that the funding agreement that would be relevant to the school is not yet live. Two other respondents that did not approve the Trust entering into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State approved of the ethos of the school and that it should open.

There were no comments that suggested a need to amend the school or its ethos and as a result, no amendment will be made to the proposal.

As a result, the Trust will continue to enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

## Other responses to the consultation

The Flagship Trust received a number of individual email responses from various stakeholders. These can be found in appendix seven. These responses have been positive, with a variety of supportive statements including support for the school itself and expressions of interest for opportunities to be involved in the school. During the consultation period, seven individual emails were received in total. These came from a variety of stakeholders including Judith Monk, chair of the YMCA for Hastings and Rother, former headteachers and local residents, and representatives of various local organisations.

## Conclusion and next steps

Having run an extensive consultation over a period of six weeks, The Flagship Trust has engaged with a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Responses to engagement have been overwhelmingly supportive for The Flagship School. The Trust has listened to feedback from the community and will take into account their comments as the School progresses. Feedback has not been cause for any adaptations to the proposal and the Trust is delighted with the support for the School.

The two issues raised through our survey do not impact The Flagship School. One response is in disagreement to the government's free school policy. A second negative response provided no detail of why the individual opposed the school and as a result, the Trust is unable to respond to it. Stakeholders will be able to continually access updated information as the School progresses to opening via our website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

The Flagship School will provide much needed special school places for children with neuro-diverse profiles alongside additional social, emotional and mental health needs. Responses to the consultation were overwhelmingly supportive, suggesting there is a strong need for this kind of school in the community. The Flagship Trust will now begin the process of agreeing a Funding Agreement for The Flagship School with the Secretary of State for Education.

The Trust would like to thank all stakeholders who took the time to respond to the survey and engage at consultation events.

# Appendix

## Appendix one: The Flagship School leaflet and questionnaire



Leaflet front cover

### Have your say!

Please complete the survey below and send it to: Helen Kay, 2nd Floor Ocean House, 87-89 London Rd, St Leonards-On-Sea, East Sussex, TN37 6LW. The closing date to receive all surveys is Sunday 29th November 2020.

1) Which group do you represent. Tick all the categories that apply:

- a. Prospective parent or carer ☐
- b. Neighbour to the site ☐
- c. Local resident ☐
- d. Councillor ☐
- e. Local governor ☐
- f. Local organisation ☐
- g. Other (please state) ☐

2) Do you support the proposal to open The Flagship School?

a. Yes ☐ b. No ☐

3) Do you support the vision and ethos for the school?

a. Yes ☐ b. No ☐

4) Do you think The Flagship School Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open? (example of a standard funding agreement can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-single-academy-trust](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-single-academy-trust))

a. Yes ☐ b. No ☐

5) Let us know if you have any additional comments below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The results of this consultation will be available at [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk) in 2021.

If you would like a response to any questions raised in the comments section of this survey, please provide your name and email address or telephone number below (optional):

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Data protection consent**

The Flagship School Trust takes your privacy seriously and will only use data submitted as part of the Section 10 Consultation for The Flagship School. Any data submitted will be shared anonymously with the Department for Education as evidence of the consultation.

If you would like a response to any comments provided in the survey or to be updated on the progress of The Flagship School, please tick the boxes below to provide consent.

**Data submitted from the survey**

☐ I agree that The Flagship School Trust can use my personal information to respond to any feedback provided in this survey.

☐ I agree that The Flagship School Trust can use my personal information to contact me with progress of The Flagship School.

Leaflet back cover



### Helping children with SEND to realise their full potential

The Flagship School Trust has been set up to develop a new state funded free school academy in Hastings. This special school will cater for children who have the capacity to reach age related expectations, yet whose neurodiverse profiles, along with additional social, emotional and mental health needs create significant barriers to learning. The need for this school has already been acknowledged by local parents/carers, the Local Authority, the Department for Education and Hastings Borough Council.

The school will open in September 2021, initially for 24 pupils in year groups 5, 6, 7 and 8, for 9-13 year olds. By 2024, the school will have capacity for 72 pupils aged 7-16 years.

The Flagship School will be a brand new purpose-built building on the site of the former Helenswood Upper School, on the Ridge. A separate consultation will be carried out on the design of our future school campus, details of which will be available on our website.

### Our vision

The aim of the school is to enable all pupils who are placed at the school to make excellent progress; emotionally, socially and academically so that they can attain greater levels of independence and reach their potential.

