

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE JOHN WESLEY SCHOOL FROM 210 PLACES TO 420 PLACES

Summary of Written Responses

Consultation documents distributed 500
Responses received: 204

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
• Parents of pupil at The John Wesley School	6	5		11
• Members of staff at The John Wesley School	14			14
• Governors of The John Wesley School				
• Pupil of The John Wesley School	135	43		178
• Other interested party	1			1
TOTALS	156	48		204

In support of the proposal:

- This is one of the greatest schools in Ashford. All my children have been here. The building is so welcoming and the staff are welcoming too.
- I am in favour of the expansion but am concerned about parking issues and the impact this could cause for local residents.
- Expanding this school will allow other families in the area to receive the support and high education that our children currently have.
- I am in favour of the proposal but am concerned about time spent in temporary accommodation and would like to see permanent classrooms as soon as possible.
- I think the expansion is needed as parents on the local Washford Farm estate could not get in even though it's their local school.
- It should have been built as a 2fe school from the start.

Against the proposal:

- Smaller schools seem to get the best out of pupils. If this school were to expand it will lose its identity as a church school.
- I moved my child from a 2fe school as I wanted her to attend a small school. Expanding the school will mean all local schools are large with less choice for parents.
- Temporary classrooms will not be good for children
- Lack of parking spaces available – the road is chaotic and dangerous now.
- Pupils have already been offered places for September 2010 even before this consultation has finished.
- The disruption during building works and then to children's education afterwards.

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Summary of pupil responses

The pupils were asked if they would like the school to get bigger, ie, more rooms, computers, playground areas, equipment etc. Yes or No responses were as follows:

	Yr R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total
Yes	31	17	27	26	13	9	12	135
No	0	13	3	2	10	5	10	43
Total	31	30	30	28	23	14	22	178

The pupils were asked **“If you said Yes, what are your reasons for wanting the school to get bigger?”**

- So we have more things to play with
- It's better to play with more children
- There would be more space indoors for us to work
- More teachers and helpers
- More outside space
- We will have an indoor playground
- More children could come and new friends could be made
- Would like it to be part secondary so we wouldn't have to leave the school
- More people to make sports teams
- It may be fun in a mobile
- More people to share ideas with
- Prepares you for secondary school
- More clubs and facilities for them

And **“If you said No, what are the reasons for wanting the school to stay as it is?”**

- There aren't enough parking spaces now
- The playground will be crowded
- When they are building we won't be able to go to school
- I don't like the school to get high
- There will be more traffic around the school and more crashes
- We are comfy as we are
- Don't want it to change
- Don't want it bigger
- Don't want to be in a mobile because: it may be cold, cramped or squashed and too far to walk to main school, the toilets might not be nice, the field will be smaller
- Teachers may leave
- It would cost a lot of money
- May get split up from our friends
- More fun in a small class

- Could be overcrowded and hot
- Different teachers
- Too busy – there may be more arguments which may waste learning time
- School has already grown enough in a short time
- Scary for new people

The pupils were also asked if they had **any other comments:**

- The children were excited at change but unsure of the length of time for the change or time that they or others would have to be in outside classrooms.
- Could save the money and use it for making the school better now.
- Hard to get used to if it happens all at once

The pupils were also asked **what they would like to be built as part of the extension:**

- A swimming pool
- More play equipment and toys
- On sports day a place for parents to sit out of the sun
- Sports room, bigger medical room, table tennis, science lab, art room, coffee house for teachers, drama stadium, stage
- Bigger cloakrooms and hall

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Summary of points raised during the Public Meeting held on 19 January 2010 at The John Wesley School

