

Summary of Written Responses

Kent County Council (KCC) is proposing to make prescribed alterations to Meadowfield (Foundation Special) School, Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne ME10 4NL to:

- permanently increase the designated number of the school from 209 to 348 for 1 September 2019
- alter the lower age range at Meadowfield School to formally include nursery provision for 1 September 2019.

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: approximately 500
Responses received: **59**

	Support	Undecided/ Not stated	Against	Total
Parents/Carers	36	5	0	41
Pupils	0	0	0	0
Members of Staff	8	1	2	11
Other Interested Parties	8	0	0	8
Total	52	6	2	60

In support of the proposals**Parents/Carers**

- Something that is very much needed. A lot of children are being turned away and having to go out of town.
- Development and construction of new facilities can only mean increased opportunities for students to learn and develop new skills from its use. As a parent I couldn't ask or hope for more.
- Great to hear more places are being created as there are so many children that need this extra help to give them a happy and positive school experience.
- I personally think it's a great idea as there are more children out there with a disability that need the help and support.
- Excellent news – about time!
- Most happy to go ahead with the plans – it will help the school.
- More parking would also be great.
- It will be very good for people and Sittingbourne.
- We fully support the expansion of the school. We do, however, ask that a Post 6th form provision is considered for the future, for natural progression of the increased pupil numbers.
- There is such a shortage of special school places that I think the growth of Meadowfield will benefit so many. I know it will make the school bigger but the way the different sections of the school (eg primary, secondary, 6th form) are set up it doesn't become daunting for the children.

Members of Staff

- As the school increases in size and number of pupils we must be aware to maintain the personal level and individual elements we pride in ourselves currently. Can we become too big? Obviously toilets, staff rooms, safe spaces (pods), lunch facilities, staffing need to be increased alongside.

- A significant increase in staff would be necessary to ensure pupil safety in such a large school. Additional staffing rooms such as toilets will be needed as well as safe spaces and therapy rooms.

Other Interested Parties

Headteachers/SENCOs of local primary schools

- I am delighted that the number of places is being increased. This, in my opinion, reflects the local demographics and will ensure that children with profound and complex needs are provided with the right environment in which to learn and reach their full potential.
- This is an excellent plan. There is a huge need for this provision and Meadowfield has the expertise and the land in order to meet this need. I wholeheartedly support the proposal.
- Local primary schools need more places for some children in mainstream school who would be better catered for in a specialist provision.

Gordon Henderson, Member of Parliament for Sittingbourne and Sheppey

Fully supports the proposals.

I believe the planned expansion will help address an increasing demand for local places within my constituency for children with profound, severe and complex needs including Autism.

Councillor Mike Whiting, Member serving Swale West

Fully supports the proposals.

I believe the planned expansion will help address an increasing demand for local places within my division and more generally across Swale for children with profound, severe and complex needs including autism.

Parish/Town Councils

- Both Bobbing and Borden Parish Councils unanimously support the proposed changes.
- Faversham Town Council supports the proposal.

Undecided/did not indicate whether in support or against

Staff

- Staffing? Outside areas, toilets (staff and pupils) staff work/leisure areas, extended learning pods, parking, hygiene areas, dining areas. We are losing so much outside play areas already, therapy rooms, nursing team, meeting rooms.

Against the proposals

Staff

- Very concerned about maintaining our specialised and personalised approaches to teaching/learning to larger classes/school. Facilities inadequate to cope with such a large number, ie classroom sizes, toilet facilities, playground areas, dining room. Inadequate facilities to support increase in staff: toilets, study areas, staff rooms. How many additional staff to support such an increase?
- I am concerned about this proposal because I think pupils and students are losing play space, having a reduction in the quality in terms of their environment (car park and smaller classrooms), being exposed to higher levels of pollution and not having the opportunities to move through the school as there is not enough space. How much do you think it is possible to increase the size of an outstanding school before cracks begin to show and the quality of teaching and learning becomes reduced?