Central to the school's vision is the delivery of an integrated approach to addressing pupils' learning needs. Teachers, school-based therapists and other support staff will work together so that every aspect of the school day provides opportunities for pupils to make progress academically, socially and emotionally.

A high quality, exciting and integrated curriculum will be designed to meet the specific learning styles and interests of pupils. The core subjects; maths, English, science and computing will be taught in discrete subject-specific lessons. At key stages 2 and 3, other foundation subjects will be taught through a project based, cross-curriculum approach to enable pupils to access the curriculum in an exciting and integrated way. At key stage 4, pupils will be supported to take GCSEs or equivalent courses in English, maths and science alongside 2 other accredited courses. This will enable pupils to study core subjects in depth, and to take part in a rich life skills programme to support them to develop essential social, emotional, communication and relationship skills, and to engage with their wider community.

### How will children be placed at the school?

Children will be placed at the school by East Sussex County Council's Assessment and Planning team in accordance with the Education, Health and Care plans placement process.

### What are we asking of you?

As part of the pre-opening work to open a free school, The Flagship School Trust is required to carry out a consultation exercise to determine whether we should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education for the school.

We are very keen that we consult with as many people as possible who may be impacted by our school; local mainstream schools, parents and carers, local residents, local community organisations, local religious groups and more.

We will work hard to ensure that our school provides a safe, nurturing and kind community for our pupils, their parents and carers. We will achieve this by focusing on developing strong relationships between our staff and our children, our school staff and parents and carers and with our local community. We want our school to be a central hub for our local community. We are therefore very keen to hear your views; as parents and carers, as schools, as local community organisations and as local residents, about our plans to open our school.

### Complete our survey

Therefore, we would be grateful if you could complete a short survey online which asks you some key questions about our school, by **Sunday 29th November**. You can find it at: [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk/survey](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk/survey)

Alternatively, if you do not have access to a computer, please complete the survey on the back of this leaflet.

### Join an online event

We will also be hosting a number of online events where you can meet Flagship School Trustees and find out more about us. Events will take place virtually as a Zoom meeting on the following dates:

**Wednesday 28th October at 2pm**

**Saturday 7th November at 10am**

**Tuesday 10th November at 8pm**

If you would like to attend these online events, please email [office@theflagshipschool.org.uk](mailto:office@theflagshipschool.org.uk) to register your interest and we will send you details of how to join.

Please note, as these dates may change, please check our website 'News and events' page for the latest information: [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk)

Leaflet inside

## Appendix two: Personalised leaflets and questionnaire



Leaflet front cover

### Have your say!

Please complete the survey below and send it to: Helen Kay, 2nd Floor Ocean House, 87-89 London Rd, St Leonards-On-Sea, East Sussex, TN37 6LW. The closing date to receive all surveys is Sunday 29th November 2020.

1) Which group do you represent. Tick all the categories that apply:

- a. Prospective parent or carer ☐
- b. Neighbour to the site ☐
- c. Local resident ☐
- d. Councillor ☐
- e. Local governor ☐
- f. Local organisation ☐
- g. Other (please state) ☐

2) Do you support the proposal to open The Flagship School?

a. Yes ☐ b. No ☐

3) Do you support the vision and ethos for the school?

a. Yes ☐ b. No ☐

4) Do you think The Flagship School Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open? (example of a standard funding agreement can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-single-academy-trust](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-single-academy-trust))

a. Yes ☐ b. No ☐

5) Let us know if you have any additional comments below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The results of this consultation will be available at [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk) in 2021.

If you would like a response to any questions raised in the comments section of this survey, please provide your name and email address or telephone number below (optional):

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Data protection consent**

The Flagship School Trust takes your privacy seriously and will only use data submitted as part of the Section 10 Consultation for The Flagship School. Any data submitted will be shared anonymously with the Department for Education as evidence of the consultation.

If you would like a response to any comments provided in the survey or to be updated on the progress of The Flagship School, please tick the boxes below to provide consent.

**Data submitted from the survey**

☐ I agree that The Flagship School Trust can use my personal information to respond to any feedback provided in this survey.

☐ I agree that The Flagship School Trust can use my personal information to contact me with progress of The Flagship School.

