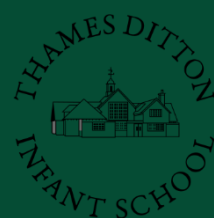


Consultation Analysis (Informal Consultation)

Proposal to Establish a Special
Educational Needs Unit at Thames
Ditton Infant School



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Proposal to establish a special educational needs unit at Thames Ditton Infant School

Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to establish a special educational needs unit at Thames Ditton Infant School.

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 12 September 2024 to 25 October 2024.

This paper is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation notice period.

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 Thames Ditton Infant School, pupils and their families who may attend the school in the future, local schools and the local community.

The informal consultation was open from 12 September 2024 to 25 October 2024. 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 by email or post.

A public meeting was scheduled to be online on 1 October 2024 however there were no registrations, so we took the decision to cancel it.

Key points from the consultation responses:

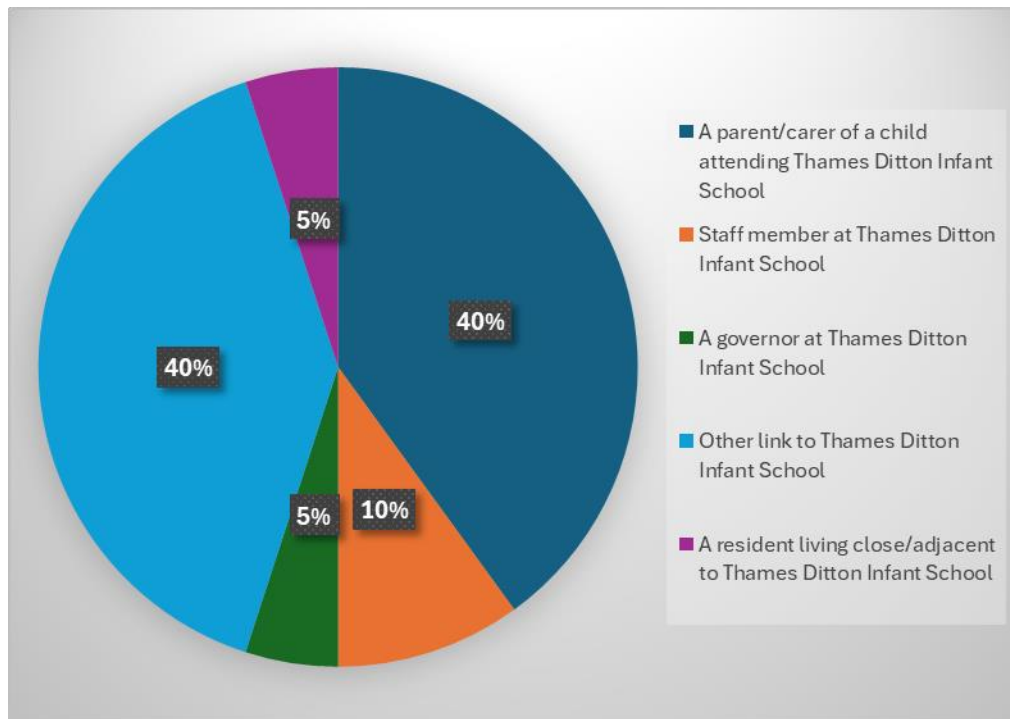
- There were **20 responses** to the informal consultation.
- In response to the question "Do you agree with the proposal to establish a special educational needs unit at Thames Ditton Infant School?", **100% agreed**.
- 40% of all responses were from parents/carers of pupils currently attending the school
- The most prevalent theme in the comments was the **need for more specialist school** places in Surrey.

Informal Consultation

Quantitative Analysis

In total, there were 20 responses to the consultation. 100% of respondents agreed with the proposal to establish a special educational needs unit at Thames Ditton Infant School.

All 20 respondents indicated their relationship with the school. The chart below shows the distribution of respondents to the consultation.



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Out of the 20 responses received, 11 (55%) comments were made on the proposal. These comments were similarly themed and therefore only separated into 2 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 responses)
Positive impacts	Need for more specialist places in Surrey	8	73%
	Will help to meet the needs of children and their families	4	36%

Key themes from the consultation

Positive impacts

Respondents identified multiple positive impacts for the addition of a special educational need's unit at Thames Ditton Infant School. Many felt the proposal would "support the pupils with additional needs in the local area", describing it as "excellent" and "much needed" and "it means more local provision for SEN students".

Need for more specialist places in Surrey

73% observed that the proposal would begin to address the need for more specialist places in Surrey. One respondent stated that "with so few places for SEND children across Surrey this will support the needs of the community and ensure children do not miss out on their education because of a lack of school to attend". Another expressed that "additional SEND provision is a welcome addition as there is a shortage across all local authorities". It was also felt that "it is an excellent project to support as it means more local provision for SEN students".

"...more units like these will go some way towards alleviating the crisis. Fully support."

"...I would clearly support the proposal as it is clear that this is very much needed."

Will help to meet the needs of children and their families

36% suggested that the proposal will help to meet the needs of children and their families. It was felt that "it is a provision that will help meet the needs of pupils with additional needs in the local area". One respondent stated that the proposal "will be an excellent and much needed resource for the community and for the families it will support". Another commented that "it is important to support SEN from early years to give children the best start".

Recommendations: what happens next?

The recommendations are that following the publication of this analysis document on [Surrey Says](#), the proposal will continue to the next phase where we will begin the statutory notice period for 4 weeks from 4 November 2024 to 2 December 2024. The publication of Notices is when the local authority formally states that it intends to implement the proposed changes. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken.

The associated documentation will be 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 by email or post.

Following the consultation periods officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning.