

Consultation Analysis

(Informal and Statutory Notices)

**Proposed expansion of St Peter and
St Paul Church of England Infant School**



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Consultation Analysis - Proposed expansion of St Peter and St Paul Church of England Infant School

Introduction

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from Monday 17 May 2021 to Monday 5 July 2021.

Part 1 of this paper is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation notice period. The summary and key points provide a summary of the findings from the consultations.

Consultation Summary

The informal consultation was open from Monday 17 May 2021 to Monday 5 July 2021. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.

Two public meetings were held on 25 May 2021 and 1 July 2021.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is being completed throughout the informal consultation period and statutory notice period and responses to the consultation will contribute to this.

Key points from the consultation responses:

- The majority of the responses were from parents of a child attending the school (36.96%). Out of these responses 35.6% agreed with the proposal, 0.43% disagreed and 0.87% did not know.

Part 1 – Informal Consultation

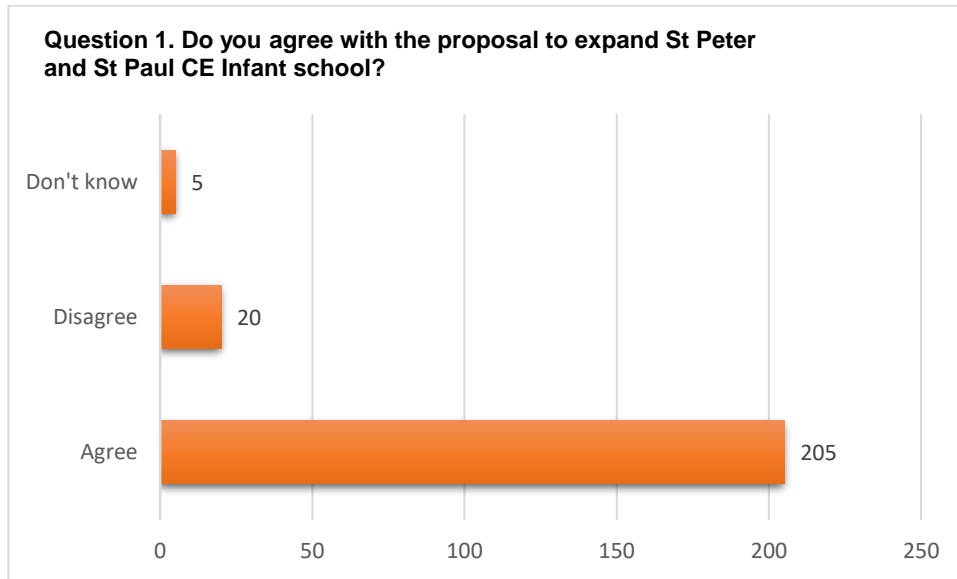
Quantitative Analysis

There were 230 responses to the consultation. Respondents were asked "Do you agree with the proposal to expand St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School from September 2022?" and were given the option to select Agree, Disagree or Don't know.

In total out of all the responses 89.13% agreed, 8.7% disagree and 2.17% don't know.

Figure 1 below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation.