Leaflet back cover



Leaflet inside



## Appendix three: Print and digital ad in the Hastings Observer




### Helping children with Special Education Needs to realise their full potential

The Flagship School Trust has been set up to develop a new state funded free school academy in Hastings. This special school will cater for children who have the capacity to reach age related expectations, yet whose neurodiverse profiles, along with additional social, emotional and mental health needs, create significant barriers to learning. It is planned to open in September 2021, as a brand new purpose-built special school on the site of the former Helenswood Upper School, on The Ridge.

As part of a formal consultation about the school, we will be holding three online events where we will be setting out our aims for the school, and what we are hoping to deliver for children and young people.

**We want to hear from you**

If you would like to take part in an online event to find out more about us, or ask a question, then you can join us on:


**Wednesday 28th October at 2pm**  
**Saturday 7th November at 10am**  
**Tuesday 10th November at 8pm**

If are interested in attending, please email us at: [office@theflagshipschool.org.uk](mailto:office@theflagshipschool.org.uk) and we will send you details of how to join.

You can also give us your feedback by completing a short survey online at [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk/survey](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk/survey) by **Sunday 29th November**.

\*Please note, as these dates may change, check our website 'News and events' page for the latest information: [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk)

### Hastings Observer ad



News you can trust since 1859

ers Sport What's On Retail Lifestyle Education Sussex Public Notices

### Helping children with Special Education Needs to realise their full potential



The Flagship School is a new special school in Hastings, on the site of the former Helenswood Upper School, on The Ridge.

**Find out more about us at an online event:**

• **Saturday 7th November at 10am • Tuesday 10th November at 8pm**

Want to join? Just email us at: [office@theflagshipschool.org.uk](mailto:office@theflagshipschool.org.uk)

[Click here to complete survey](#)

### Hastings Observer website banner

The Flagship School, The Ridge, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 2AE  
 Email: [office@theflagshipschool.org.uk](mailto:office@theflagshipschool.org.uk) [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk)

