

Consultation Analysis

**Proposal to expand Philip Southcote
School on a satellite site at Epsom
and Ewell High**



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Consultation Analysis - Proposal to expand Philip Southcote School on a satellite site at Epsom and Ewell High

Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to expand Philip Southcote School on a satellite site at Epsom and Ewell High.

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 27 September to 6 November 2022.

Statutory notices are due to be published in November 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 Philip Southcote School and Epsom and Ewell High 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 27 September to 6 November 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 was held on 19 October at 6pm.

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. There were **20 responses** to the informal consultation
2. Almost all respondents (**95%**) **agree with the proposal** to expand Philip Southcote School on a satellite site at Epsom and Ewell High
3. The most prevalent theme (40% of all respondents) in the comments was the **need for more specialist places** in Surrey
4. The second most prevalent theme (25% of all respondents) in the comments was the **positive impacts for local children and young people** in the proposal.

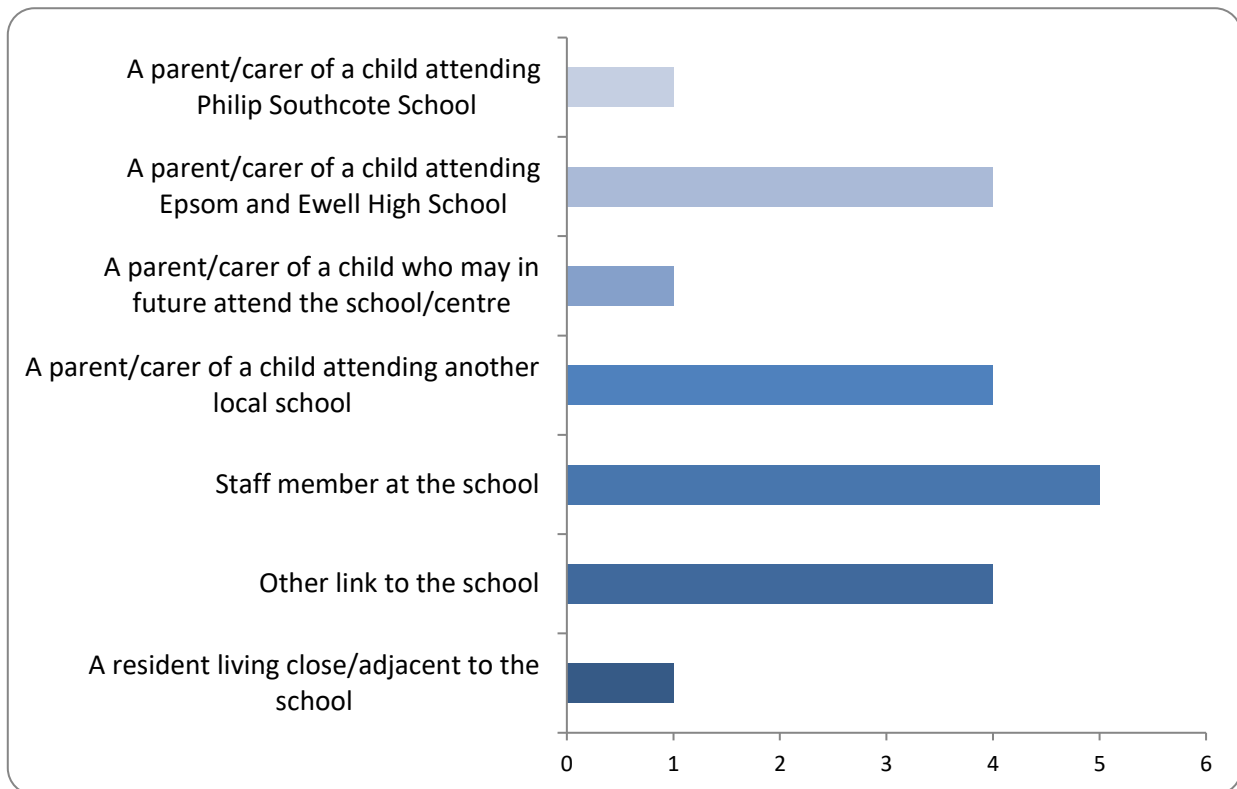
Recommendations:

The recommendations are that the proposal should continue to the next phase and that Statutory Notices are published in November for a final decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning.

Quantitative Analysis

There were 20 responses to the consultation. 95% of respondents agreed with the proposal and 5% of respondents disagreed with the proposal.

The chart below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation. The highest percentage of respondents selected parent/carer (50%), either of a child attending either school, a child who may attend the school in the future, or of a child attending another school.



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey and 11 out of 20 respondents (55%) left a comment. The comments were broadly themed and separated into tags. 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 20 total responses)	Prevalence (% out of 11 comments)
Positive impacts	Positive impacts for children and young people	5	25%	45%
	Positive comments about experienced school staff	4	20%	36%
Specialist places	Need for more specialist places	8	40%	73%

Key themes from the consultation

Positive impacts for children and young people

25% of respondents stated their belief that the expansion of Philip Southcote School on a satellite site at Epsom and Ewell High School would have a positive impact for children and young people. Many respondents mentioned the terms “benefit”, “opportunity” and “support” when expressing their positive thoughts on the proposal. One comment declared that “there are many many other children who would benefit from the facilities this would provide”.

“...the expansion of a well-reputed education setting like Philip Southcote School should be welcomed by all!”

“I wholeheartedly agree”

“This is a brilliant opportunity for children who are unable to be in mainstream”

Experienced school staff

20% of respondents agreed that the expansion of Philip Southcote School on a satellite site at Epsom and Ewell High would be positive due to the expertise of the school staff at both schools.

“The expansion of a well-reputed education setting like Philip Southcote School should be welcomed by all”

“Will be a great opportunity as the school staff are amazing already” (parent of a child at Epsom and Ewell High School)

Need for more specialist places

40% of respondents felt that the expansion is welcomed as there is a need for more specialist school places. Respondents referred to the proposal providing “much needed additional school places”.

“As the mother of a child with SEND, I know from experience that special schools are few and far between”

“Children with SEN have a right to have access to education with the support they require. Surrey is extremely lacking places for these children and this would really benefit children in the area.”

“There is a terrible lack of LAN places this side of Surrey and I think anything to address this is welcome”

“I am aware that provision for SEND pupils is incredibly stretched across this area and this seems a good opportunity to support those pupils who need it”

One responder commented that although they welcomed the expansion due to the general lack of LAN places in Surrey, they felt that a satellite site within a mainstream school is not suitable for all.

“Though this is a step in the right direction I do think that there is still a huge need for a dedicated school provision for LAN students”

Public Meetings

An online public meeting was held on 19 October 2022 at 6pm using MS Teams. There was a short presentation followed by the opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

3 people attended on 19 October 2022:

3 prospective parents attended the public meeting. Themes arising from the public meetings reflect the themes from the responses to the consultation.

Themes raised in the public meeting reflect the themes from the responses to the consultation.

A Question and Answer document is published at www.surreysays.co.uk on the Statutory Notices Consultation page and addresses the questions asked during this meeting.