

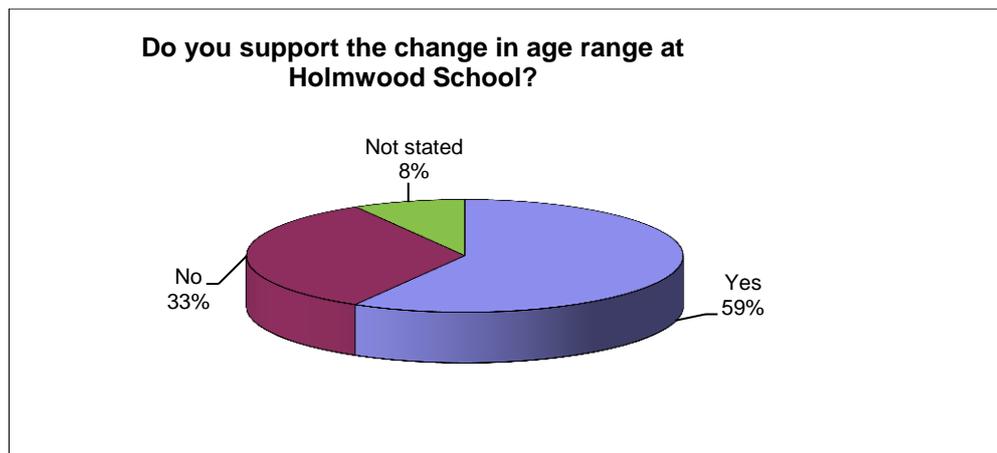
Proposed change in age range at Holmwood School Summary of consultation responses



June 2014

Summary of responses to the consultation:

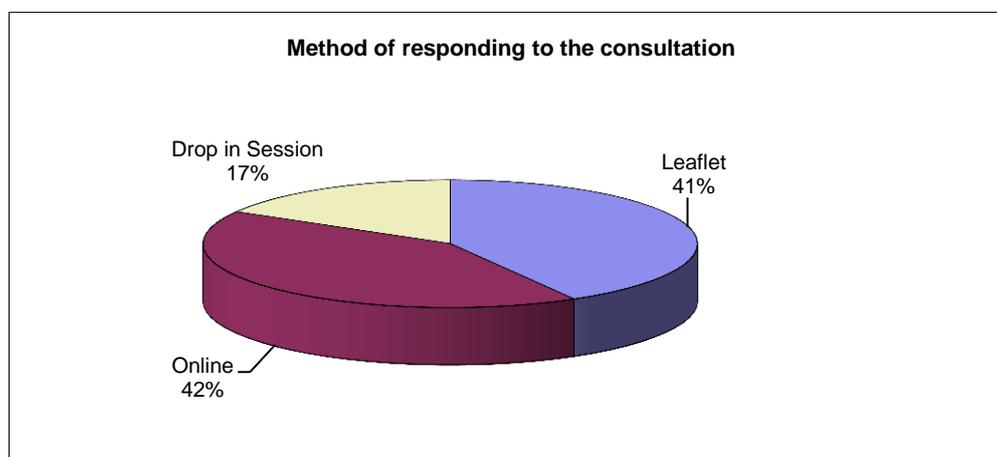
Stakeholder	No. of responses	Yes	No	Not stated
Parent/carer of a child at Holmwood School	6	4	2	
Member of staff at Holmwood School	3	3		
Local resident	1			1
Member of staff at local pre-school	1			1
Other	1			1
Total	12	7	4	1



Main points of concern raised if against the proposal	Number
Multiple points against the proposal	4
Total	4

In the 'multiple point' category, the response referred to traffic issues, parking concerns, access to external play areas and disruption during the build. It also referred to the potential impact on existing pre-school provision in the area.

Main points raised if in support of the proposal	Number
Increased nursery provision	5
Drop-off and pick up times	1
Not stated	1
Total	7



Summary of the consultation process

The consultation process to obtain stakeholders' views about the proposed change in age range at Holmwood School took place over a six week period between Monday 3 February 2014 and Friday 21 March 2014 inclusive.

A total of 280 consultation documents were sent out to numerous stakeholders, as follows:

- All staff, governors and parents at Holmwood School
- Headteachers of all schools in the surrounding area
- Nurseries, pre-schools and children's centres located in the area
- Milton Keynes MPs, local councillors, and local parish councils
- Representatives from the Oxford Diocese (Church of England) and the Northampton Diocese (Catholic)
- Trade unions

The consultation was also available on the council's website, alongside an electronic response form.