## Appendix four: Social media

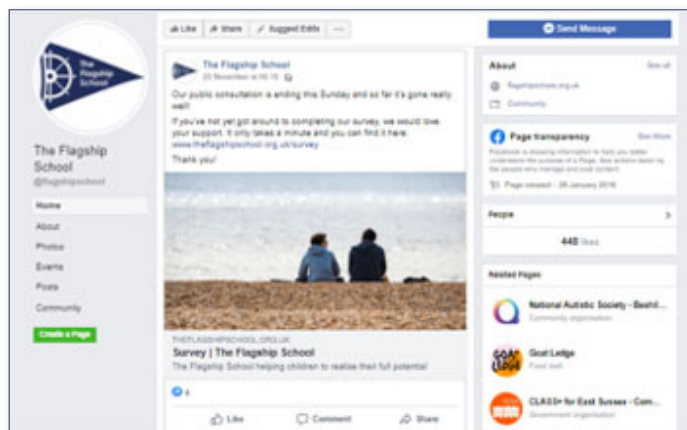
### Facebook



Facebook advert



Facebook event

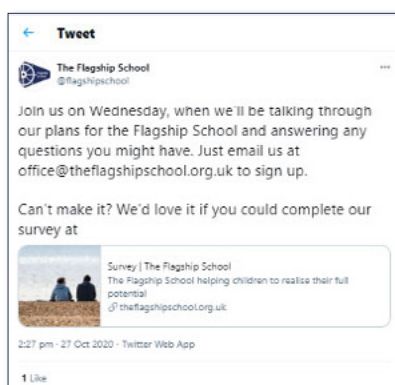


The Flagship School Facebook page

## Twitter



Tweet



Tweet

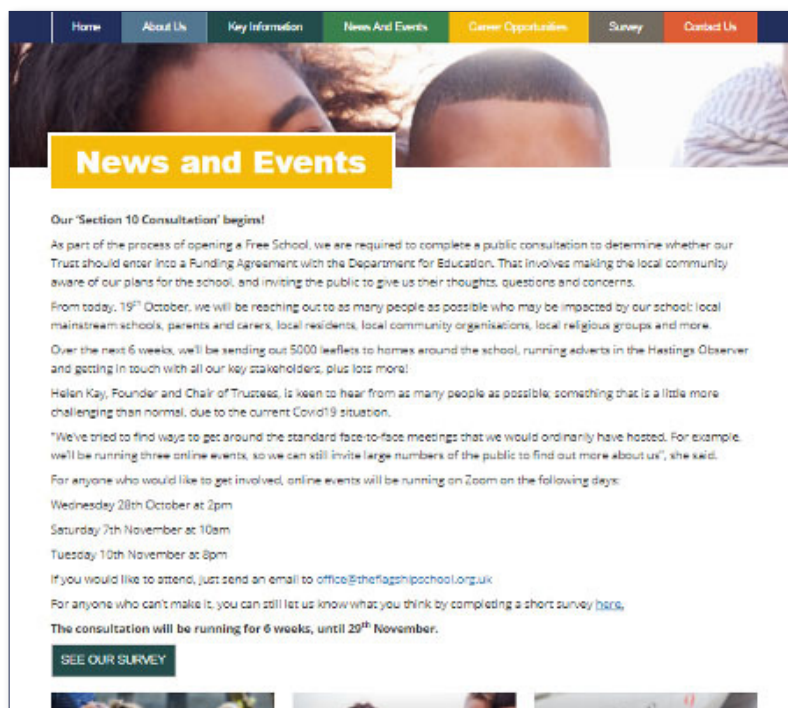


The Flagship School twitter page



The Flagship School twitter page

## Appendix five: The Flagship School website



**News and Events**

**Our 'Section 10 Consultation' begins!**

As part of the process of opening a Free School, we are required to complete a public consultation to determine whether our Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education. That involves making the local community aware of our plans for the school, and inviting the public to give us their thoughts, questions and concerns.

From today, 19<sup>th</sup> October, we will be reaching out to as many people as possible who may be impacted by our school: local mainstream schools, parents and carers, local residents, local community organisations, local religious groups and more.

Over the next 6 weeks, we'll be sending out 5000 leaflets to homes around the school, running adverts in the Hastings Observer and getting in touch with all our key stakeholders, plus lots more!

Helen Kay, Founder and Chair of Trustees, is keen to hear from as many people as possible, something that is a little more challenging than normal, due to the current Covid19 situation.

"We've tried to find ways to get around the standard face-to-face meetings that we would ordinarily have hosted. For example, we'll be running three online events, so we can still invite large numbers of the public to find out more about us", she said.

For anyone who would like to get involved, online events will be running on Zoom on the following days:

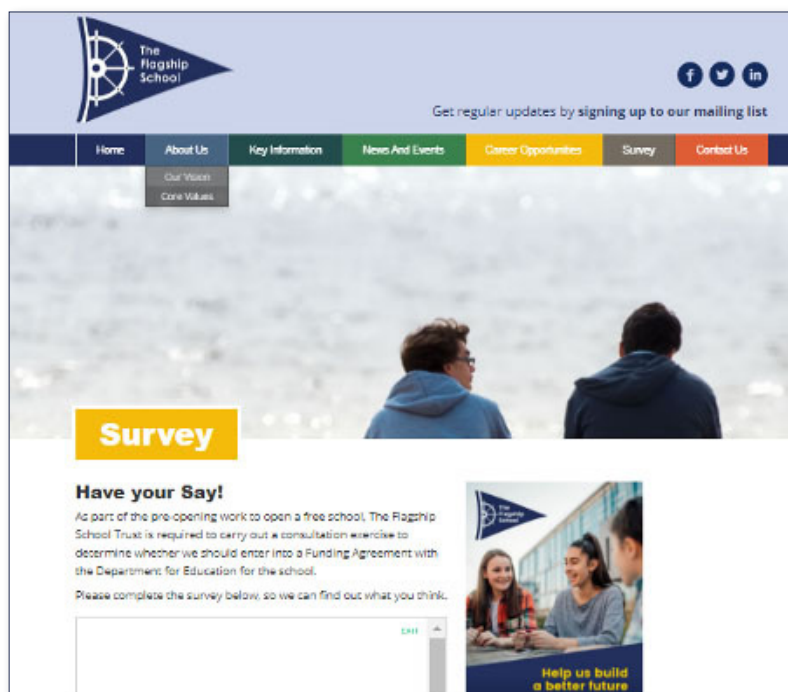
- Wednesday 28th October at 2pm
- Saturday 7th November at 10am
- Tuesday 10th November at 8pm

If you would like to attend, just send an email to [office@theflagshipschool.org.uk](mailto:office@theflagshipschool.org.uk)

For anyone who can't make it, you can still let us know what you think by completing a short survey [here](#).

The consultation will be running for 6 weeks, until 29<sup>th</sup> November.

