

# Consultation Analysis

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND WOODFIELD SCHOOL, MERSTHAM



Woodfield  
SECONDARY SCHOOL  
Opening Doors to Success



SURREY  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Consultation Analysis – Proposal to expand Woodfield School

## Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to expand Woodfield School.

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 4 January 2021 to 12 February 2021. After reviewing initial responses Statutory notices were published from 22 February to 22 March.

Part 1 of this paper is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation notice period and Part 2 is an analysis of the responses during the Statutory Notices. This paper will be submitted to the Lead Cabinet Member for All Age Learning as part of the Lead Cabinet Member report, for consideration in the decision to determine the statutory notices on 8 June 2021.

## Consultation Summary

The informal consultation was open from 4 January to 12 February. 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 held on Tuesday 26 January 2021

The Statutory Notices were published from 22 February to 22 March. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. The notices were also published in the local paper on 26 March. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed throughout the informal consultation period and statutory notices and has been informed by the responses to the consultations.

## Key points from the responses to the informal consultation:

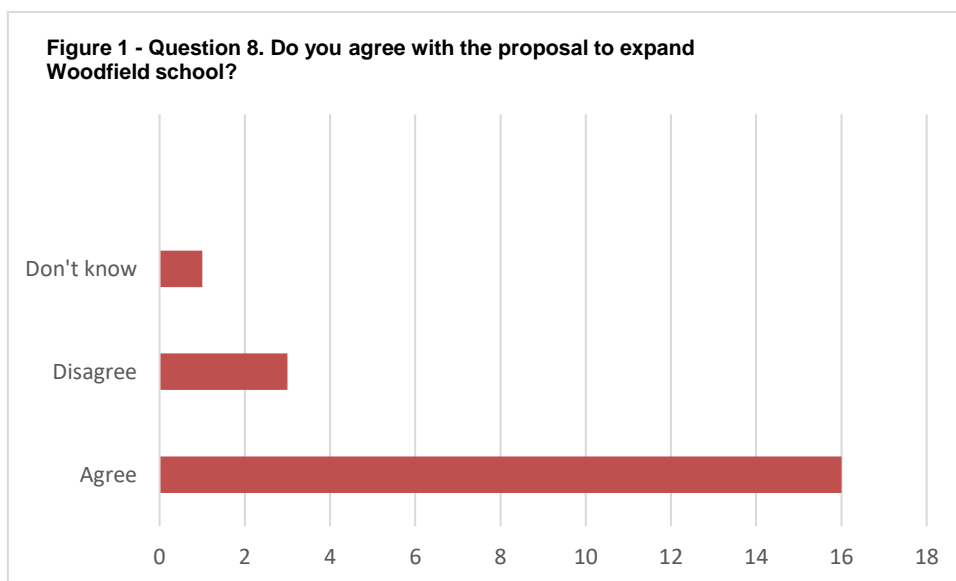
- Over a quarter of the responses were from parents of a child at the school (29%)
- 38% of responses were from local residents. 24% agreed with the proposal to expand the school and 14% disagreed.
- Themes from the responses included positive impacts, the need for additional specialist places, negative impacts on traffic and transport.

## Part 1 – Informal Consultation

### Quantitative Analysis

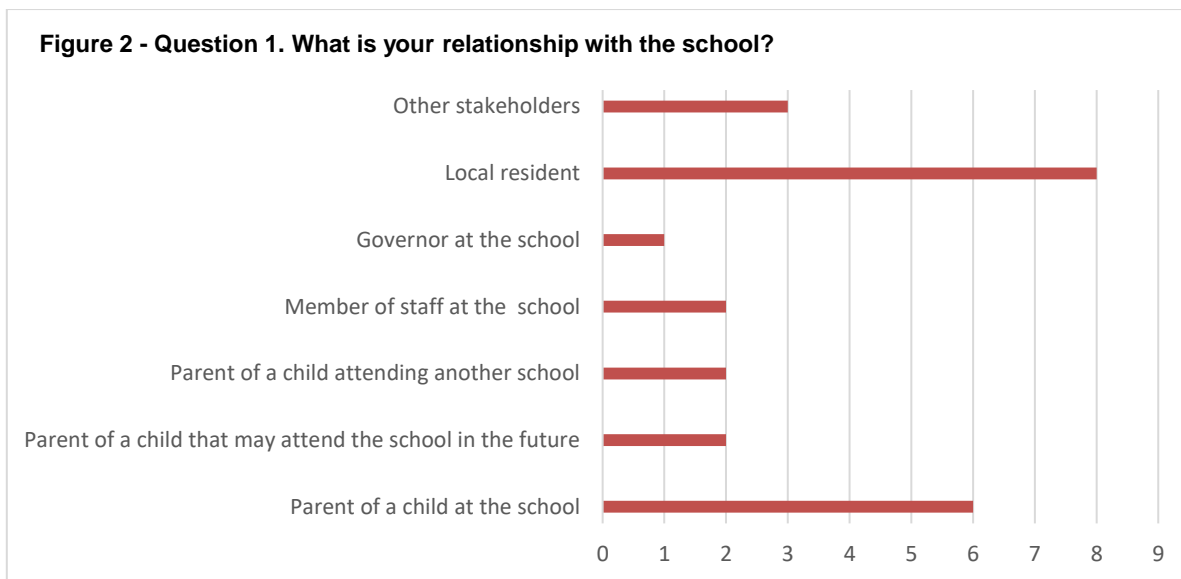
There were 20 responses to the consultation. Respondents were asked “Do you agree with the proposal to expand Woodfield school?” and were given the option to select Agree, Disagree or Don’t know. 80% agreed with the proposal, 15% disagreed and 5% did not know.

