

Consultation on the proposed expansion of Sandgate School questionnaire analysis

Introduction

Sandgate School carried out a consultation in the South Lakeland area from 15 June to 10 July 2020 seeking the views of stakeholders and the local community over the potential expansion of Sandgate School.

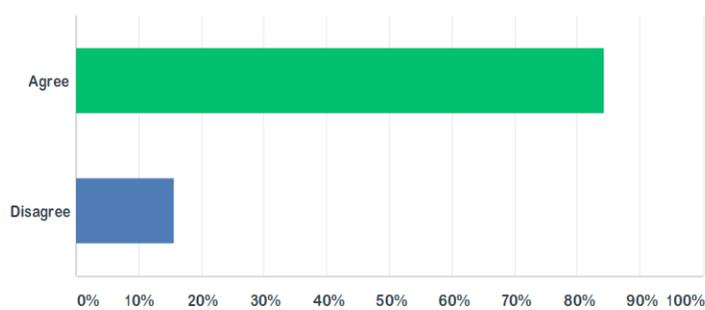
At the time of the consultation number on roll (NOR) at Sandgate School was 100 with 106 students expected in September 2020. Sandgate are above the Pupil Admissions Number (PAN) which is presently set at 80. The new places would become available once the county council's Cabinet has approved the expansions proposals, i.e. from 1 November 2020.

Summary of responses

A total of 21 responses were received during the consultation period as below:

Q1 I AM in favour of the proposed changes to provide additional places at Sandgate school

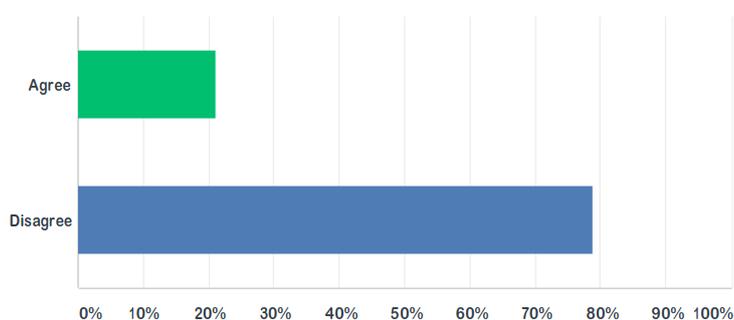
Answered: 19 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	84.21%	16
Disagree	15.79%	3
TOTAL		19

Q2 I am not in favour of the proposed changes to provide additional places at Sandgate school

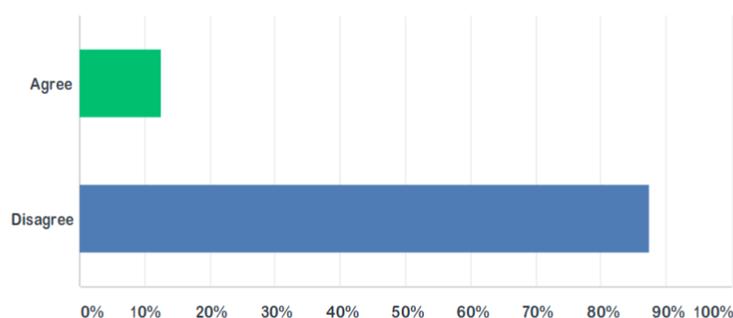
Answered: 19 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Disagree	78.95%	15
Agree	21.05%	4
TOTAL		19

Q3 I am neither in favour nor opposed to the proposed changes to provide additional places at Sandgate school

Answered: 16 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	12.50%	2
Disagree	87.50%	14
TOTAL		16

Q4 You are invited to write a response that will add to the proposal of the provision of additional places at Sandgate School:

