

Consultation Analysis

**Proposal to expand Walton Leigh School
onto a satellite site at the former Hurst Park
Primary School site & change of school
designation from a designation of
SLD/PMLD to a designation of SLD/PMLD
and ASD**

Consultation Analysis - Proposal to expand Walton Leigh School onto a satellite site at the former Hurst Park Primary School site & change of school designation from a designation of SLD/PMLD to a designation of SLD/PMLD and ASD

Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to expand Walton Leigh School onto a satellite site at the former Hurst Park Primary School site & change of school designation from a designation of SLD/PMLD to a designation of SLD/PMLD and ASD.

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 13 November to 22 December 2023.

Statutory notices are due to be published in January 2024. Analysis of the responses during the statutory notices will be added to this paper and will be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong 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 Walton Leigh 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 13 November to 22 December 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.

Public meetings were offered on 4 December 2023.

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 to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning.

Key points from the consultation responses:

1. There were **14 responses** to the informal consultation
2. Almost all respondents (**93%**) **agree with the proposal** to expand Walton Leigh School onto a satellite site at the former Hurst Park Primary School site & change of school designation from a designation of SLD/PMLD to a designation of SLD/PMLD and ASD
3. The most prevalent theme in the comments (21% of all respondents and 50% of those who left a comment) was the **need for more specialist places** in Surrey

Recommendations:

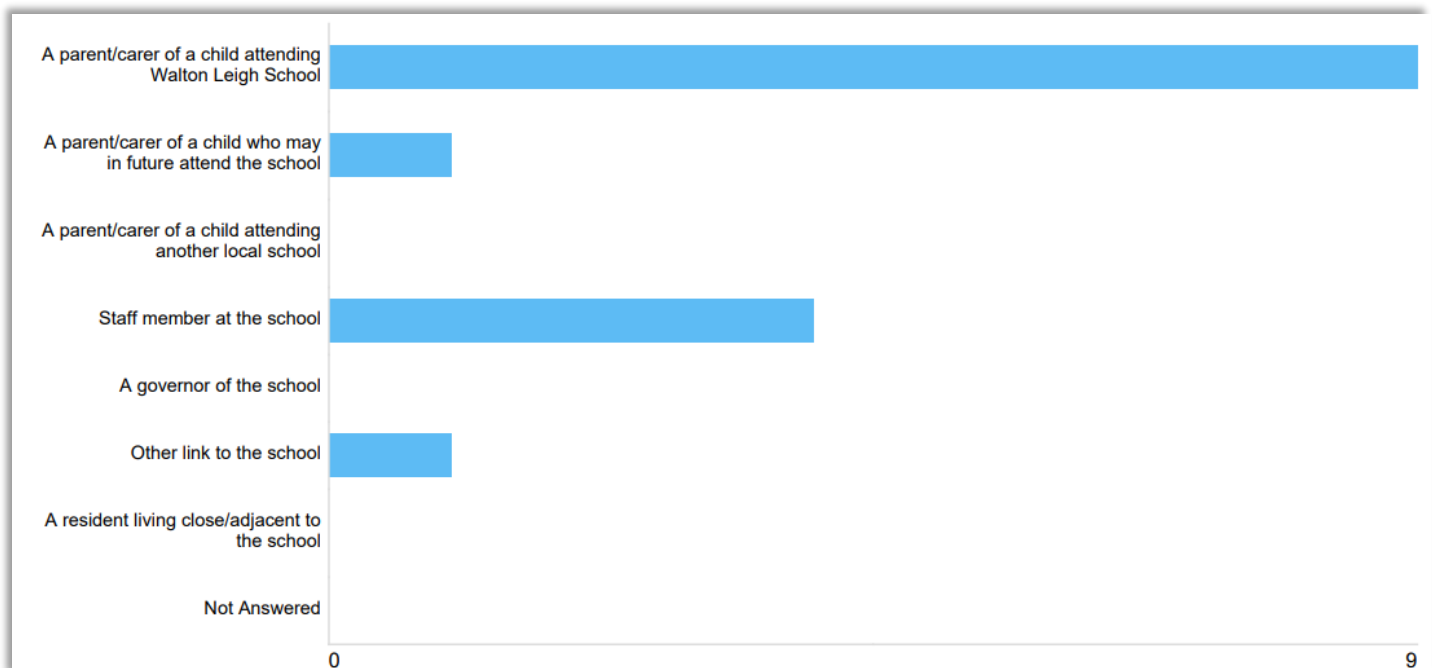
The recommendations are that the proposal should continue to the next phase and that Statutory Notices are published for a final decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning at the decision meeting on 26 March 2024.

Part 1 – Informal Consultation

Quantitative Analysis

There were 14 responses to the consultation. 93% of respondents agreed with the proposal and 7% 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 (64%), either of a child attending the school or a child who may attend the school in the future.



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey and 6 out of 14 respondents (42%) left a comment.

Respondents commented on the need for more specialist places in Surrey, as well as positive impacts of the school expanding onto a satellite site:

“More education provision for children with ASD is desperately needed”

“We support the proposal due to the increasing need for pupils with ASD”

“100% agree this is a positive move forward for the school”

“Walton Leigh is a good School but lacks outside space”

One responder expressed concern about additional travel times for pupils to the new satellite site. One responder did not agree to the expansion as they had concerns about:

Insufficient therapist resource and equipment for existing children. They felt any investment should go to the Walton site which is old and dated. *“There are no breakfast or afterschool clubs suitable they need to provide more services to the parents and children at the existing school instead of stretching everything to breaking point.”*

It should be noted that the existing Queens Road site is being re-furbished.

Public Meetings

Public meetings were offered on 4 December 2023 at 11am in-person at Cornerstone the Church, 38 Station Avenue, Walton on Thames and at 5.30pm using Microsoft Teams. There were no participants on the day, therefore the meetings did not take place. No enquiries were made to request another date/time.

Questions and Answers

There have been no questions received during the informal consultation period.