

Consultation Analysis

Expansion of Philip Southcote School



Consultation Analysis – Expansion of Philip Southcote School

Introduction

This paper is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation period for the proposal to expand Philip Southcote School.

Statutory notices are due to be published in May 2021. Analysis of the responses during the statutory notices will be added to this paper and will be submitted to the Lead Cabinet Member for All Age Learning as part of the Lead Cabinet Member report, for consideration in the decision to determine the statutory notices on 6 July 2021.

The Surrey Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership Strategy 2019 - 2022 includes an action to create additional school places in Surrey for children with SEND, both in special schools and in specialist provision in mainstream schools. This will reduce travel time, enable pupils with SEND to be more a part of their local community and help to increase their progress, attainment, and outcomes.

Consultation Summary

On 22 February 2021, Surrey County Council launched the initial informal consultation for the proposed expansion, which was subsequently withdrawn on 16 March 2021 following an amendment to the proposals. An updated consultation, with full details of the amendments, was published on 22 March 2021 and closed on 10 May 2021. 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.

Those who had responded to the initial withdrawn consultation and had provided contact details were given the opportunity to carry over their response to the updated consultation. Each of these respondents was contacted and asked the following:

1. Your views have not changed, and you would like your initial response to be carried forward in response to the new consultation
2. Your views have changed, and you would like to submit a new response via Surrey Says or by return email by 10 May 2021. Any new response submitted will mean any previous response is automatically disregarded.
3. You no longer have an interest in the consultation and would like your initial response to be withdrawn.

If no response was received by the consultation closing date of 10 May 2021, their initial response was amended to "don't know" so that no assumption either way has been made about their views.

The aim of the consultation was to seek views on the proposal to expand Philip Southcote School from all interested parties and in particular from parents and their families who attend Philip Southcote School, pupils and their families who may attend in the future, staff at the school and the local community.

A virtual public meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 22 April 2021 at 7pm.

An Equality Impact Assessment is being completed throughout the informal consultation period and will continue during the statutory notices. Responses to the consultations will contribute to Equality Impact Assessment.

Key points from the consultation responses:

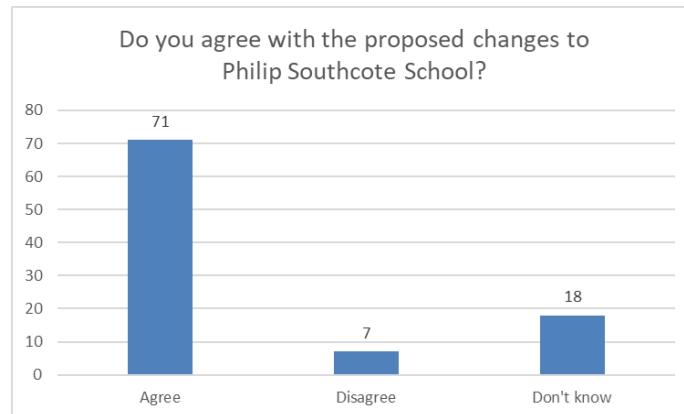
1. The majority of respondents (**74%**) agree with the proposal
2. The majority of respondents (**42%**) were individuals who worked at the school.
3. The largest group who agreed with the proposal were individuals who worked at the school.

Informal Consultation

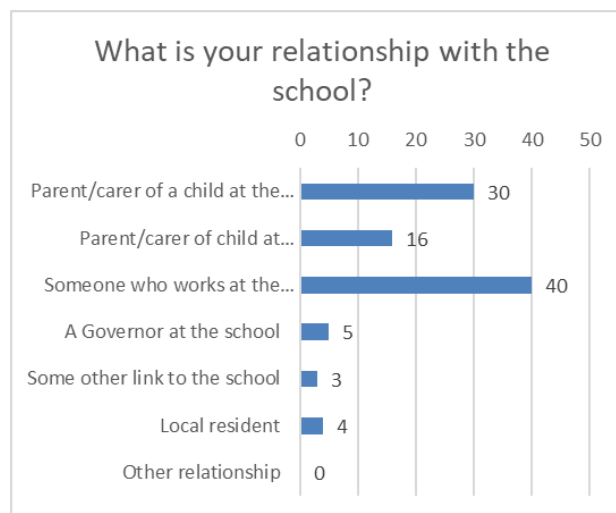
Quantitative Analysis

Ninety-four responses were analysed. 74% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 7% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 19% of respondents said they didn't know.

