

## **Bishop David Brown Summary of Consultation 10 September 2014 to 3 October 2014**

1. A total of 25 formal written responses were received during the consultation via the Surrey Says website and email. The responses included 11 from parents of children currently attending the school, and a further 6 from parents of children attending other schools or considering sending children to Bishop David Brown in the future.
2. Of the 25 written responses, 8 agreed with the proposal to expand the school, 14 disagreed with the proposal and 3 did not know or offer a position.
3. Concern about the proposal can be themed in three areas, these are summarised in the following sections.

### **Size of school**

4. Of the 14 responses that disagreed with the proposal, the main concern (raised in 8 of the responses) was that the school would become too large. In some cases parents had specifically chosen Bishop David Brown for their children because it was a smaller school. Mention was made that standards in education and pastoral care would not be maintained; one response felt that the site was too small to accommodate a larger school. Three responses were not happy that assurances had been made in the past that the school would not be expanded. One response stated that they would only agree to expansion up to a maximum of 900 students.

### **Quality of education**

5. Eight responses raised concern about the quality of education. Seven of these responses mentioned that only 51% of all pupils attained five GCSEs grade A\* to C including English and mathematics in 2013, and felt that due to the school's 'poor' academic record it should not be expanded. Two responses felt that the school should concentrate on improving education for existing students.

### **Other issues**

6. Other issues mentioned in responses included: building works having a detrimental effect on education (1 response); lack of privacy for neighbours if new building is too close to boundaries (1 response); increased noise and disturbance for neighbours (1 response); increased traffic (1 response) and parents parking (2 responses).

### **Conclusion**

7. The local authority has worked closely with the school in developing this proposal. The Head Teacher and governing body are in full support of the proposal and are confident that teaching and learning standards and the ethos of the school will be maintained with a larger school community.
8. There were relatively few responses to the consultation given the size of the school, so it is difficult to draw reliable conclusions from the consultation exercise and the views expressed cannot be said to be representative of the wider schools community.
9. The local authority, Head Teacher and governing body have taken on board the feedback received, but see no reason not to proceed with the proposal as it currently stands.

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