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



### 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.



## 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 4 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 the 16 responses with comments)	Prevalence (% out of total 20 responses)
<b>Positive impacts</b>	Positive impacts	5	24%	25%
	Meeting the demand for specialist school places.	6	28%	30%
<b>Negative impacts</b>	Traffic flow and parking	4	19%	20%

### Key themes from the consultation

There were 2 key themes that emerged from the consultation response.

#### Positive impacts

Some respondents mentioned the positive impacts of the proposal to expand the school.

*“The proposals are essentially making the existing provision permanent which makes sense for the recruitment of teachers and long-term planning of placements at SCC”.*

Another respondent agreed and said, *“I agree wholeheartedly with the plans to extend Woodfield to offer much needed places for Surrey children”.*

#### Meeting the demand for specialist school places

6 respondents felt the proposal to expand would meet the demand for specialist places. Some of the responses were from current or future parents and parents of children attending another school, local residents and another stakeholder agreed the expansion *“will provide more opportunities for students with relevant needs”*.

*“The increased capacity will provide more opportunities for students with relevant needs to require the support they need in a specialist setting”*.

One respondent recognises the difficulties some children with an additional need experience if their *“learning needs”* are not met within a mainstream setting.

*“It’s becoming harder and hard for kids in mainstream schools who do not have the ability to keep up with their peers. This causing a knock-on effect to their own mental health and behaviour in lesson, which impacts the other pupils and teachers. Creates more time/money spent on them when it’s their learning needs that aren’t being met!”*

## **Negative impacts**

The majority of the comments tagged as negative impact were concerns around traffic flow and parking.

A local resident had concerns about the number of *“cars and people in one road”*.

*“With another school in the area I feel too many cars and people in one road it is just madness at pick up times now”*.

Other local residents expressed that during drop off and pick up times parents had a tendency to *“block”* their *“drives”*.

*“Five of the six houses in my street have invested in off-street parking, but school parents repeatedly block our drives and sit outside with their engines running to keep themselves warm until their children can be allowed into school”*.

It was also recommended by the resident that parents *“should be allowed to drive into the school grounds”*.

*“They should instead be allowed to drive into the school grounds, deliver their child safely into the care of the teachers, and depart from there without blocking our road, polluting and being inconsiderate”*.

## **Public Meetings**

A public meeting was held on 26 January 2021 at 6pm. There was a short presentation followed by 45 minutes for attendees to ask questions.

**11 people attended on the 26<sup>th</sup> January:**

These were parent/carers, staff at Woodfield 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.

## **Part 2 – Statutory Notices**

Key points from the responses to the statutory notices:

- 100% of respondents agreed with the proposal

### **Quantitative Analysis**

There were 5 responses to the consultation. 100% of respondents agreed with the proposal. The respondents were parents of children at the school and local residents.

### **Qualitative Analysis**

The 5 responses to the statutory notices agreed with the proposal (100%). There were 3 comments made to the statutory notices.

One respondent said, *“I think this is an excellent idea so that there are more places available in the future for primary aged children currently in local specialist provisions”*.

Despite agreeing with the proposal one respondent expressed their concern about the *“academic outcomes for pupils”* and the possibility of a *“drop in teaching provision”*.

*“My fear is a drop in teaching provision if class size increases. Schools need to train teachers more such that they are better able to adapt their teaching to the needs of their pupils e.g. specialist expertise for teaching children with Down's Syndrome which is not the case currently.*

Another acknowledged the positive benefit of *“more spaces”*.

*“More spaces would be fantastic for the pupils and staff. This means a new DT room with more light, new sensory room and group room and larger cookery room”*.