

APPENDIX A

Summary of Public Consultation Responses

Proposal to

- expand and relocate St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Windmill Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4UU, from 140 places to 210 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 20 to 30 Year R places from September 2019.

This summary includes information from all the responses received during the 4 weeks consultation period that ended Tuesday 20 March 2018 (midnight).

There were approximately 200 consultation documents (hard copies) distributed via the school to parents, members of staff and governors. The consultation was emailed to all key stakeholders and was available on the KCC and school websites.

There were 84 responses received via emails, digital and paper response forms.

Please note that some respondents supplied no comments and just indicated whether that they agreed or disagreed with the proposal, whereas others supplied one or more comments. It should also be noted that some respondents ticked 'yes' to support the expansion, but in their comments disagreed with the structure of school classes (with mixed years) or the scale of the expansion (requesting 2FE). The majority of those who ticked 'no' to the expansion indicated in their comments that they were actually in favour of the expansion, but disagreed with the school structure or the scale of the expansion.

	Support	Against	Undecided	Blank	Total
Parents/carers	33	19	4	0	56
Governors	1	3	0	1	5
Members of staff	5	2	2	0	9
Other Interested parties	6	5	0	3	14
Total	45	29	6	4	84

Note: The numbers in brackets shown below represent the occurrence of broadly aligned comments, not the number of respondents.

Comments given by respondents who indicated 'support' for the expansion:

- Agree with expansion, but do not want (or are concerned about) the continuation of split classes and want all years to be immediately expanded to 1 FE in separate classes (24)
- School should be built as 2 FE from the start (8)
- Travel/parking congestion concerns with requests for additional school transport and highways alterations (3).
- Expansion will provide improved facilities that enhance the learning environment (2)
- Concern that data underestimates pupil demand/is flawed and does not account for local demand/tactical school choices from parents and potential demand from developments such as Benhall Mill Road (1).

- In favour of St Peter's expansion as local schools are oversubscribed, with parents not getting preferred schools (1)
- The existing school buildings [should be] retained for educational purposes for local families – such as a nursery or a Free School (1).
- With the capacity for 7 classes, KCC should provide extra revenue funding for 2 extra teachers (1).
- Would like to see a greater contribution above the proposed £6000 per classroom for furniture and equipment, to help close the funding gap (1)

Comments given by respondents who indicated they were 'against' the expansion:

- Do not want (or are concerned about) the continuation of split classes and want all years to be immediately expanded to 1 FE in separate classes (27)
- Concern that data underestimates pupil demand/is flawed and does not account for local demand/tactical school choices from parents and potential demand from developments such as Benhall Mill Road (8).
- School should be built as 2 FE from the start (5)
- Travel/parking congestion concerns with requests for additional school transport and highways alterations (1).
- Concerned that the expansion will lower the quality of the education and may, with the new location, prioritise children in different catchment areas, including those from East Sussex (1).

Comments for other respondents (undecided or blank decision):

- Do not want (or are concerned about) the continuation of split classes and want all years to be immediately expanded to 1 FE in separate classes (5)
- School should be built as 2 FE from the start (3)
- Concern that data underestimates pupil demand/is flawed and does not account for local demand/tactical school choices from parents and potential demand from developments such as Benhall Mill Road (1).

Consultation event

In addition, a public drop-in event was held on 7 March 2018, 6.30 pm to 8.30pm. It was advertised on the KCC and school websites and in the consultation documents. The event had 33 attendees: 20 parents, 6 governors, 6 prospective parents and 1 local resident. The attendees were generally in favour of the expansion and relocation to the new site. The discussion during the event mainly covered the following:

- Explanation of the scheme, timetable and type of build.
- The justification for the expansion, with focus particularly on 1 FE versus 2 FE.
- Parents expressing the view that the demand locally was masked by parents not putting St Peter's as a school preference because it was perceived as a 'wasted preference'.
- Parents and Governors asking for clarification on the future school class format, with emphasis on split years.
- Exploring the facilities on the new site and the access to the school.
- The impact of the Berkeley Homes and other local developments on school admissions.