



CONSULTATION ANALYSIS

**Proposed
expansion of
The Abbey School
September 2021**



Introduction

This document is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation period for the proposal to expand The Abbey School.

The admissions consultation took place over a 4-week period from Monday 7th June to Friday 2nd July.

The following stakeholders were consulted:

- parents/carers,
- governors,
- local schools,
- all Surrey special schools,
- local MPs and councillors,
- partner agencies,
- other Local Authorities
- all staff.

Stakeholders were provided with comprehensive details about the planned expansion that outlined the rationale and proposed changes to the school. They were able to comment on the consultation in one of 3 ways:

- 1) Via the school website
- 2) Completing and returning a feedback form by post
- 3) Completing and returning a feedback form by email.

Staff also had opportunities to attend drop in sessions with the Head teacher where they could ask further questions.

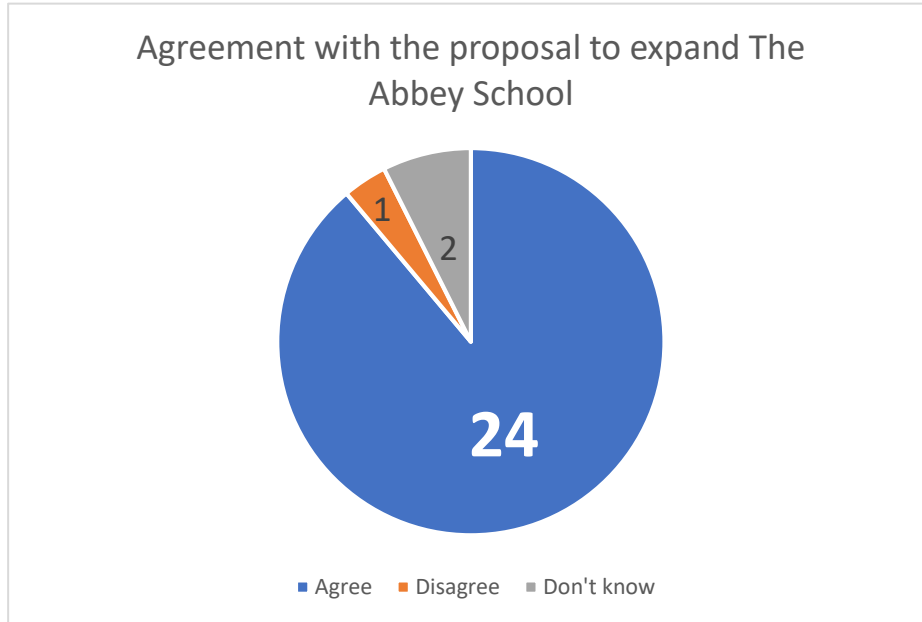
In line with the Surrey Planning Authority guidance, a further capital planning consultation has taken place over a two-week period beginning Monday 14th June to Friday 28th June. This consultation included local residents incorporating a combination of a letter drop, independent website and telephone link.

Key points from the admissions consultation responses:

