

Consultation Analysis (Informal and Statutory Notices)

Proposal to create a Specialist Centre (SEN Unit) at Chandlers Field Primary School



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Consultation Analysis - Proposal to create a Specialist Centre (SEN Unit) at Chandlers Field Primary School

Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to open a SEN Unit at Chandlers Field Primary School.

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 22 February 2021 to 19 April 2021.

Part 1 of this paper is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation notice period and Part 2 is an analysis of the responses during the Statutory Notice period. This paper will be submitted to the Lead Cabinet Member for Education and Learning for consideration to determine the statutory notices on 6 July 2021.

Consultation Summary

The aim of the consultation was to seek views on the proposal from all interested parties, particularly from pupils and their families who attend Chandlers Field Primary School, pupils and their families who may attend the school or SEN unit in the future, other local schools and the local community.

The informal consultation was open from 22 February to 19 April. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.

A public meeting was held online on 3 March at 10.30am

The Statutory Notices were published from 13 May to 17 June. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. The notices were also published in the local paper on 13 May. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed throughout the informal consultation period and statutory notices and responses to the consultation contribute to this.

Part 1 – Informal Consultation

Key points from the consultation responses:

1. **102** people responded to the consultation
2. **100%** of respondents **agree** with the proposal
3. Themes from the responses include **Local Support, Positive impacts for Children and young people and the current SEN support at the school** and a **need for more specialist provision** in Surrey.

Quantitative Analysis

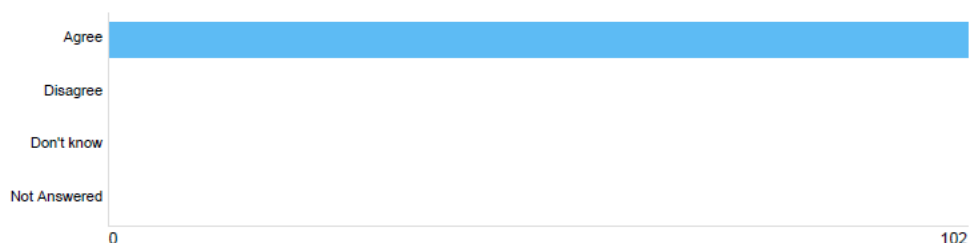
There were 102 responses to the consultation. Respondents were asked “Do you agree with the proposal to open a specialist centre at Chandlers Field Primary School?” and were given the option to select Agree, Disagree or Don’t know.

Figure 1 below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation. All 102 respondents selected that they agree with the proposal.

Figure 1

Question 5: Do you agree with the proposal to open a specialist centre at Chandlers Field Primary School?

Agree disagree don't know



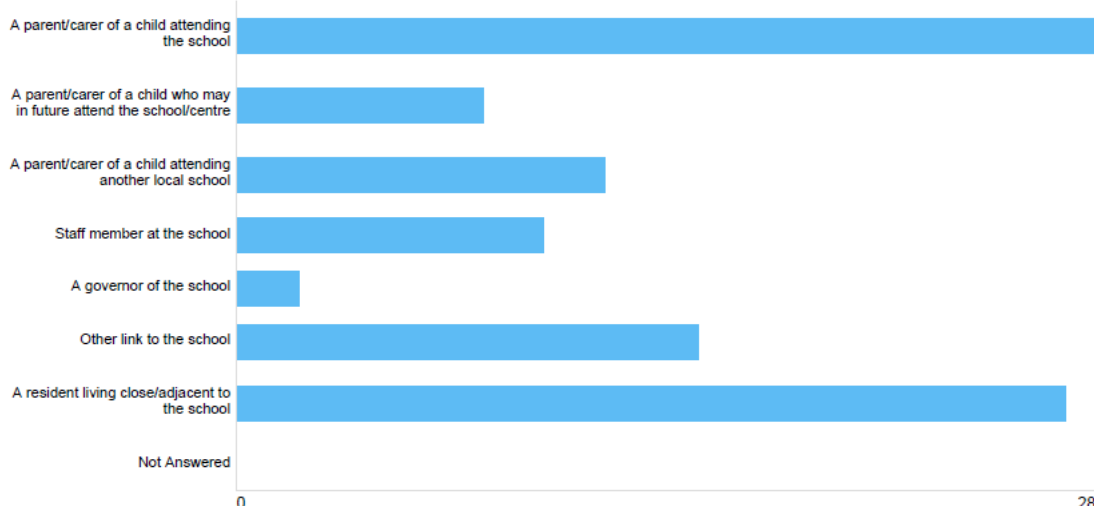
Who responded to the survey?

