

# Consultation Analysis

**Proposed expansion of St Peter and  
St Paul Church of England Infant School**



# Consultation Analysis - Proposed expansion of St Peter and St Paul Church of England Infant School

## Introduction

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from Monday 17 May 2021 to Monday 5 July 2021.

Part 1 of this paper is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation notice period. The summary and key points provide a summary of the findings from the consultations.

## Consultation Summary

The informal consultation was open from Monday 17 May 2021 to Monday 5 July 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.

Two public meetings were held on 25 May 2021 and 1 July 2021.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is being completed throughout the informal consultation period and statutory notice period and responses to the consultation will contribute to this.

## Key points from the consultation responses:

- The majority of the responses were from parents of a child attending the school (36.96%). Out of these responses 35.6% agreed with the proposal, 0.43% disagreed and 0.87% did not know.

## Part 1 – Informal Consultation

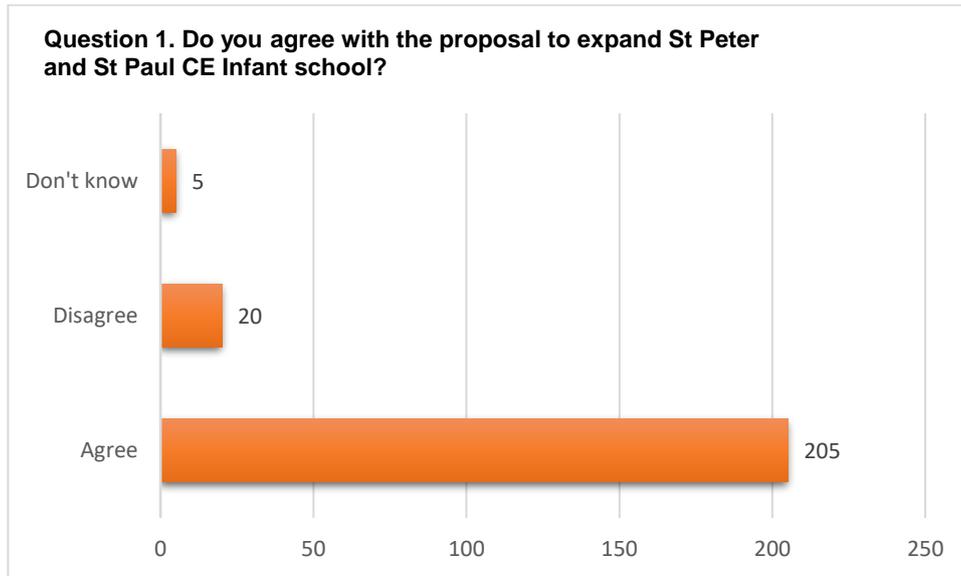
### Quantitative Analysis

There were 230 responses to the consultation. Respondents were asked "Do you agree with the proposal to expand St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School from September 2022?" and were given the option to select Agree, Disagree or Don't know.

In total out of all the responses 89.13% agreed, 8.7% disagree and 2.17% don't know.