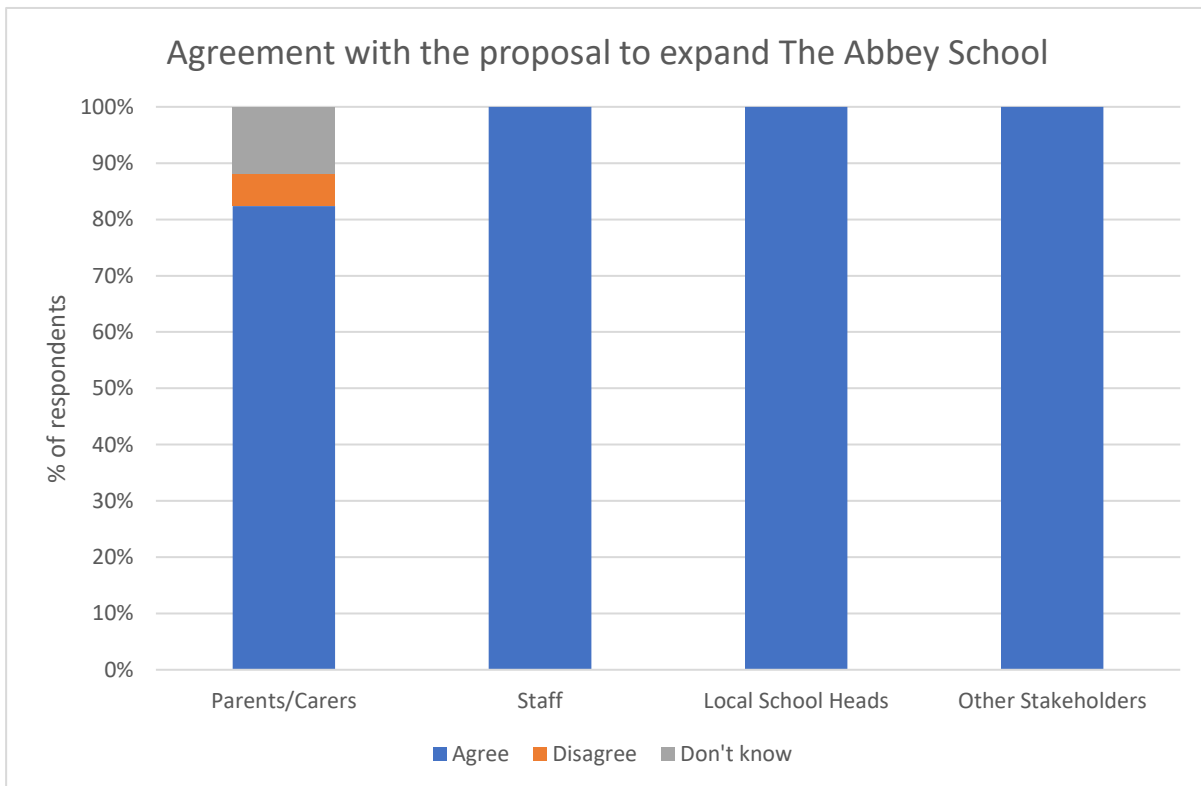
- 1. The majority of respondents (89%) agreed with the proposal**
- 2. Parental engagement was very high. Over three-fifths participating in the consultation were parents/carers of students at the school**
- 3. A single parent had reservations about the impact of the expansion and 2 were reserving judgement.**
- 4. All other stakeholders who responded, agreed with the proposal**
- 5. Spontaneously, over half of respondents (52%) recognised the need for more SEND school places locally and/or advocated extending what The Abbey has to offer to more students.**

Analysis:

Twenty-seven responses were analysed. Number in favour of the change = 24 (89%)
Number of objections: 1. Number that said they don't know: 2.



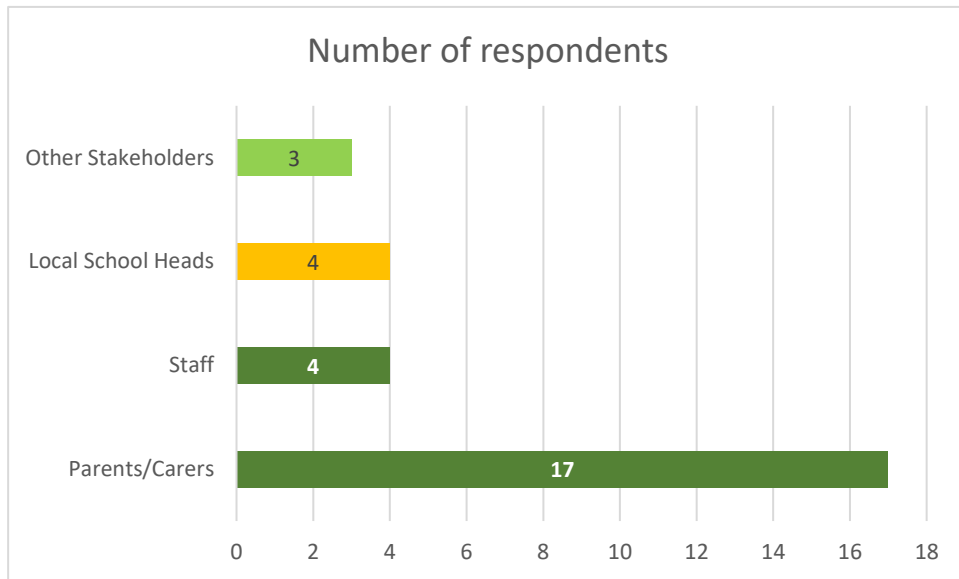
82% of parents and carers who responded, agreed with the proposal, 2 said they didn't know and a sole respondent disagreed with the proposal. Queries and reservations expressed were addressed in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document posted on the school website to which the respondents were directed.



Other stakeholders include: Governor of the school, local SCC councillor, parent of ex-student

Respondents

The vast majority of respondents (17 out of 27 or 63%) were parents/carers of students at the school representing 16% of the families with children at the school.