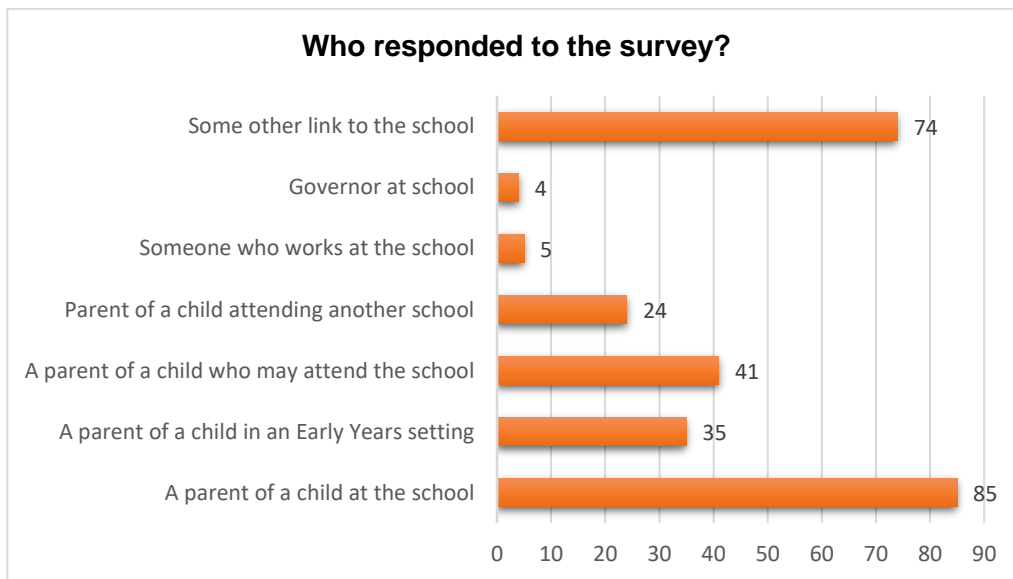
Figure 1



Who responded to the survey?

To understand who responded to the survey, respondents were asked what their relationship to the school is, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Comments left in reply to free-text questions were tagged drawing on 9 possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondent’s main concerns regarding the proposal.

Key theme	Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence % out of 230 total number of responses	Prevalence % out 132 responses with comments
1. Positive impacts	Positive impact	38	16.5%	28.7%
	Positive impact on the community	31	13.5%	23.5%
	Positive impacts for children	42	18.2%	31.8%
	Positive praise for the school	35	15.2%	26.5%
	Ease of traffic	4	1.7%	3%
2. Negative impacts	Negative impact	2	0.8%	1.5%
	Safety for children	13	5.6%	9.8%
	Parking and traffic	28	12.2%	21.2%
3. Ideas and questions	Ideas and questions	10	4.3%	7.5%

Key themes from the consultation

There were 3 key themes that emerged from the consultation response

1. Positive impacts

Positive impact

28.7% of the respondents commented on the positive impact the expansion would provide if the proposal is agreed.

“I think it would be a great idea as I will have two grandchildren attending and would be great if they would stay in the same school without the disruption of having to change schools through different years”.

“.....my son is in year one I’ve just moved him to the school from a different area and we would love to not have to move him again as it has been upsetting for him and myself and now that he has settled in and enjoying school again I definitely don’t want to up heave him again!.....”

“It will benefit the children and parents to have a school that they can stay in from the age of 4 until 11 years old. Continuity of education in the same place without worrying about where they will or can go after Key Stage 1 will be a great reassurance”.

Positive impact on the community

Respondents felt the expansion would be beneficial to the community.

“I think it would be amazing such a wonderful school would be ideal for community.”

“This is a wonderful school that is providing children in our community with excellent education. The setting has significant potential to further serve the community by catering for pupils through year 6”.

*“The area close to the school has seen a great deal of housing development, extending the current school would serve the immediate area better and give families more choice.
..... It makes sense for the children and families to attend a school that is an appropriate size and responds to their needs”.*

“The expansion of the school is key to the children’s well-being and is important for the local community”.

“It will be good to for the area/community of Chaldon and also will help parents with older siblings who move on to another school at 7 as this causes problems with traffic congestion as mothers have to use car to get to another school after collection of child at St Peter and St Paul.....”

Positive impacts for children

31.8% of the comments were about the benefits the expansion would have for children.

Respondents also highlighted the positive impact for children not having to move to another school in Year 2.

“.....The disruption of moving the children at the age of 7 in my opinion is not good for their education! When a child has just settled starting school at the age 4/5 and happy in the school to disrupt them after a few years seem a little unsettling for them and I am sure must affect some children”.

“.....it will be very good for the children as they can continue their primary education in an environment they know and are happy in.....”

“.....Enabling this expansion would result in many siblings being able to share their school experience together”.

“.....I feel it would benefit the children to settle in one school throughout their primary education without having to move at a time when they have made friends, settled into the school environment and got to know the staff”.

Praise for the school

Some respondents used words like “excellent”, “wonderful” and “fantastic” to describe their praise for the school and staff.

“St Peter and St Paul is a very good school, the children are very happy at the school and the education they get is excellent, to have it extended to give it further years would be very beneficial to the children and the area”.