**Figure 1** below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation.

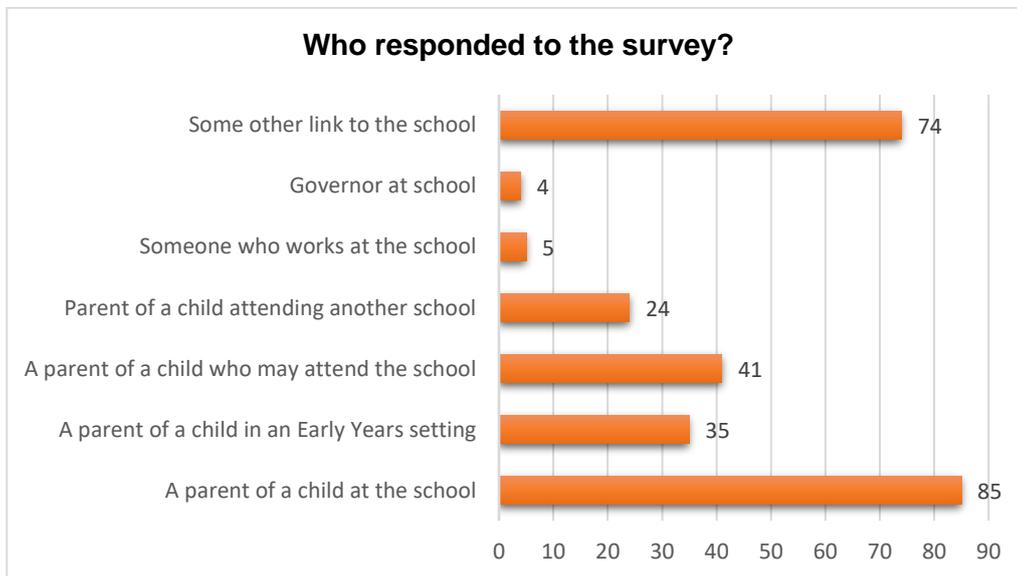
**Figure 1**



**Who responded to the survey?**

To understand who responded to the survey, respondents were asked what their relationship to the school is, as shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2**



## 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 9 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.

Key theme	Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence % out of 230 total number of responses	Prevalence % out 132 responses with comments
<b>1. Positive impacts</b>	Positive impact	38	16.5%	28.7%
	Positive impact on the community	31	13.5%	23.5%
	Positive impacts for children	42	18.2%	31.8%
	Positive praise for the school	35	15.2%	26.5%
	Ease of traffic	4	1.7%	3%
<b>2. Negative impacts</b>	Negative impact	2	0.8%	1.5%
	Safety for children	13	5.6%	9.8%
	Parking and traffic	28	12.2%	21.2%
<b>3. Ideas and questions</b>	Ideas and questions	10	4.3%	7.5%

### Key themes from the consultation

There were 3 key themes that emerged from the consultation response

#### 1. Positive impacts

##### Positive impact

28.7% of the respondents commented on the positive impact the expansion would provide if the proposal is agreed.

*“I think it would be a great idea as I will have two grandchildren attending and would be great if they would stay in the same school without the disruption of having to change schools through different years”.*

*“.....my son is in year one I’ve just moved him to the school from a different area and we would love to not have to move him again as it has been upsetting for him and myself and now that he has settled in and enjoying school again I definitely don’t want to up heave him again!.....”*

*“It will benefit the children and parents to have a school that they can stay in from the age of 4 until 11 years old. Continuity of education in the same place without worrying about where they will or can go after Key Stage 1 will be a great reassurance”.*

### **Positive impact on the community**

Respondents felt the expansion would be beneficial to the community.

*“I think it would be amazing such a wonderful school would be ideal for community.”*

*“This is a wonderful school that is providing children in our community with excellent education. The setting has significant potential to further serve the community by catering for pupils through year 6”.*

*“The area close to the school has seen a great deal of housing development, extending the current school would serve the immediate area better and give families more choice.  
..... It makes sense for the children and families to attend a school that is an appropriate size and responds to their needs”.*

*“The expansion of the school is key to the children’s well-being and is important for the local community”.*

*“It will be good to for the area/community of Chaldon and also will help parents with older siblings who move on to another school at 7 as this causes problems with traffic congestion as mothers have to use car to get to another school after collection of child at St Peter and St Paul.....”*

### **Positive impacts for children**

31.8% of the comments were about the benefits the expansion would have for children.

Respondents also highlighted the positive impact for children not having to move to another school in Year 2.

*“.....The disruption of moving the children at the age of 7 in my opinion is not good for their education! When a child has just settled starting school at the age 4/5 and happy in the school to disrupt them after a few years seem a little unsettling for them and I am sure must affect some children”.*

*“.....it will be very good for the children as they can continue their primary education in an environment they know and are happy in.....”*

*“.....Enabling this expansion would result in many siblings being able to share their school experience together”.*

*“.....I feel it would benefit the children to settle in one school throughout their primary education without having to move at a time when they have made friends, settled into the school environment and got to know the staff”.*

## Praise for the school

Some respondents used words like “excellent”, “wonderful” and “fantastic” to describe their praise for the school and staff.

*“St Peter and St Paul is a very good school, the children are very happy at the school and the education they get is excellent, to have it extended to give it further years would be very beneficial to the children and the area”.*

*“It’s a fantastic school within the community”.*

*“.....the headmistress and the staff are all wonderful and really do have the children’s interests at heart”.*

## Ease of traffic

Respondents also felt the proposed expansion would contribute to easing traffic during school drop off and pick up times.