To understand who responded to the survey, respondents were asked what their relationship to the school is, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2

Question 3: What is your relationship with school?

Role - Role



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey and 56 out of 102 respondents left a comment. Comments left in reply to free-text questions were tagged drawing on 8 possible tags. Each

response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondent’s main concerns regarding the proposal.

Sub theme	Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of total 102 responses)	Prevalence (% out of the 56 responses with comments)
Local Support	Local support – closer to home	22	22%	39%
	Positive – location of the school	9	9%	16%
	Positive impacts for the community	10	10%	18%
Positive impacts	Positive impacts for children and young people	25	25%	45%
	Positive impacts of the current SEND support at the school	9	9%	16%
Specialist provision across Surrey	Need for more specialist provision	22	22%	39%
Questions and ideas	Questions or Ideas	5	5%	9%
	Negative impacts	3	3%	5%

Key themes from the consultation

There were 4 key themes that emerged from the consultation responses

Local Support

Respondents mentioned the positive impacts of having a SEN Unit at a local school in the Molesey area. 22 respondents mentioned the value in having specialist places in the local area

“I am pleased that Surrey are providing local solutions to this problem rather than sending students miles away to providers outside of the county.”

9 respondents gave positive comments about the location of the school and that this would make the school a good host for the SEN unit.

“It would be great to have this provision locally in West Molesey.”

“The school is in a location that’s easy to access”

21 respondents mentioned the positive impacts for the community. Respondents mentioned keeping families connected to the local community and positive impacts to the community of having a specialist provision for pupils with autism close to home.

“As a parent with a child with SEN I think this would be an invaluable asset to the school and community.”

“I think it would be a wonderful provision for the local community.”

Positive Impacts

Some respondents mentioned positive impacts of the proposal. 25 respondents mention positive impacts for children and young people. Some of these responses were from parents of children with autism who mentioned the value in a SEN unit that is part of a mainstream school.

“I think this would be great I have a child that is autistic and I think this would be great”

“I think it is a fantastic idea that will benefit lots of people”

9 respondents mentioned current support particularly for pupils with SEND at the Chandlers Field Primary School currently. Respondents mentioned positive experiences at the school currently, including praise for staff, inclusive values and a supportive environment.

“Chandlers Field - more than any other local school - seem to respect and value each individual child for the person that they are”

The need for more Specialist Provision

22 respondents mentioned a need in Surrey for more specialist provision. Some respondents were positive that this proposal is meeting a current need. Some respondents mentioned previous barriers to accessing provision close to home and the urgent need for more specialist provision across Surrey

“We need more facilities so this is a good thing”

“would hugely benefit the children in Surrey who are currently waiting for special schools and are unable to get the support they need.”

“Many more locally based sen provisions are needed to support our children going forwards.”

Questions or Ideas

Some respondents had ideas to add value to the proposal such as ensuring that additional resource in the centre benefits children in the mainstream school with additional needs; more training for all staff in supporting pupils with autism; partnership with a link secondary school; better contact between parents and staff (particularly during any online learning periods); links to the SEN Unit at The Orchard.

A Question and Answer document has been created to respond and answer to the question and ideas submitted during the consultation and is published on Surrey Says alongside the Statutory notices.

Negative Impacts

Although all respondents agreed with the proposal 3 respondents mentioned or queried potential negative impacts. These included concerns that the SEN Unit might not be staffed by

appropriately experienced professionals, concern that transitional places from other schools into year 3 may not be available and worry about finance and resourcing.

Public Meetings

A public meeting was held online using Microsoft Teams on 3 March at 10.30am. There was a short presentation followed by the opportunity for attendees to ask questions and make comments.

2 people attended on 3 March 2021 both were parent/carers/family member of pupils at Chandlers Field Primary School.

There were only a small number of attendees at the public meeting and there were no questions about the proposal. A number of questions have been asked through the survey responses during the informal consultation and a Questions and Answers document was published on Surrey Says with the Statutory Notices.

Part 2 – Statutory Notices

Quantitative Analysis

There were no responses to the consultation during the statutory notice period.