“It’s a fantastic school within the community”.

“.....the headmistress and the staff are all wonderful and really do have the children’s interests at heart”.

Ease of traffic

Respondents also felt the proposed expansion would contribute to easing traffic during school drop off and pick up times.

“.....The current situation means many parents have siblings at different schools which are geographically distant, causing increased traffic between Chaldon and Caterham Valley at peak times. Many families who would otherwise walk are reliant on cars. The proposed increase in wrap around care provision if the expansion goes ahead would also help ease parking issues by spreading out drop-off and collection times”.

“.....as many families have several children at St Peter & St Paul's, a further increase in pupils won't lead to a commensurate increase in traffic to and from the school. In fact, traffic around the school may be reduced, as some parents who can walk there currently take their cars because they have to pick up older children.....in Caterham. The opening of an after-school club at St Peter & St Paul has also done much to even-out traffic flow, so that it is not concentrated around two fixed points in the day”.

2. Negative impacts

Negative impact

A respondent mentioned the negative impacts the expansion would have on the village.

“The proposal to expand the school will be detrimental to all of us who live in the village and ruin a complete gem of a village school which my own children attended”.

The respondent also highlighted that the number of cars that currently park when children are dropped off and collected is not a true reflection due to the current COVID restrictions, because drop off and pick up times have been staggered at present.

“The road is often partially blocked by parents at both ends of the school day and it is not a fair representation at the moment of the problem because of covid restrictions. The last year has meant that like all schools the times for the 3 school years have been staggered to keep parents apart. This wouldn't work with 7 years”.
I would also like to add that the covid restrictions are meaning we aren't also having cars parked for assemblies or school events.....”

Safety for children

Some respondents (9.8%) expressed concerns about children's safety on the road outside the school's due its location.

"..... The school is situated on a blind bend on a narrow B road. The road cannot cope with the current weight of the existing traffic. This proposal will not only harm the surround area, but it will create a very dangerous highways situation".

"..... I'm very concerned about the safety of the pre-school children, and obviously the children from the school as well. Parking outside the school is dreadful at the best of times....."

Parking and traffic

Residents had concerns about the increase in traffic and parking on Rook Lane during school hours. In addition, residents commented about the many children that attends school are not within walking distance and therefore creating an increase in traffic.

"The Road the school is on, does not have adequate parking, I regularly get delayed because the road is blocked, expanding the school would be irresponsible without additional parking provided, which is impossible given the location".

".....With the proposal to increase the wraparound care and staggered drop off and pick up times this would merely increase the problems as it extends the times that dangerous levels of traffic are on this road. There will be a strong environmental impact caused because there are not enough local children close to the school within walking distance....."

".....The surrounding roads will not be able to cope with the increase in the traffic as they are narrow single track lanes. The school already attracts children from well outside of the local area as there are not enough children who live locally to fill it, therefore attracting more traffic, congestion and potential accidents....."

3. Ideas and questions

A number of respondents also provided some ideas and had questions about the management of additional traffic if the proposal is agreed.

".....I would suggest monitoring the speed limit approaching the school- perhaps with a camera - to allow for lower speeds around the entrance and parking for the school, especially on the hill between Surrey National Golf Club and the school to make it safer for all pupils and local residents. In my experience, it's not the school traffic that is dangerous - it's the fast speeds that cars travel on the roads leading to and from the school during rush hour specifically. Though the regular police presence on patrol definitely helps".

".....St John's is already set up for both key stage 1 and 2 and has the grounds to expand - would it not make more financial sense to do this instead"?

".....How can the school possibly fulfil the pastoral needs of the children, when at present the school is barely big enough for the three existing classes"?

“.....What highway provisions can be made to ensure the safety of local residents under your proposal”?

“.....Have the local emergency services been informed and consulted”?

“The road is very narrow when you park to drop off. Could there be a mini-bus to the school to ease congestion or a road to drive in drop off and out”?

