

Consultation Analysis (Informal Consultation)

Proposal to permanently expand Manor Mead School and change the school's designation from Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) to Severe Learning Difficulties and Autism (SLD/ASD)



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Consultation Analysis - **Proposal to expand Manor Mead School and change designation from Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) to Severe Learning Difficulties and Autism (SLD/ASD)**

Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to expand Manor Mead School and change designation from SLD to SLD/ASD.

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 19 November 2021 to 15 January 2022.

Statutory notices are due to be published in February to March 2022. Analysis of the responses during the statutory notices will be added to this paper and will be submitted to the Lead Cabinet Member for Education and Learning as part of the Lead Cabinet Member report, for consideration in the decision to determine the statutory notices.

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 Manor Mead School, pupils and their families who may attend the school in the future, other Special Schools in Surrey, local schools and the local community.

The informal consultation was open from 19 November 2021 to 15 January 2022. 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 online was offered on 10 January 2022 but there were no requests to attend.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is in progress and has been informed by responses to the informal consultation period. The Equality Impact Assessment will continue throughout the statutory notice period and will be submitted with papers at the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning Meeting.

Key points from the consultation responses:

1. Almost all respondents (94%) **agree with the proposal** to permanently expand Manor Mead School
2. Almost all respondents (95%) **agree with the proposal** to change the designation at Manor Mead School
3. The most prevalent theme (36% of all respondents) in the comments was the **need for more specialist places** in Surrey
4. The second most prevalent theme (23% of all respondents) in the comments was the **positive impacts for local children and young people** in the proposal.

Recommendations:

The recommendations are that the proposal should continue to the next phase and that Statutory Notices are published in Feb/Mar for a final decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning at the decision meeting on 26 April 2022.

Part 1 – Informal Consultation

Quantitative Analysis

There were 61 responses to the consultation.

There were two questions in the consultation survey.

Do you agree with the proposal to permanently expand Manor Mead School?

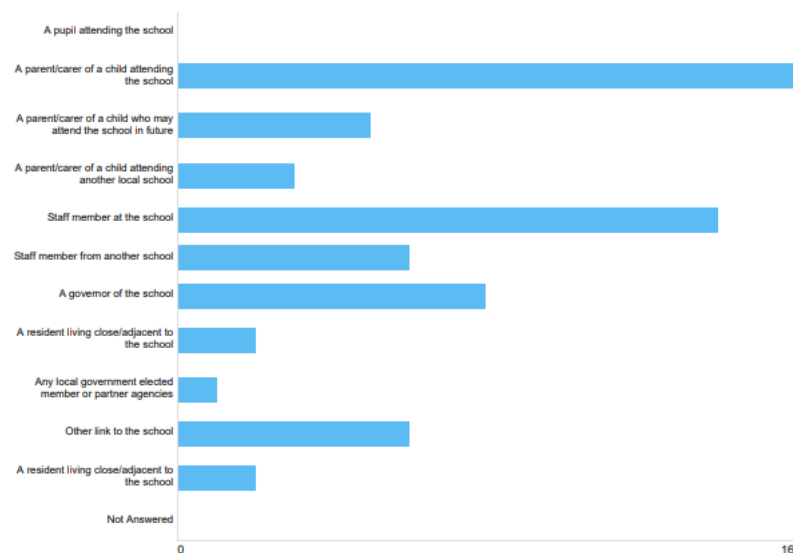
57 (94%) respondents agreed with the proposal, 1 (2%) disagreed with the proposal, 3 (5%) selected “don’t know”

Do you agree with the proposal to change the designation from SLD to SLD & ASD?

58 (95%) respondents agreed with the proposal, 2 (3%) disagreed with the proposal, 1 (2%) selected “don’t know”

The chart below shows the distribution of who responded to the consultation. The highest percentage of respondents selected “parent/carer of a child attending the school” (26%).

Graph 1: What is your relationship with the school?



