



CONSULTATION ANALYSIS

PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE LAKESIDE NURSERY & PRIMARY ACADEMY

OCTOBER 2022

Consultation Analysis

Introduction

Kite Academy Trust, with support from Surrey County Council, published a consultation on the proposal to relocate Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy to a purpose-built new site on the Mindenhurst housing development in Deepcut from September 2023.

This paper is an analysis of the responses received during the consultation period. As Lakeside is an academy, Surrey County Council is not the decision maker in this process. Kite Academy Trust will submit this paper alongside a full business case to the Regional Director (formerly known as Regional Schools Commissioner) at the Department for Education (DfE), who will make the final decision on the proposal to relocate the school.

Consultation Summary

The consultation was open from Tuesday 13 September to Tuesday 25 October 2022. The associated documentation was published on Kite Academy Trust's website and circulated to local stakeholders. Surrey County Council also published a link to the consultation on their website. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form, or alternatively by email or post.

Four public meetings were held throughout the consultation process:

Wednesday 28 September 2022– 9:30am to 6:30pm at Mindenhurst Primary School

Tuesday 4 October 2022– 8:30am to 9:30am and 2:30pm to 6:30pm at Lakeside Primary Academy

Saturday 8 October 2022– 9:30am to 11:30am at Mindenhurst Primary School

Wednesday 19 October 2022– 5pm to 7pm at Mindenhurst Primary School

Key points from the consultation responses:

1. There was a narrow margin of agreement with the proposal: 53.2% agreed, 41.2% disagreed
2. A quarter of all responses received were from parents/carers of pupils currently attending the school (32.7%). Of these, 61% disagreed with the proposal.
3. Given the potential parent body of the 381 pupils on roll, it seems that a vast number of parents did not respond to the consultation and of those who did, a third (31.7%) agreed with the proposal to relocate the school.
4. Almost three quarters of respondents (73.5%) raised concerns about travelling to the new site.

Quantitative Analysis

There were 568 responses to the consultation. 53.2% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 41.2% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 5.6% of respondents said they didn't know or offer a position.

The statistics below show the distribution of responses to the consultation. Respondents were able to select more than one option, if relevant. One respondent elected not to select anything. The highest percentage of respondents selected "A parent/carer of a child currently attending Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy" (32.7%). **Please note that respondents were able to select more than one option and percentages have been calculated based on the total number of respondents.**

Percentages of who responded by individual groups

Responses from a Governor of Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy – 1%

5 agreed with the proposal, 1 didn't know

Responses from a member of staff at another local school – 5.1%

22 agreed with the proposal, 4 disagreed with the proposal, 3 didn't know

Responses from a member of staff at Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy – 7.2%

39 agreed with the proposal, 2 disagreed with the proposal

Responses from a member of staff or Governor within the Kite Academy Trust – 11.1%

59 agreed with the proposal, 4 didn't know

Responses from a parent/carer of a child (in an Early Years setting) who may in future attend Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy – 13.6%

45 agreed with the proposal, 30 disagreed with the proposal, 2 didn't know

Responses from a parent/carer of a child attending another local school – 12.5%

35 agreed with the proposal, 34 disagreed with the proposal, 2 didn't know

Responses from a parent/carer of a child currently attending Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy – 32.7%

59 agreed with the proposal, 113 disagreed with the proposal, 14 didn't know

Responses from a resident of Mindenhurst living close to the school – 17%

65 agreed with the proposal, 25 disagreed with the proposal, 6 didn't know

Responses from some other link to Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy – 6.3%

16 agreed with the proposal, 16 disagreed with the proposal, 4 didn't know

Responses from someone else with an interest – 17%

29 agreed with the proposal, 62 disagreed with the proposal, 5 didn't know

Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Out of the 568 responses received, 442 comments were made on the proposal. These comments were broadly themed and then separated into 14 possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of the respondents' main concerns regarding the proposal.

Sub theme	Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of total responses)
Travelling to the new site	Transport issues & distance to the new site	191	43.2%
	Parking	53	12%
	Environmental impact/traffic	81	18.3%
Positive impacts	New building and improved facilities	126	28.5%
	Positive impact on the Mindenhurst development	49	11.1%
	Positive impact on other local provision and place planning	32	7.2%
Negative impacts	Impact on children's development and mental health	89	20.1%
	Negative impact on the Mindenhurst development	18	4.1%
	Negative impact on other local provision and place planning	30	6.8%
Impacts	What will the current Lakeside site be used for?	30	6.8%
	Timing and communication of proposal	17	3.8%
Current Lakeside education provision	Positive views	35	7.9%
	Negative views	47	10.6%
Ideas and innovation	Questions and ideas	81	18.3%

Key themes from the consultation

There were six key themes that emerged from the consultation responses.