Public Meetings

There were two virtual public meetings were held on 25 May at 9.30am and 1 July 2021 at 6pm, via Microsoft Teams. 44 people attended the first and 29 attended the second meeting. There was a short presentation followed by questions and answers at the end of the presentation. These were parent/carers, staff from the school, residents/members of the local community and other stakeholders.

Themes arising from the public meeting reflect the themes from the responses to the consultation.

Part 2 – Statutory Notices

Quantitative Analysis

There were 168 responses to the statutory notice consultation to expand St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School from September 2022. 98% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 1% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 1% of respondents said they didn't know.

There were 7 responses to the statutory notice consultation to change the age range of St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School from September 2022. 86% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 14% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 0% of respondents said they didn't know.

Figure 1 below shows the distribution of responses to the statutory notice to expand St Peter & St Paul CE Infant School.

Figure 1

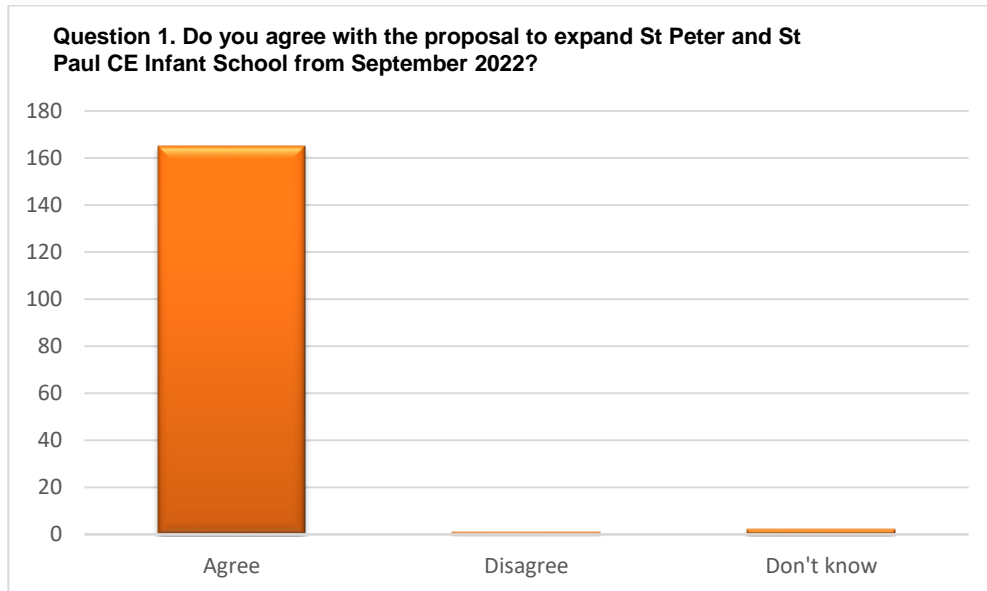
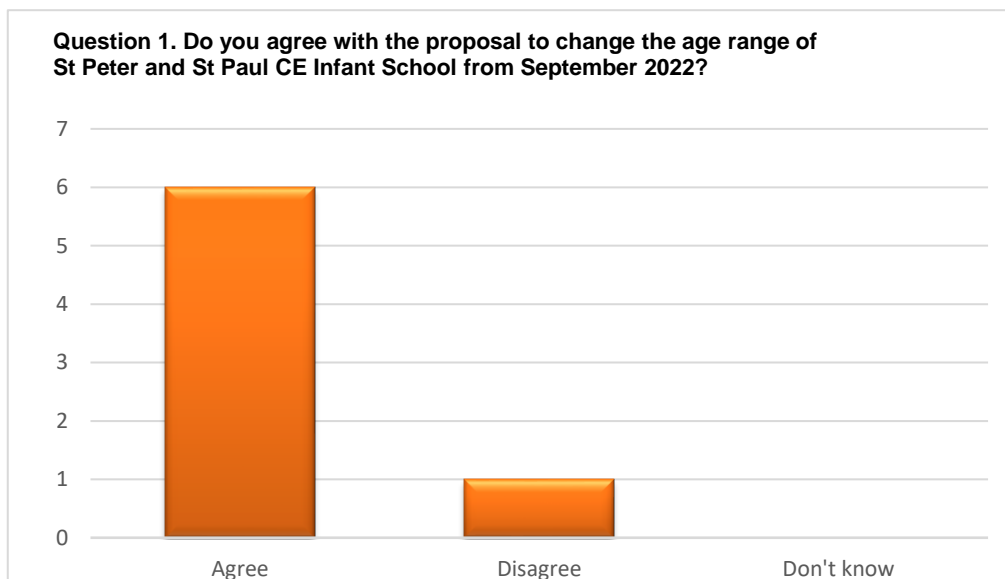


Figure 2 below shows the distribution of responses to the statutory notice to change the age range of St Peter & St Paul CE Infant School.

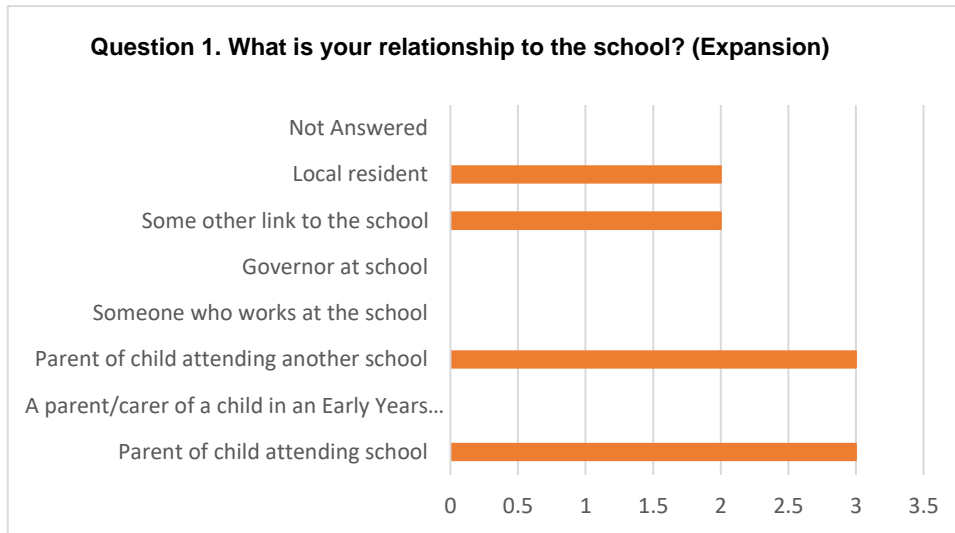
Figure 2



Who responded to the survey?

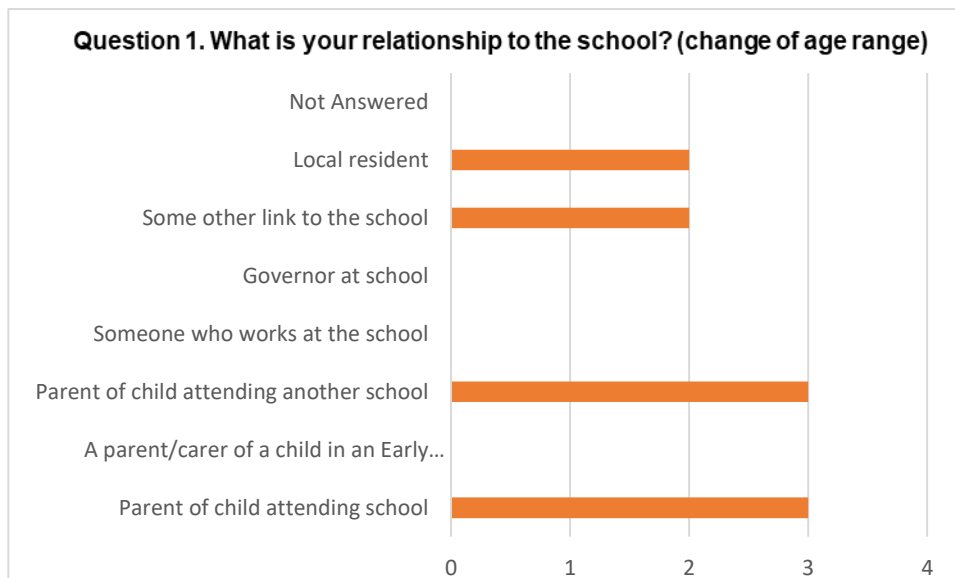
To understand who responded to the survey, respondents were asked what their relationship to the school is, as shown in Figure 3 for the statutory notice to expand St Peter & St Paul CE Infant School.

Figure 3



To understand who responded to the survey, respondents were asked what their relationship to the school is, as shown in Figure 4 for the statutory notice to change the age range of St Peter & St Paul CE Infant School.

Figure 4



Qualitative Analysis - Statutory notice to expand St Peter & St Paul CE Infant School.

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Comments left in reply to free-text questions were tagged drawing on 7 possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondent’s main concerns regarding the proposal. There were 4 key themes that emerged from the consultation responses.

Key themes	Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of 168 total number of responses)	Prevalence (% out of 71 responses with comments)
1. Positive impacts	Positive impact	18	10.7%	25.3%
	Positive impact - ease of traffic	1	0.59%	1.4%
	Positive impact for children and young people,	15	8.9%	21.1%
	Positive impact on the community	17	10.1%	23.9%
	Positive impact – praise of school	2	1.19%	2.8%
2. Negative impacts	Negative impact parking and traffic	3	1.7%	4.2%
3. Ideas	Ideas and questions	12	7.1%	16.9%

Key themes from the consultation

Statutory Notice to expand St Peter and St Paul Church of England Infant School

Positive Impacts

Many respondents recognise the need for an expansion, and the positive impact this would have, responses included.

“I think it can only be positive to create more opportunities for children to be in one school throughout their primary school days rather than having to move to another school shortly after starting out in primary.”

“All surrounding schools are so busy. It makes so much sense to do this!”

“Important to guarantee the future of a great school and give consistency to these kids for the vital years.”

“Excellent initiative, will keep Chaldon thriving!”

“This is a necessary change for St. Peter’s to allow them sustainability”

Positive impact - ease traffic

A respondent expressed that the expansion would help ease the traffic situation.

“It would be hugely beneficial to the school, it’s pupils, the Chaldon community and residents further into Caterham due to reducing traffic between St Peter’s and St John’s.”

Positive impact for children and young people

Respondents expressed how important it would be to expand the school for children and young people.

“The most important benefit in my eyes is the positive impact it will have on the children, knowing they will be with their friends throughout Primary school and not have to face the uncertainty and anxiety of moving schools at the age of 7. The school is a fantastic part of the community, has excellent teaching staff, an amazing reputation and I feel that the school will embrace the expansion without it losing the small school feel it has.”

“The children would benefit immensely”

“It’s a wonderful school and by expanding will give other children to experience it”

Positive impact for the community

Respondents expressed how important it would be to expand the school for the local community.

“Would be best thing for community.”

“I think that this school is a valued part of the community not only within Chaldon, but Caterham also. Without this expansion I can see the future of the school being very much in doubt.”

“I believe expanding the school will be of great benefit to the local community. If my child has to change following year 2 it will mean further travel for myself to get him to school & is also very unsettling for the children to have to change at this time. It’s an amazing school & I truly believe it’s in my child’s best interest for it to expand & accept children up to secondary school age. School places are so limited anyway, this would certainly make it so much easier for most families in the local community.”

“As a parent of a child already at this fantastic school I can only see this expansion as a positive, allowing more access to children within the community to its fantastic resources. I have multiple children and prior to this proposal was facing a journey between St P&P’s and St John’s twice a day as I would’ve had children I two different schools for the next 6 years and beyond. Ultimately, this will reduce the need for these journeys to take place for me and many other families.”

“It most definitely should expand! The community needs a school. My fear is that without expansion it will result in closure and a big development.”

Praise for the school

Respondents praised the school using words such as, “wonderful and “fantastic” whilst supporting the need for the expansion.

“This is so important to us and so many. St. Peter’s is such a wonderful school but is lacking due to it only being an infant school.”

“I believe that the proposal to develop the school will be a very positive one, the school as it is fantastic, as a parent of a pupil who attends it would be great to know she can stay on an continue learning and thrive within the school. Brilliant school with brilliant teachers.”