[SEE OUR SURVEY](#)



**Survey**

**Have your Say!**

As part of the pre-opening work to open a free school, The Flagship School Trust is required to carry out a consultation exercise to determine whether we should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education for the school.

Please complete the survey below, so we can find out what you think.

[EXIT](#)

[Help us build a better future](#)

## Appendix six: Stakeholder emails

Hello,

I am writing to you, to ask if you will take part in the formal consultation for the Flagship School in Hastings. This special school will cater for children who have the capacity to reach age related expectations, yet whose neuro-diverse profiles, along with associated social, emotional and mental health needs, create significant barriers to learning.

Over the last few years, we have been working hard, as a group of local parents and professionals to develop the school, the aim of which is to enable all pupils who are placed at the school to make excellent progress; emotionally, socially and academically so that they can attain greater levels of independence and reach their potential.

The school will open in September 2021, initially for 24 pupils in year groups 5,6,7 and 8; for 9-13 year olds. By 2024, the school will have capacity for 72 pupils aged 7-16 years.

The Flagship School will be a brand-new purpose-built building on the site of the former Helenswood Upper School, on the Ridge. A separate consultation will be carried out on the design of our future school campus, details of which will be available on our website.

As part of the pre-opening work to open a free school, The Flagship School Trust is required to carry out a consultation exercise to determine whether we should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education for the school. We are very keen that we consult with as many people as possible who may be impacted by our school; local mainstream schools, parents and carers, local residents, local community organisations, local religious groups and more.

We have attached a leaflet with this email. In it, we set out more detail about our vision for the school, how we are going to achieve this and invite you to contribute with any thoughts, concerns or suggestions you may have. We have included a survey for you to fill out, as part of this leaflet. Alternatively, you can fill in an online survey which is available at [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk/survey](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk/survey)

We will also be holding a number of consultation events, so that we can provide you with more information about the school and provide an opportunity for you to ask questions.

These events will take place on Zoom on:

Wednesday 28th October at 2pm  
Saturday 7th November at 10am  
Tuesday 10th November at 8pm

To register:

If you would like to attend an online event, please email [office@theflagshipschool.org.uk](mailto:office@theflagshipschool.org.uk) to register your interest and we will send you details of how to join.

I really hope that you are able to fill out the survey, and also join us in one of our meetings. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to reply to this email and we will endeavour to respond to your request.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Helen Kay  
Chair of Trustees  
The Flagship School

## Appendix seven: Individual responses to [office@theflagshipschool.org.uk](mailto:office@theflagshipschool.org.uk)

1)

Hello there,

*I am a Chair of a local residents committee and also an educator who has worked with students with SEN for a number of years.*

*In the first instance I would like to take part in your zoom event on the 28/10 @2pm to meet the Trustees and find more about the school.*

*If you could send me the link and how to access that would be great.*

*Secondly, having read the pamphlet and looked at website this is provision that looks really exciting and much needed over this side of the county. Future pitching it would be somewhere that I would be really interested in working. Do you have a process of submitting CVs and letters of interest at this stage.*

*I look forward to hearing from you.*

Best wishes

Local resident

2)

Hi Helen,

*I am writing to you to apologise very much that I was not available to attend the Zoom meeting on the above date.*

*Unfortunately, I had a personal situation crop up that I had to attend to that weekend.*

*We as a group are still of course very interested in your project and will support anyway as a charity that we can go forward.*

*Once again apologies for not being able to attend on the day and for the lateness of my apologies.*

*Keep up the very good and worthwhile work,*  
Organisation representative

3)

Hi,

*Thanks for your email. I have filled in your survey in a personal capacity though the school is sadly too late to help my two. It is definitely needed.*

Kind regards,

Organisation representative

4)

Hello

*I did this survey. Good luck with your venture and do send us updates.*

Organisation representative

5)

Dear Helen,

*Thank you for considering that my opinion might still have validity but I think I am now so far removed from education as to be able to contribute little of value. I am aware that the needs for this kind of education have always outstripped the provision so I applaud any move to enhance what is available. I wish you very well in developing your vision.*

Regards,

Local resident

6)

Hi

*Just wanted to thank the team for the very interesting presentation this morning. The school is going to be an amazing resource for Hastings and all credit to the parents and trustees who have driven this project. Love your ethos and your plans.*

*Wishing you all good luck with getting the school ready for September 2021.*

Kind regards

Local resident, Organisation representative

7)

