

# Informal Consultation Analysis

Proposal to create a new SEN (Special Educational Needs) Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School



**SURREY**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Consultation Analysis - Proposal to create a new SEN (Special Educational Needs) Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School

## Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to create a new SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School.

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 15 December 2022 to 10 February 2023.

Statutory notices are due to be published in March 2023. 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 Epsom Downs Primary 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 15 December 2022 to 10 February 2023. 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 offered on 12 January 2023 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. **14 people** responded to the consultation
2. **93%** of respondents **agree** with the consultation
3. Respondents commented on the **positive** impacts for children and young people and the school. One respondent was concerned about the impact on space, existing pupils and staff.

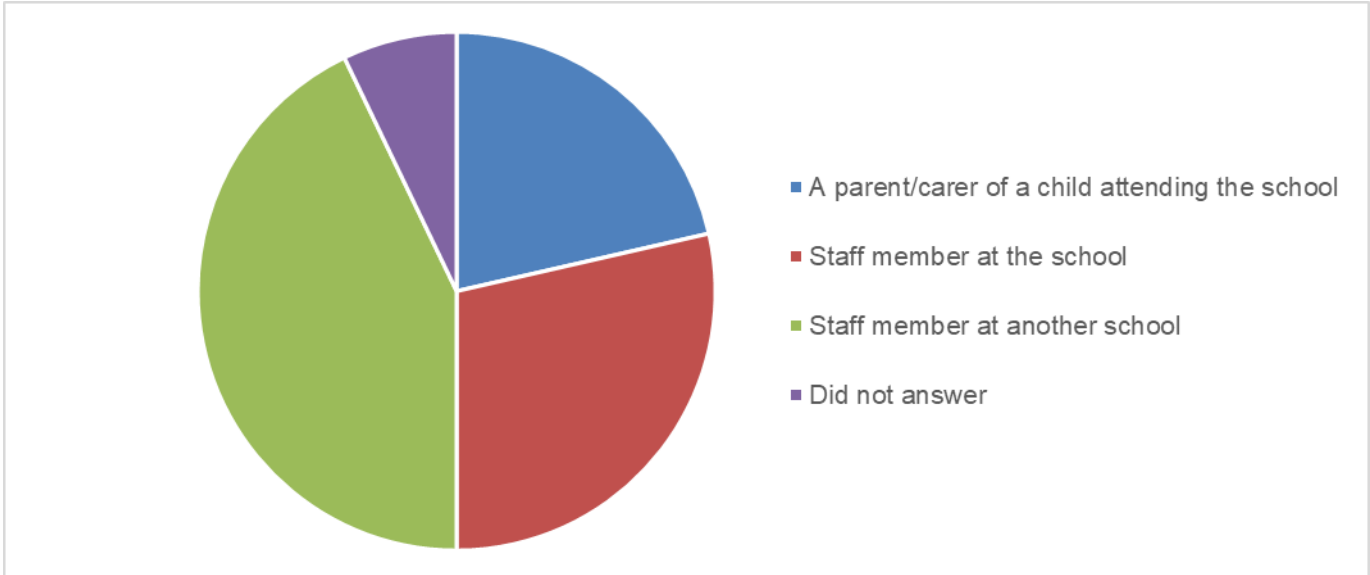
## Recommendations:

The recommendations are that the proposal should continue to the next phase and that Statutory Notices are published in March 2023 for a final decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning at the decision meeting in May 2023.

## Quantitative Analysis

There were 14 responses to the consultation. 93% of respondents agreed with the proposal to create a new SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School.

The chart below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation. The highest percentage of respondents selected “staff member at another school” (43%).



## Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Out of the 14 respondents, 12 people left a comment. Of those, 11 were in favour of the proposal with multiple comments mentioning the demand and need for additional provision like this, the expertise and leadership at Epsom Downs and the positive impact on the local community. The one negative comment focused on the potential disruption for the school in terms of space, existing pupils and staff.

## Public Meetings

An online public meeting was offered on 12 January 2022 via Microsoft Teams. There were 10 participants on the day including the Head Teacher and a representative from Surrey County Council. The proposal was explained, and the opportunity given to ask questions. No questions were asked but one attendee expressed their support.