“This would allow more local school places without the need to open a new school in the area and give continuity for the children from Chaldon in an outstanding school. The road traffic has been reduced by the staggered drop offs and rolling system like the USA. Great work to support the local community.”

Negative impact parking and traffic

Some respondents expressed a concern the expansion would have on traffic and parking.

“Although happy to support the school ground floor extension and subsequent pupil number expansion, we already have concerns over the parking and traffic flow along with the noise and the air pollution that comes with it. To my mind increasing pupil numbers safely is reliant on successfully addressing the traffic issues that will undoubtedly increase. In addition to noise and air pollution caused by congestion of school traffic, buses, lorries, vans and cars, other concerns remain.”

“The school exits onto a sharp S bend, which coming in from the Merstham side, is entered by cars which are only just slowing for the 30mph sign. Only one side of the road has a pavement and cars park half on that and half on the road, narrowing it to a single lane past them, which has resulted in lots of damaged cars – unreported to police but upsetting none the less. This ‘parking area’ – for about 12-15 cars – is the only feasible one in the area. All the other residential roads around are narrow single track country lanes with passing places and no pavements. Parking in them would not be safe, and most would block the highway. Your highways staff need to come and look to see what the problems it will create.”

Ideas

Respondents left comments for ideas, such as reducing the speed limit or planning better drop off arrangements.

“There needs to be a significantly better plan for the drop off arrangements for the school as it is dangerous at times on Rook Lane. The staggered dropping would need to be greater time between year groups as returning this year is not working well”

“Surrey council should also look at reducing the speed limit on the road near the school during peak hours.”

Qualitative Analysis - Statutory notice to change the age range of St Peter & St Pauls CofE Infant School.

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Comments left in reply to free-text questions were tagged drawing on 5 possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondent’s main concerns regarding the proposal. There were positive and negative key themes that emerged from the consultation responses.

Key themes	Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of 7 total number of responses)	Prevalence (% out of 2 responses with comments)
1. Positive Impacts	Positive impact for children and young people,	1	14%	50%
2. Negative Impacts	Negative impacts	1	14%	50%
	Negative impact parking and traffic,	1	14%	50%
	Negative impact - safety for children,	1	14%	50%
3. Ideas	Ideas and questions	1	14%	50%

Key themes from the consultation

Statutory Notice to change the age range of St Peter and St Paul Church of England Infant School.

Positive impact for children and young people

A respondent expressed how important it would be to change the age range of the school for children and young people.

“This change will help keep families that value the proximity of the school to homes to keep their children in this highly respected place of education. Too many families in the past have been given no choice but to find alternative education places where they feel the transition to St John’s in Caterham, does not suit their child’s best future.”

Negative impacts

A respondent expressed their concerns on the traffic and parking situation and the concerns for children’s safety.

“I have lived in Chaldon Village for almost 20 years and have had all 3 of my children go through St Peter and St Paul school. I can tell you first-hand that the picking up and dropping off times are dangerous and a serious accident, waiting to happen. The road is far too narrow and from Merstham comes off a very quick national speed limit into a blind, downhill corner that often floods just before the entrance to the school.

Even with cars parking on the recently expanded pavement, there are nowhere near enough spaces for people dropping off or picking up and as Chaldon is a small village it does not have a reliable public transport service so everyone apart from the small number of locals drives. The road cannot handle the traffic as it currently stands, let alone if this is trebled to allow for the extra classrooms. How there has not been a serious accident or even worse, a child being run over I do not know but this would surely happen if the problem were exacerbated.”

Ideas

A respondent left an idea for the planning team to “spend time outside the school” in response to changing the age range of St Peter & St Paul CE Infant school.

“Whoever is trying to get this process approved really needs to spend time outside the school in the morning and afternoon, especially in the winter and witness the already chaotic scenes as the local college double-decker buses try to get through to Redhill & Reigate whilst navigating around the numerous parents that park illegally on the kerbs or perform sudden U-turns at the end of Hilltop and Church Lane and they will very quickly realise just what a ridiculous idea this is.”

All representations will be reviewed before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning on 12th October 2021.

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