Dear Helen,

*Thank you for this information and the details of the zoom settings which have now passed.*

*I would have been interested to help you with your consultation but at this moment I am not on zoom. However, this is something that should be rectified in the not too far future.*

*Best Wishes with the project meantime.*

*I hope you are progressing well with it.*

Organisation representative



## Appendix eight: Stakeholder list

### Primary schools – Hastings Rye

School Name	Type of school
All Saints CofE Junior Academy	Academy
Ark Blacklands Primary Academy	Academy
Ark Castledown Primary Academy	Academy
Ark Little Ridge Primary Academy	Academy
The Baird Primary Academy	Academy
Brede Primary School	Maintained school
Christ Church CofE Primary and Nursery Academy	Academy
Churchwood Primary Academy	Academy
Claremont School	Independent school
Dudley Infant Academy	Academy
Academy	
Guestling Bradshaw Church of England Primary School	Maintained school
Hollington Primary Academy	Academy
Academy	
Icklesham Church of England Primary School	Maintained school
New Horizons School (Part of the Sabden Multi Academy Trust)	Special school
Ore Village Primary Academy	Academy
Robsack Wood Primary Academy	Academy
Rye Community Primary School	Academy
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Hastings	Maintained school
Sandown Primary School and Nursery	Maintained school
Silverdale Primary Academy	Academy
St Leonard's Church of England Primary Academy	Academy
St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School	Maintained school
St Michael's Church of England Primary School	Maintained school
St Paul's Church of England Academy	Academy
St Thomas' Church of England Aided Primary School	Maintained school

Torfield School	Special school
West St Leonards Primary Academy	Academy
Westfield School	Maintained school

#### Secondary schools

School Name	Type of school
Ark Helenswood Academy	Academy
Academy	Academy
Ark Alexandra Academy	Academy
Academy	Academy
Rye College	Academy
Academy	Maintained school
The Hastings Academy	Academy
Type of school Academy	Academy
The St Leonards Academy	Independent school

#### Places of worship

Name	Name	Name
Halton Baptist	St Johns the Evangelist	St Helens Methodist
St Leonards Baptist	St Leonards Parish Church	St Leonards Methodist Church
Wellington Square Baptist	St Matthews Church	New Life Christian Fellowship
Alexandra Gospel Hall	St Peters Church	Elim Pentecostal Church
All Saints Church	St Peter and St Paul	Quakers
Christ Church	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	St Mary Star of the Sea
Christ Church	St Leonards Congregational Church	St Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs
Christ Church, Ore	Location: St Leonards-on-Sea	Salvation Army, Hastings Citadel
Church in the Wood	Calvary Chapel Hastings	Hastings Temple,
CJ Junior Church at Broomgrove	The Tabernacle	Seventh Day Adventist Church

Emmanuel Church	St Mary Magdalene Church	Hastings Brotherhood Church
Holy Trinity Church	Kings Church	Unitarian Church
St Anne	Hastings Mosque	Clive Vale United Reformed Church
St Barnabas Church	Kingdom Hall (Jehovah's Witnesses)	Robertson Street United Reformed Church
St Helen's Church	Calvert Memorial Methodist	St Lukes United Reformed Church
St Ethelburga's	Hollington Methodist	St Marks United Reformed Church
St Johns	Park Road Methodist	Sonrise Church

#### Councillors

Council Borough	Councillor
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Kim Forward (Chair)
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Colin Fitzgerald (Vice-Chair)
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Peter Chowney
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Paul Barnett
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Andy Batsford
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Maya Evans
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Margi O'Callaghan
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Judy Rogers
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor James Bacon
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Andrew Battley
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Karl Beaney
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Sue Beaney
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Matthew Beaver
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Antonia Berelson
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Heather Bishop
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Tania Charman
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Peter Chowney
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Ruby Cox
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Warren Davies

Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Mike Edwards
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Colin Fitzgerald
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Paul Foster
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Rob Lee
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Leah Levane
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Dany Louise
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Sorrell Marlow-Eastwood
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Margi O'Callaghan
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Andy Patmore
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor John Rankin
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Alan Roberts
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Dominic Sabetian
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Phil Scott
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Nigel Sinden
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Mike Turner
Hastings Borough Council	Councillor Trevor Webb
Hastings Borough Council	Jane Hartnell
Hastings Borough Council	Peter Grace
Hastings Borough Council	Mike Hepworth
Hastings Borough Council	Andrew Palmer
Hastings Borough Council	Victoria Conheady
Hastings Borough Council	Verna Connolly
Hastings Borough Council	Christine Barkshire-Jones
East Sussex County Council	Becky Shaw
East Sussex County Council	Stuart Gallimore
East Sussex County Council	Philip Baker