The chart below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation.



The chart below shows the distribution of respondents to the consultation. Respondents were able to select more than one category for this answer.



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Comments left in reply to free-text questions were tagged drawing on eleven possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondents’ main concerns regarding the proposal.

Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of total responses)	Prevalence (% out of total comments)
Positive - general	15	16%	28%
Positive - inclusion and integration	5	5%	9%
Positive - meeting demand locally	14	15%	26%
Positive impact - local community	5	5%	9%
Positive impact - on CHS/Kings	4	4%	7%
Positive impact - on pupil outcomes	18	19%	33%
Positive impact - on staff	3	3%	6%
Negative - general	2	2%	4%
Negative - inclusion and integration	3	3%	6%
Negative impact - on CHS/Kings	2	2%	4%
Negative impact - traffic/parking	5	5%	9%

Key themes from the consultation

There were 4 key themes that emerged from the consultation responses.

Positive impact – on pupil outcomes

The most prevalent of themes which emerged from the consultation was the positive impact an expansion would have on pupils’ outcomes for the future. Comments mentioned how increasing capacity would help pupils live an *“independent life”* and have *“successful futures”*.

“Philip Southcote school, with its dedicated and experienced staff, its high standard of education provided in a caring environment, and its drive to improve the outcomes of all pupils and prepare them for their adult life, is an ideal choice for this proposal”.

“These students will have every opportunity to learn skills and develop career paths. This is so important for our young people. They are the future!”

Meeting demand for SEND places

There were 14 comments which referred to the demand for SEND places and the fact that the proposal would result in more children and young people being able to access provision closer

to home, and the wider benefit that this would bring to the local community. Many comments mentioned a *“shortage of specialist places”* and *“the need for extensive SEND provision”*. One respondent described it as *“vital”* that we *“we continue to grow our offering to children who need additional learning needs”*.

“There is an urgent need in the community for children with special needs to have more support. There are currently not enough places in special schools for all the children that need it. Consequently, extra places available within a local special school will help with the demand. This much needed expansion would be welcome by parents, pupils and the local community”.

Respondents were positive about the value that Philip Southcote practices could also bring to the satellite centres, describing the plan as *“the perfect opportunity”* for the school to *“demonstrate [its] strengths and share...excellent practices”*.

Integration and inclusion

There were 8 responses which covered a range of views on integration and inclusion. Two respondents were concerned that the satellite centres might introduce more disruptive pupils into a mainstream school, with one stating that *“the integration into mainstream classes will cause disruption and confusion to its existing pupils”*. One respondent mentioned that it was *“more beneficial for our special children to be integrated within the community rather than stigmatised”* by being in a special school. Conversely, five responses underlined the benefits of integration, for all pupils at the schools involved. One respondent said it would *“allow integration and understanding of others’ needs and to be more inclusive.”*

“[I] believe it is an excellent idea for the children from both schools to integrate, in order to develop supporting skills, to enjoy living in diverse society”

“I strongly believe this will help to remove any misconceptions around special educational needs, and develop a greater sense of community for our students.”

Traffic and parking

Five comments expressed concerns about traffic. One respondent said that there were already *“serious current and on-going problems already being experienced along the artery and main roads immediately situated around Chertsey High School”* and that *“to consider increasing the school numbers, and thereby the volume of traffic, at this very busy intersection is both ill conceived and ill judged.”*

One respondent was concerned about the current parking situation outside Philip Southcote School and that this would be further aggravated by the additional places:

“Philip Southcote school has a very enclosed and tight setting to where it is situated. Parking is a real nightmare at present let alone with the school expansion. The road leading to school is far too narrow to handle the traffic that will be going in.”

Public Meetings

A public consultation meeting was held virtually on Thursday 22 April 2021. A total of 18 people attended the meeting, mainly consisting of parents of children attending the school, school staff, Surrey Lead Cabinet Member and SCC staff.

Themes arising from the public meeting reflect the themes from the responses to the consultation.