Travelling to the new site

Almost three quarters of the total responses (73.5%) raised concerns regarding travelling to the new site. These could then be further subcategorised to issues surrounding home to school transport and the distance from Lakeside Primary Academy's existing site, parking, and the environmental impact due to increased traffic. Almost half of the comments (43.2%) cited concerns around how they would transport their children to the new site, for example, "For those who don't drive can't get there" and "Many families using Lakeside live within walking distance to the school with no means of transport."

Respondents also voiced concern about the inadequate public transport services to Mindenhurst, "There is a completely substandard public transport system in place to get to Deepcut" and others mentioned the additional financial costs which may be incurred as a result of having to travel to Mindenhurst. One comment stated, "This will be an absolute nightmare for many parents" and terms

such as “uprooting” and “alienating” were used with regards to the community surrounding the existing Lakeside Primary Academy site.

A number of respondents expressed worry that an influx of traffic resulting from the relocation, along with the existing amount generated by other schools in the proximity, would be hugely detrimental to the local area from both a logistical and environmental standpoint. One respondent stated, “This level of traffic will cause an increase in air pollution and increase the amount of greenhouse gases being emitted” and another that “The amount of traffic already [...] is very heavy at rush hour/school drop off and pick up times.”

Along with the increase of traffic, respondents were concerned about the lack of parking available at the Mindenhurst site, “The parking will be horrendous as there is only 1 tiny car park and double yellows everywhere.” One respondent agreed with the proposal but had concern about parking, “Really like the school building. Only concern is parking.”

There were some positive comments surrounding the proposal, despite the increased travel time for some parents, “It will be a longer journey for us and we won’t be able to easily walk but I think that’s a sacrifice worth making.” There were some respondents who agreed with the proposal but still had reservations around transport arrangements, “We are hoping school buses will be provided” and “Whilst I am supportive of the move I am concerned about the transport arrangements.”

“I wouldn’t be able to get my child to the school on time or collect on time.”

“Transporting all the Lakeside children to Deepcut significantly increases the traffic.”

“the area doesn’t have the infrastructure to deal with potentially 400 more cars driving to Mindenhurst everyday.”

“It’s too far for families with no transport.”

“There is no parking provision at the school [...] which will create chaos.”

Positive impacts

Close to half of the responses (46.8%) spoke favourably of the proposal, due to factors such as the new building and facilities available at the purpose-built Mindenhurst site, the positives this would have for those living in the Mindenhurst development, and how the relocation would be beneficial to the education provision and school place planning in the local area.

One respondent observed, “the site is a state-of-the-art new facility which would be efficient to run” while others similarly commented that the site is “premium”, “bright” and “modern”. Others reflected that the proposal, by bringing an existing school to the new site and thereby negating the need to phase in each year group, would be beneficial to the residents of the Mindenhurst development. One respondent stated, “This area is only getting busier [...] due to the school population it makes logistical sense moving an established school to this area” and others believe it will cement a greater sense of “community” within Deepcut. Another respondent was in favour of the relocation because of the current number of surplus places in the local area, and the potential for long-term detriment if this were to continue, “the number of primary schools in the Frimley area is unsustainable on current projections”.

“In the light of falling numbers in the area, this relocation will be of benefit to all local schools and to the Mindenhurst community.”

“It is an amazing school in a good upcoming area.”

“A functioning nursery and primary school on the estate will allow for a sense of community that is perhaps lacking at the moment.”

“The biggest benefit would be the ability to access Year 3 places for the nearby residents.”

“You can see the concentration of schools in that area is already very high.”

Negative impacts

Almost a third of respondents (31%) expressed concerns regarding the negative impact the proposed relocation could have. The most prevalent of these was the potential impact on the development and mental health of children currently attending Lakeside Primary Academy (20.1%), while others questioned whether the relocation would benefit either the Mindenhurst development or provision in the local area. Many comments used terms such as “unsettling”, “disruption” and “trauma” in relation to the necessary transition which would result from the relocation. There were also numerous calls for stability given recent disturbances to the children’s lives and education during the pandemic.