Issue or Comment	Response
How much will it cost and where will the money come from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of the expansion would, typically, be around £2m. The money would come from Developer Contributions, Basic Need funding etc.
Would the money come before the work starts or is the school expected to raise money in advance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the expansion by September 2010 we will put temporary accommodation on site. • Basic Need bid will be submitted to Central Government. • Will need to go through design, planning, structure process.
Concerned re safety of children during the building works. Access roads to the school are already limited. How will you deal with that?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be separate access for construction traffic. Where children need to cross the road the construction traffic will stop. Area of construction will be segregated. Children's safety comes first. For example, at the beginning and end of the day there will be no construction traffic to ensure children's safety. • Noisy construction will be timetabled to cause least disruption during the day.
Will you access the site from the other end of the field?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will look to segregate the traffic. Around the top of the building up towards the Singleton Environment Centre by the netball courts, not at the front where the school is. • This will require the owners of Singleton Environment Centre allowing us access.
Re the expansion over 7 years: Will you build over 7 years or will you build first and then expand? If you do build over 7 years how will it affect the children? How will they access the classrooms?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial phase: temporary accommodation in the summer. • Design period: 18-24 months subject to receiving funding. Permanent expansion will be one of two ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phased: 3-4 classrooms, then add 3-4 classrooms. Personally not happy with that, but it will be based on funding available for the project at the time. 2. 7 classrooms: Cheaper. Less disruptive. If significant pressures over housing and children coming in we may have to change the strategy. Would hope to build 7 classrooms in one go. • Growing from Year R only therefore local children are more likely to attend. • Access to classrooms: Confident in the leadership team here who will work out safe access routes. There may be periods of time when the routes will need to change.
Parking: A lot of people drive here. It's a church school so some parents come from outside of the community. Congested and bad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church School nature: Relatively few children come in on church places. The school mainly provides for local children. Singleton is developing which is why

<p>in the morning already.</p>	<p>we need to expand this school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will work with parents re walking buses, park and stride etc. • There will be sufficient on-site parking. • Recognise that in expanding schools there are more cars, more parking, more traffic etc. The school was designed to cope with traffic for 420 pupils.
<p>I wanted my son to attend a small school and transferred him from a 2fe school to come here. He has made very good progress here. As this school grows I am concerned that the students will get lost in the system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The caring ethos will continue. The staff are brilliant and will ensure that every child is catered for using personalised learning etc.
<p>Re the growing birth rate: A few years ago a number of schools closed or amalgamated. If that happens again will John Wesley close or amalgamate?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC's Primary Strategy – the right provision in the right place at the right time. The decision for Ashford was to ensure that provision is in schools that parents want, not where they don't go. This involved closing or amalgamating schools in certain areas of the town – ie south Ashford. • There has been steady growth in Ashford since 2005 and significant growth since 2007. • If the birth rate continues to grow we would expect to develop more provision rather than take it out.
<p>Re outside play area: KS1 play area is sufficient for current children. Would the play area be sufficient after the expansion? Would the school receive funding for the play area to be enlarged?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are unlikely to receive funding beforehand unless we put mobile on that space. • The school was built as a hybrid school so has hall, play areas etc large enough for 2fe. If we discover that the play area is under-sized we would need to expand it.
<p>Will you wait for the building to be complete before you expand the outside play area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to go through the planning processes. If we do need to expand the outside play area then it is unlikely that planning will not be given.
<p>There is a planning application for the field opposite the school – 40 houses plus a block of flats. That could produce a high number of children for the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LA has a formula for calculating the Pupil Product Ratio generated by new housing. 40 houses are likely to produce 15 children across all age groups.
<p>What if we don't get planning permission?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we cannot get planning permission we can go back through the processes to be relieved of our statutory duty. We already have outline planning consent for the school to be 2fe but we need to put the detail of design through planning. • We should hear about planning consent for temporary accommodation by June to admit pupils in September. We can rely on the Admissions Code to admit more pupils in exceptional circumstances.
<p>You say the hall is big enough for 2fe but this school prides itself on including families and the hall is getting pretty cramped. Will there be split lunch, worship etc – KS1 and KS2 separately?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the number on roll increases the school will change the way they operate but will engage parents in those decisions. • The hall was built to national guidelines for 420 pupils plus staff. Not for parents, grandparents etc.
<p>I know that the staff will do their best to treat the children as individuals because the staff are amazing, but the school may change in character. A lot of parents and children coming into school don't share what the school is trying to promote.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleased to hear that parents appreciate the Christian ethos. We will do our utmost to maintain that. Thank you for your words of encouragement. • The school ethos is the key to what makes this a successful school.