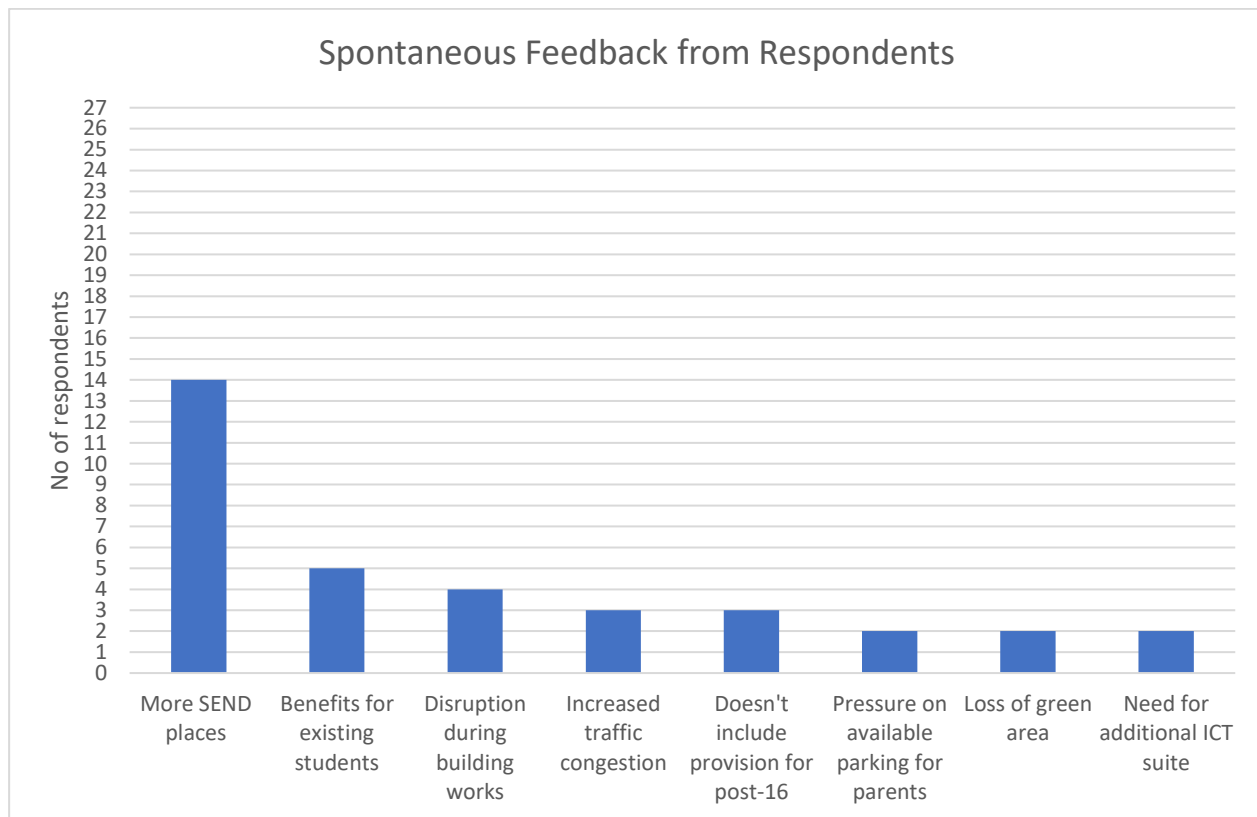
One respondent was a parent governor at the school so fell into 2 classifications

Feedback

Not all respondents elaborated on their views, they were asked to comment unprompted rather than to rate or express their views about a list of prompted considerations.

Nevertheless, just over half (52%) spontaneously stated that they recognise the need for more SEND places locally and/or championed the idea of extending what The Abbey has to offer to more students. Despite the preponderance of existing parents/carers in the sample, fewer than 1 in 5 of all respondents were primarily motivated by the benefits for existing students.

Further details are provided in the graph overleaf.



Although mentioned by no more than a handful of respondents in each case, the key issues raised are addressed below. The 2 respondents advocating an additional ICT suite were both members of staff at the school.

Key Issues Raised

Disruption caused by building work

Any disruption caused by building work will be carefully planned and considered by the school, Trust and project leads/contractors. Very disruptive work will take place in school holidays or outside of school hours as much as possible. The site will be completely secure and regularly checked for safety by both school and project managers. All students will be educated and made aware about the work that is taking place by school staff because of their SEND - this will reduce and alleviate anxieties when noise levels are louder or there is a lot of movement.

Lack of car parking space for parents

There will be a greater range of after school clubs for students to attend so parents who want to be able to park at school to collect their child will be able to arrive later in the day and park on site. Parents of children with physical needs will still be able to park on site - disabled parking bays will be available.

Loss of green areas in school /open space.

The school is only losing one very small green area which is being replaced by a playground so will still be an outside open space for students to play in and do their PE lessons in. The school already has a lot of green areas and the vast majority are staying as they are including the large field. The small part of the sensory garden that is being lost will be added on at the opposite end.

Commentary

As parents haven't yet seen the detailed plans there seemed to have been some misunderstanding from 2 respondents. As soon as planning is agreed the school will send out the plans to parents so they can see the changes visually.