## Voluntary groups

Organisation	Organisation	Organisation
1066 Quilters	Hastings & Rother Gay Helpline	Ore Community Land Trust
1st Hastings (Hollington) Scout Group	Hastings & Rother Mediation Service	Ore Community Library Group
Action Tutoring	Hastings & Rother Rainbow Alliance	Paperchase Business Support Services
ADHD Adult & Adolescent Support Network	Hastings & Rother Swift Conservation Group	Parchment Trust
Age UK East Sussex (Hastings Office)	Hastings & Rother Voluntary Association for the Blind	Parish of St Leonards-on-Sea
aGender Arts & Education	Hastings & Rother YMCA	Parity Trust
Alexandra Park Greenhouse Group	Hastings & St Leonards Allotments Federation	Park Road Under Fives
Amaze	Hastings & St Leonards Association National Trust	Penny Beale Memorial Fund
Arts on Prescription CIC	Hastings & St Leonards Christians Against Poverty	Pestalozzi International Foundation
Aspens	Hastings & St Leonards Dementia Action Alliance	Phoenix Netball Club
Association of Carers	Hastings & St Leonards Men's Shed	Pindrop Theatre
Bags of Taste-Hastings	Hastings & St Leonards Muffin Club	POhWER
Barbarian swimmers	Hastings & St Leonards Seniors' Forum	Possability People
Barefoot Opera	Hastings & St Leonards Voluntary Lifeguard Club	Priority 1-54
Better Braybrooke	Hastings Advice & Representation Centre (HARC)	Project Art Works
Bexleigh, Hythe and Abbey Residents Association	Hastings and District Table Tennis Association	Radiator Arts
BHT (Brighton Housing Trust)	Hastings and Rother Samaritans	reMEember (the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society)
Bohemia Counselling & Wellness Centre	Hastings Area Community Trust (Relief)	RSPCA Mallydams Wood
Bohemia Walled Garden Association	Hastings Arts Forum	SAFE (Raising Fund for Respite Care)

Brighton Oasis Project	Hastings Athletic Club	Sara Lee Trust
British Red Cross	Hastings Borough Bonfire Society	Seaview
Broomgrove Residents Association	Hastings Chinese Association	Seeing Ear
Brownbread Horse Rescue	Hastings Christian Trust	Sensory Soft Play
Butterflies Child & Adolescent Counselling Service	Hastings Community Transport	Shared Future
Care for the Carers	Hastings Conservation Volunteers	Shorelink Writers
Carers Wellbeing Initiative Ltd	Hastings Contemporary	Silverhill Playgroup
Chapel Park Community Centre	Hastings District Woodcraft Folk	Single Parents Support
Charity for Kids	Hastings Fringe Festival	Skills & Learning in the Community SLiC
Chestnut Tree House Childrens Hospice	Hastings Furniture Service	SoCo Artists
Chichester Diocesan Ass. for Family Support Work	Hastings Game Studios CIC	Sonrise Church
Choice Leisure & Allotments Association	Hastings Independent Press	Soundcastle
Choice Support	Hastings Local Quaker Meeting	Southdown
Church Together Hastings & St Leonards	Hastings Old Town Residents Association	Southwater Area Community Centre
Coffin Club UK	Hastings Online Times	SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Families Association)
Computers For Charities	Hastings Philharmonic	St Andrews Church Fairlight
Cultureshift CIC	Hastings Pier Community Archive	St Andrews Residents Association and Neighbourhood Watch (STAR)
Dens and Signals	Hastings Predators Floorball Club (HPFC)	St Helen's Church
Drawing Life	Hastings Russian Community	St John Ambulance Hastings Homeless Service
East Sussex Community Voice delivering Healthwatch East Sussex	Hastings Sierra Leone Friendship Link	St Marks Church
East Sussex Cruse Bereavement Care	Hastings Street Pastors	St Mary in the Castle