“I don’t think children’s mental health has been considered in this.”

“The children have been through so much change over the past few years I think it will be detrimental to their mental health.”

“Children at lakeside will have their friendship groups broken up having a huge impact on them.”

Other respondents felt that the relocation could be detrimental to the Mindenhurst development, with the movement of an existing school reducing the number of spaces available for Mindenhurst residents, with one stating that relocating Lakeside Primary Academy would, “dramatically reduce the number of spaces left for local children”, while others called for the site to be “a new school in its own right to serve the residents of Deepcut and Mindenhurst”. There were also concerns regarding local school provision; one respondent believes, “more school places are going to be needed so to close Lakeside would cause long term problems” and another felt the area “already has issues with school places”. Some comments mentioned that the proposal is short-sighted as more homes will be built in the development and therefore yielding more children, “What happens when [children] move in during the second phase and the school is full”.

“When the Mindenhurst houses are built there could then be a shortage of places at the Mindenhurst school resulting in additional car journeys.”

“There is already high demand for the Mindenhurst site to become a nursery and primary school and by moving an existing facility, will likely result in it becoming heavily oversubscribed.”

“We have a huge community here with no school provision and rapidly increasing population. If Lakeside families want to come to the school, it should be based on an intake policy that prioritises those closest to the Mindenhurst school, first.”

Impacts

A number of comments arose from the responses regarding the use of the potentially vacated Lakeside site, and concerns around the timing and communication of the proposal.

Comments regarding the use of Lakeside's current site were varied in terms of whether the respondent agreed or disagreed with the proposal. Some see it as a positive move to relocate the school if the current site could be utilised for pupils with special educational needs/disabilities (SEND), "I sincerely hope that the old site is redeveloped as a special provision school as this is desperately needed" and "would be great if the Lakeside building could be used for special educational purposes".

However, some expressed concern over the possible use of the current Lakeside site as they felt that there may be an ulterior motive behind the proposed relocation.

"Worried that the old site might become another housing project."

"[...] will undoubtedly want to sell the development for yet more housing[...]"

"[...] this is a backdoor approach to sell off the Lakeside fields and use this for additional housing[...]"

There were a small number of comments that made reference to the timing of the proposal and the overall communication. Words such as "underhand", "shock" and "outrageous" were used and some parents were disappointed that they were not aware of the proposal before recently enrolling their child/ren at the school.

"The way this has been executed has been a shock. To give notice and move in a year is rushed and not giving a reasonable time for the families to work out how this will be possible."

"We're very upset that we were not made aware of the possibility of the Lakeside school relocation before our daughter started there."

Current Lakeside education provision

18.5% of respondents took a view on the current education provision at Lakeside Primary Academy. There were a number of comments praising the school using words such as "lovely", "great" and "wonderful". Some respondents felt that moving the school to a new purpose-built site would only benefit the school further, "Lakeside is a wonderful school, moving its location to a place with better facilities will be such a benefit to the pupils and staff."

"Lakeside is a people not a place, the staff work so hard and being able to give our children the facilities they deserve is crucial."

However, one comment stated that "the existing campus provides an excellent set of facilities", with another stating "I think this beautiful school should stay as it is." Many comments also cited that the new Mindenhurst site has less outdoor space and smaller hall areas.

"Less outdoor space/green area for children to play and be in nature."

"The current Lakeside site is fabulously open and flexible with its access to outdoor space, the children would be sad to lose this."

There were a small number of comments which cited negative views about the current Lakeside education provision. Phrases such as “very run down” and “[not] fit for purpose” were used when describing the current Lakeside site. Some respondents also made comment about the current management and performance of the school.

Ideas and innovation

Almost a fifth of responses (18.3%) asked questions about the proposal or offered ideas on alternative solutions. Questions mainly centred around the offer of transport from the local authority and how children would be safely dropped off/picked up from the Mindenhurst site. Some comments suggested that the Mindenhurst site be used for SEND purposes, whereas others suggested that the Mindenhurst school needs to be opened as a new two-form entry (2FE) primary school.

Public meetings

Four public meetings were held throughout the consultation period. Information regarding the proposal was displayed on boards and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions. The meetings were attended by colleagues from the school, Kite Academy Trust and Surrey County Council.

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

Questions and answers

A questions and answers document has been produced alongside this analysis to answer questions which arose during the consultation process.

Appendix 1

Questions and answers document