

Consultation Analysis

Proposal to expand and change the designation of the SEN Unit at Ashford Park Primary from a designation of MLD to a designation of ASD



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Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to expand the SEN unit (known as the Acorn Centre) at Ashford Park Primary School from 21 to 25 places and change the designation from MLD to a designation of ASD[1].

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 27 September 2022 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 Ashford Park Primary School, pupils and their families who may attend the school in the future, and the views of 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.

An online public meeting was held 13 October 2022 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. **9** people responded to the consultation
2. **100%** of respondents **agree** with the proposal
3. Respondents commented on the **positive impacts** for children and young people and the school

Recommendations:

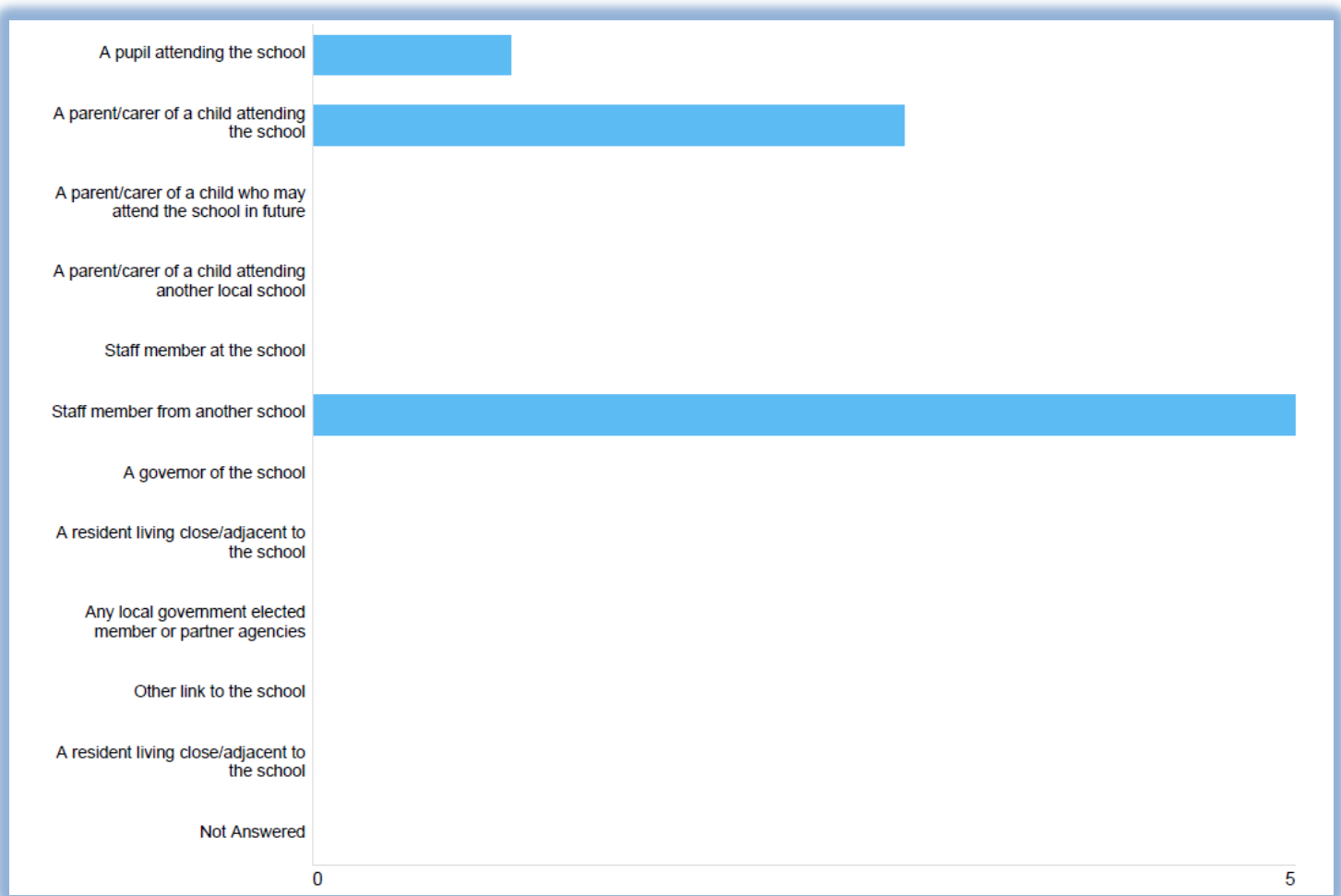
The recommendations are that the proposal should continue to the next phase and that Statutory Notices are published in November for a final decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning at the decision meeting.

Quantitative Analysis

There were 9 responses to the consultation. 100% of respondents agreed with the proposal to expand the SEN unit and change the designation from MLD to ASD.

The chart below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation. The highest percentage of respondents selected “staff member from another school” (55%).

Graph 1: What is your Relationship with the School



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Out of 9 respondents 4 (44%) left comments; 2 parents/carers of children at the school and 2 members of staff from another school.

Respondents mentioned the need for more specialist provision and specifically places for children with ASD. Respondents commented on the positive impacts for autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs, as well as positive impacts for the school.

“We are seeing more and more demand for such a setting locally to us each academic year. We need the support locally and whole heartedly back the proposal.”

1 Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the term used by the Department for Education (DfE) as the school designation that meets the needs of autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs. Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) is the DfE school designation, known locally in Surrey as Learning and Additional Needs (LAN).

“We recognise that there is a pressure on finding places for pupils with ASD in Surrey. We would want to endorse the collective and individual work schools in our area are doing to support the specific needs of children in our local community. We recognise both the need for this work and the expertise of the school to offer quality provision that meets this need.”

“I think that this would benefit my children as well as benefit other children.”

Public Meetings

An online public meeting was held on 13 October using MS Teams. There was a short presentation followed by a question and answer session for attendees.

2 people attended on 13 October 2022, both were parents of pupils at Ashford Park Primary school.

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