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey and 32 out of 61 respondents (52%) 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 61 total responses)	Prevalence (% out of 32 comments)
Positive impacts	Positive experiences of children currently attending the school	9	15%	28%
	Positive impacts for children	14	23%	44%
	Positive impacts for local community	2	3%	6%
	Other positive comments about the school and staff	4	7%	13%
Negative Impacts	Negative impacts/concerns	4	7%	13%
Specialist places	Need more ASD places	11	18%	34%
	Need for more specialist places	22	36%	69%
Questions/Ideas	Questions/Ideas	6	10%	19%

Key themes from the consultation

There were 4 key themes that emerged from the consultation response

Positive Impacts

9 respondents (15%) commented on the **positive experiences of children currently attending the school** particularly commenting on children attending the temporary expansion at Virginia Water.

"...has settled at Manor Mead Virginia Water provision amazingly well, it remains a much needed provision for children in Surrey with ASD."

"I would be thrilled for this expansion, simply knowing that other young children are being given this chance in a placement that supports much more than just their education."

"Manor Mead, Virginia Water has provided my son and many other children a place for education and social growth."

14 respondents (23%) commented on the **positive impacts of the proposal for children and young people**

“this expansion enable the children with complex needs to access the right provision for their level of need”

“a positive move as it will provide education and consistency of more children who need it”

2 respondents (3%) commented on the **positive impacts for the local community** mentioning supporting children and young people in the local community with more specialist places and the positive value in continuing to use the site at Virginia Water for education (after Christ Church C of E Infant School closed in July 2021).

4 respondents (7%) left **other positive comments about the school and staff.**

We need to keep schools like this going in Surrey as there is a shortage, and this school and its teachers are always spoken of so highly.

“the progress made (by children) in just half a term is phenomenal. This is down to the hard work of the staff ensuring the school not only caters to the academic needs of pupils but the holistic approach to education and personal development.”

Negative Impacts or Concerns

4 (7%) respondents mentioned **negative impacts or concerns**. 2 out of the 4 of those respondents agreed with the proposal.

One respondent was a parent/carer of a child previously attending the school and although they agreed with the proposal felt that the school could be improved by “*changing*” a member of staff at the school. One respondent was concerned that an expansion could have a negative impact on finances and wanted reassurance that a new site would not negatively impact the financial stability of the school.

One respondent disagreed with the change in designation with concerns about the potential negative impact of mixing two types of primary needs in one school.

One respondent who disagreed with the proposal was unable to find full details of the proposal and expressed concern that the site at Shepperton did not have capacity to expand and the result would be “*poorer facilities for the current intake of children*”.

The negative impacts or concerns are addressed in the Question and Answer document published at www.surreysays.co.uk on the Statutory Notices Consultation page.

Need for Specialist places in Surrey

11 respondents (18%) commented specifically on the need for more ASD places.

“more spaces are desperately needed for ASD children in Surrey”.

“There is huge crisis with insufficient school spaces for children with needs arising from ASD”

22 respondents (36%) commented on the general need for more specialist places in Surrey.

“Just wish there were more schools like this in the area, going on to secondary too. They’re definitely needed.”

“There is a huge shortage of special provision in our area, and I am fully in support of this expansion.”

“There’s a massive overflow of pupils needing adequate and appropriate provision.”

Questions and/or Ideas

6 respondents (10%) had **questions or ideas**. A Question and Answer document is published at www.surreysays.co.uk on the Statutory Notices Consultation page.

1. How will the school manage the dual designation and will there be a mix of pupils with different primary needs in classes
2. Will there be additional funding for the new site and additional pupils and how will the school’s current finances be protected?
3. Will consideration be given to the increased need for therapy and health services to this school?
4. Are there any plans for additional pupils and expansion on the current site?
5. Where can I find out more information about the proposal?

Public Meetings

A public meeting online was offered on 10 January at 10am and 6pm. No attendees booked to join the meeting, so in agreement with the school the meeting was not held.