*“.....The current situation means many parents have siblings at different schools which are geographically distant, causing increased traffic between Chaldon and Caterham Valley at peak times. Many families who would otherwise walk are reliant on cars. The proposed increase in wrap around care provision if the expansion goes ahead would also help ease parking issues by spreading out drop-off and collection times”.*

*“.....as many families have several children at St Peter & St Paul's, a further increase in pupils won't lead to a commensurate increase in traffic to and from the school. In fact, traffic around the school may be reduced, as some parents who can walk there currently take their cars because they have to pick up older children.....in Caterham. The opening of an after-school club at St Peter & St Paul has also done much to even-out traffic flow, so that it is not concentrated around two fixed points in the day”.*

## 2. Negative impacts

### Negative impact

A respondent mentioned the negative impacts the expansion would have on the village.

*“The proposal to expand the school will be detrimental to all of us who live in the village and ruin a complete gem of a village school which my own children attended”.*

The respondent also highlighted that the number of cars that currently park when children are dropped off and collected is not a true reflection due to the current COVID restrictions, because drop off and pick up times have been staggered at present.

*“The road is often partially blocked by parents at both ends of the school day and it is not a fair representation at the moment of the problem because of covid restrictions. The last year has meant that like all schools the times for the 3 school years have been staggered to keep parents apart. This wouldn't work with 7 years”.*  
*I would also like to add that the covid restrictions are meaning we aren't also having cars parked for assemblies or school events.....”*

## Safety for children

Some respondents (9.8%) expressed concerns about children's safety on the road outside the school's due its location.

*"..... The school is situated on a blind bend on a narrow B road. The road cannot cope with the current weight of the existing traffic. This proposal will not only harm the surround area, but it will create a very dangerous highways situation".*

*"..... I'm very concerned about the safety of the pre-school children, and obviously the children from the school as well. Parking outside the school is dreadful at the best of times....."*

## Parking and traffic

Residents had concerns about the increase in traffic and parking on Rook Lane during school hours. In addition, residents commented about the many children that attends school are not within walking distance and therefore creating an increase in traffic.

*"The Road the school is on, does not have adequate parking, I regularly get delayed because the road is blocked, expanding the school would be irresponsible without additional parking provided, which is impossible given the location".*

*".....With the proposal to increase the wraparound care and staggered drop off and pick up times this would merely increase the problems as it extends the times that dangerous levels of traffic are on this road. There will be a strong environmental impact caused because there are not enough local children close to the school within walking distance....."*

*".....The surrounding roads will not be able to cope with the increase in the traffic as they are narrow single track lanes. The school already attracts children from well outside of the local area as there are not enough children who live locally to fill it, therefore attracting more traffic, congestion and potential accidents....."*

## 3. Ideas and questions

A number of respondents also provided some ideas and had questions about the management of additional traffic if the proposal is agreed.

*".....I would suggest monitoring the speed limit approaching the school- perhaps with a camera - to allow for lower speeds around the entrance and parking for the school, especially on the hill between Surrey National Golf Club and the school to make it safer for all pupils and local residents. In my experience, it's not the school traffic that is dangerous - it's the fast speeds that cars travel on the roads leading to and from the school during rush hour specifically. Though the regular police presence on patrol definitely helps".*

*".....St John's is already set up for both key stage 1 and 2 and has the grounds to expand - would it not make more financial sense to do this instead"?*

*".....How can the school possibly fulfil the pastoral needs of the children, when at present the school is barely big enough for the three existing classes"?*

*“.....What highway provisions can be made to ensure the safety of local residents under your proposal”?*

*“.....Have the local emergency services been informed and consulted”?*

*“The road is very narrow when you park to drop off. Could there be a mini-bus to the school to ease congestion or a road to drive in drop off and out”?*

## **Public Meetings**

There were two virtual public meetings were held on 25 May at 9.30am and 1 July 2021 at 6pm, via Microsoft Teams. 44 people attended the first and 29 attended the second meeting. There was a short presentation followed by questions and answers at the end of the presentation. These were parent/carers, staff from the school, residents/members of the local community and other stakeholders.

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