East Sussex Families & Carers Team	Hastings Thrives	St Matthews Residents Association
East Sussex Foster Care Association	Hastings Traditional Jack-in-the-Green	Stay Up Late
East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre	Hastings Voluntary Action	Stepping Stones Playgroup
East Sussex Junior Badminton Academy	Hastings Welsh Society	SupplyTrain CIC
East Sussex Recovery Alliance	Heart of Hastings Community Land Trust	Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (SASBAH)
East Sussex Veterans Hub	Hollington Community Centre	Sussex Community Foundation
East Sussex Young Carers (Imago Community)	Holy Trinity Hastings	Sussex Community Rail Partnership CIC
Economic Change CIC	Hope - G	Sussex Prisoners Families CIC
Education Futures Trust	HOWCH (Hastings Older Women Co-Housing)	Sustrans
Education Training Consortium Sussex	IDOLRICH Theatre Rotto	Table Tennis Rother
Energise Sussex Coast	In 2 Play CIC	Tempo Arts Ltd
Enjoycation CIC	Jan Brzechwa Polish Supplementary School in Hastings and St Leonards on Sea	The Athelstan Nursery
Evesham Residents Association	KM Charity Team	The Conservation Volunteers
FACE - Friends of Africa & The Caribbean in England	Legacy of War Foundation	The Girls' Network
Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous	Let's Do Business Group	The Hastings & Rother Refugee Buddy Project
Fresh Visions Charity	Liberty Choir	The One Voice Foundation
Friary Gardeners (Parchment Trust)	Lifesize	The Snowflake Trust Limited
Friends of Church & Robsack Woods	Lions Club of Hastings	Third Quarter Tribe cic
Friends of Combe Valley	Little Gate Farm CIO	Thyme to Transform
Friends of Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve	Mind in Brighton, Hove & East Sussex (Hastings & Rother)	TIDY UP ST LEONARDS!
Friends of Speckled Wood Management Trust	Motor Neurone Disease Association	Transition Town Hastings

FSN (Fellowship of St. Nicholas)	Multiple Sclerosis Society Hastings and Rother	Turner House - Saha
Get Hastings Reading	Now Teach	United African Community in Hastings (UACH)
Groundwork South	OASIS Community Project - East Hastings	Warming up the homeless
Hastings & Bexhill Mencap Society	Old Hastings Preservation Society	West Hill and District Community Association
Hastings & District Interfaith Forum	Optivo Housing Association	Winterbourne Close Residents Assoc.
Hastings & Rother Credit Union Ltd	Ore Community Association	Women's Voice
Hastings & Rother Disability Forum		Xtrax Young Peoples Centre

#### Parent groups – special needs

Group name	Group name
Amaze	Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work (Hastings & St Leonards)
ADHD Support Group	Hastings Family and Friends Support Group
Open for parents	COPEs – Rural areas of East Sussex
East Sussex ImPACT / EHCP Experiences	Community Parents (Hastings & St. Leonards & Rural Rother)
Triple P, Parent drop in at CAMHS, Hastings	Crossroads, (Hastings & Rother)
Project Art Works, Hastings	Families for Autism
Embrace: support for special needs & disabled children	Hastings & Rother Family Friends (Respite)
Care for the carers	Information for Families
Grandparents as Parents	KIDS South East
Animate Young Peoples Centre Rye	National Autistic Society Bexhill Branch
Additional Needs Support Group (Rural Rother)	Spectrum

## Local businesses

Name	Name
Ace Roadmarkings Ltd	First Rate Cleaning Ltd
Ark Supplies	Geewoods Construction Co Ltd
Battle Bespoke Ltd	Hastings Cemetery & Crematorium
Bliss Removal	Hastings Hydroponics
Coleman Group	JF Property Services
Coleman House Conference & Training Room Facilities	Love & Lace Wedding Supplies
Coleman Plant Hire Ltd	M C C H Society Ltd
Coleman Rail	M J K Lining Ltd
Deejay	MTeck Pressure Washing Services
Design for Build	Nick Wingfield Landscapes
Express Windows	Pet Safe Travel
Fineprint (Sussex) Ltd	Shades Tiles R Us
	Stamford Self Store

# **Thank you for taking the time to read the Section 10 Consultation Report**

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The Flagship School, The Ridge, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 2AE  
Email: [office@theflagshipschool.org.uk](mailto:office@theflagshipschool.org.uk) [www.theflagshipschool.org.uk](http://www.theflagshipschool.org.uk)

  /flagshipschool