During the consultation period, a session was also held at the school to give stakeholders the opportunity to submit views and discuss the proposed expansion plans. This meeting was as follows:

Meeting	Details
Drop-in session at Holmwood School held on Tuesday 4 March 2014 (3.00pm to 6.00pm)	18 people attended this session. Those attending had the opportunity to discuss aspects of the proposal with the Headteacher and representatives of Holmwood School and officers from the council.

During the consultation period 12 responses were received, returned either via forms from the consultation leaflets, on-line from the council website or from comments forms completed at the drop in session. In total 280 leaflets were distributed to a wide range of stakeholders. **This results in a 4% response rate.**

A small majority of respondents (7) were in favour of the proposal to expand the school.

What themes emerged from the consultation?

The purpose of this section is to summarise the key points resulting from all forms of response, whether these were via the leaflet, views expressed in the drop in sessions, or views expressed on-line. A number of themes arose from all the responses combined, and these themes, with respective key points, are shown below. An overall response is then given for each theme.

Theme – Impact on traffic and parking in the local area

- Impact on increased school traffic and local streets are congested
- The parking around the school is dangerous and there is insufficient parking
- Insufficient parking at school pick-up and drop off times and local streets are congested
- Consideration should be given to implementing a satisfactory parking and/or transportation scheme.

Response

Impact on local traffic and streets will be kept to a minimum by staggering the proposed Nursery's opening times and consultation with Highways and Road Safety during the design development

Additional parking spaces are being created on the school site as part of the proposals.

A parking scheme will be developed with Highways and Road Safety during the design development, this is likely to include the use of control measures to alleviate any problems currently experienced.

The proposals to mitigate any impact on parking and congestion will be subject to approval by planning permission; this will include a transport assessment including a school travel plan.

Theme – reduced external play area

- Reduction of outside space and facilities would be detrimental to pupils

Response

Where there is a loss of outside play space and facilities this will be replaced to ensure the school complies with the statutory regulations

Where playground is lost as part of the proposals additional play space will be provided and designed in consultation with the school to ensure viability.

Theme – pupils could be disrupted by the proposed building works.

- Pupils may be denied access to the play area during the building work
- The part of the field that will be made available during the building works is often water logged and un-useable.
- Disrupt the learning environment during the building phase

Response

During the building works safe access will be maintained to the play area unaffected by the proposals.

There is no allowance for statutory team game playing fields for schools of this type, the waterlogging may be part of a wider problem outside of the remit of this project

The building works will be fully enclosed with timber hoarding, to minimise disruption. Deliveries and noisy operations will be kept to a minimum and will take place, where possible, when the school is not in occupancy.

Theme – Impact on existing pre-schools in the area

- It could have a negative impact on the existing pre-schools and could lead to potential closures
- The council should concentrate on pre-schools already in the area and try to improve these

- It could lead to an increase of 2 year old children in existing pre-schools and a reduction of 3-4 years old which could impact financially on the pre-school in terms of equipment and staff ratios
- To consider increasing the nursery provision in areas where there is only one existing pre-school.

Response

The local authority's duty to secure prescribed early education provision was extended in September 2013 to include the 20% most disadvantaged two year olds, as well as three and four year olds. This will be further extended in September 2014 to include the 40% most disadvantaged two year olds.

In addition to these new duties, our data projects there is already a shortfall of provision in this area, and these projections are supported by high occupancy rates at existing providers. The proportion of children taking up their entitlement to free early education is currently lower than the national average, and we are seeking to address this issue. Unlike other areas, there are currently no maintained nursery provisions within these estates, which limits parental choice.

The funding local early education providers receive for delivering the free entitlement takes account of the increased costs associated with provision for two year olds. Early education providers are therefore not financially disadvantaged due to the requirement for higher staffing ratios.

Comments made in support of the proposal

Theme – Nursery Facilities

- The convenience of having nursery facilities at Holmwood school
- The nursery facilities will provide a better transition from nursery to school for the pupils
- A nursery would be an asset to the local area and for the education of the children
- Nursery provision would make it easier for parents at drop off and collection times particularly if there are older siblings at the school.



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Tel 01908 253142

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultation

Milton Keynes Council
Saxon Court
502 Avebury Boulevard
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3HS

T 01908 253142
E school-organisation-planning@milton-keynes.gov.uk
W www.milton-keynes.gov.uk