Answered: 13 Skipped: 8

1	I will send you a letter and email detailing my reservations about the expansion before the new build is complete, which include, access to activities, class sizes, physical environment including queues for taxi's, ability to communicate with parents and positive behavioural support.
2	The first 3 questions are leading and may used to indicate that I am in favour of the suggested 120 PAN rather than an overall increase in PAN (which I am) - 120 places would mean an additional £140,000 from the high needs block above the projected numbers for 20/21 this would place further strain on the block- I however would be in favour of a 110 PAN giving an additional 4 funded places in year free to be filled, any additional increase in PAN beyond this should be reviewed the following year to support the School.
3	I do not have enough information about the impact of the changes to agree them without greater detail. I agree that more provision needs to be made for children with SEN. I agree that being able to provide appropriate education to meet a child's abilities is more effectively done where children with similar ability can be grouped together. I am concerned that a greater focus on ASC should not be at the detriment of other children with learning difficulties who do not have difficulties on the ASC spectrum, and would ask that the Governors ensure that the school can still meet the need of every child who is admitted to school no matter what the demands of their learning and physical difficulty. I would also ask that the governors identify how the school plans for the increase in numbers to be managed so that there is not detriment to children already attending the school in terms of access to physical resources, range of opportunities for learning, class sizes, staff ratios, emotional impact on the children and social integration and understanding around every child's needs. It is also important that staff and senior management have the time and resources to manage transition for all students. It is important to ensure that incoming students are integrated well into existing classes and that transition between sites is well managed. I am particularly concerned that transition to Post 19 opportunities and adulthood is managed well.
4	Additional places being made available before the new build is completed will put extra pressure on space and facilities available for existing students. My son with profound physical and learning disabilities has to "queue" in order to be changed and receive personal care. There are no dedicated nursing facilities on qks site which is poor and needs rectifying. How has school been able to intake more than the 80 students already? Quality of care and health and safety of students is at risk when

	more students are taken into an already packed facility. Add to this the current and probably ongoing need for social distancing and the answer is more space not more students.
5	The development of Sandgate School, which will soon have expanded accommodation, now warrants the upgrade to PAN from 80 to 120 places. I fully support this proposal.
6	This would be of huge benefit to Cumbrian children as places are currently so limited.
7	It is a beneficial education setting for the community.
8	A reduction in the out of county places would be welcomed as more funds would be kept in Cumbria to support Sandgate and other schools.
9	Additional places at Sandgate School would be a huge benefit to children and their families. Places are very much needed.
10	Fully support any expansion at Sandgate School.
11	Sandgate school creates a wonderful environment for children to grow and learn and reach their full potential, if the school is allowed to grow all will flourish.
12	I am in full support of this proposed expansion. Pupils with SEND deserve the very best quality of education and I feel that within the specialist environment of Sandgate this can be met.
13	I feel the school should stay small to continue meeting the needs of children.

In response to the main issues raised during the consultation, the Headteacher responded as follows:

1 - The class size wouldn't increase for any student due to a PAN uplift, we are able to expand into additional class space on the QKS site. Activities are managed on a class by class basis and there would be no impact on the child that 'Response 1' is referring to. We are presently expecting to have 110 children in September, an increase of 10 students from our NOR to a PAN of 120 would have limited impact on taxi spaces (potentially an additional 3 taxis).

2 - The majority of special schools in Cumbria are full, an increase of the PAN at Sandgate will reduce the burden on the high needs block as the number of students going to 'Out of County' private schools will diminish. A Sandgate school place costs the LA a fraction of a private school place. A day place at an out of County provider starts at approximately £60000 at Sandgate school places for similar students would be in the region of £22000.

3- There is not specifically a greater focus on ASC provision, the reason for ASC provision is that these are the students coming to our door. Class sizes and ratios will not be affected as we will start new classes to cater for the PAN uplift.

4 - There are times in all special schools when demand for toilet facilities means that a child has to wait until a changing bed is free. The rise in student numbers has generally come from a cohort that contains our ASC students that have a higher level of independence and thus do not use the same toilet facilities.