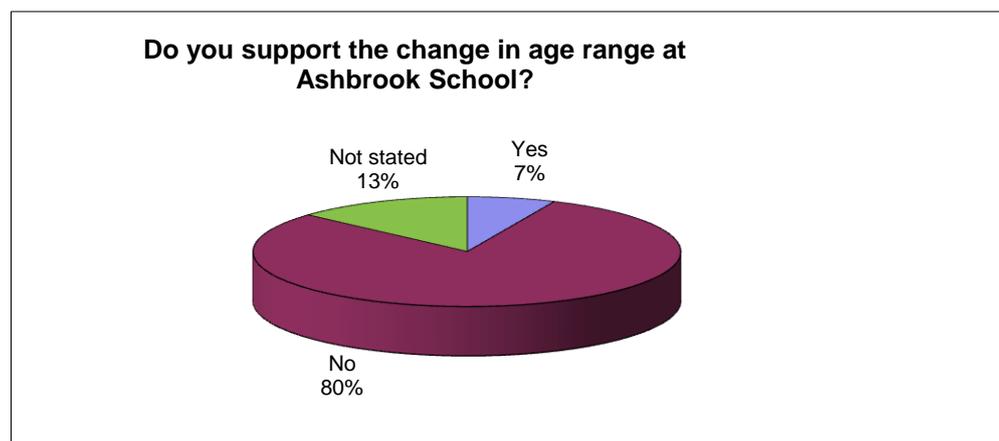


Proposed change in age range at Ashbrook School Summary of consultation responses



June 2014

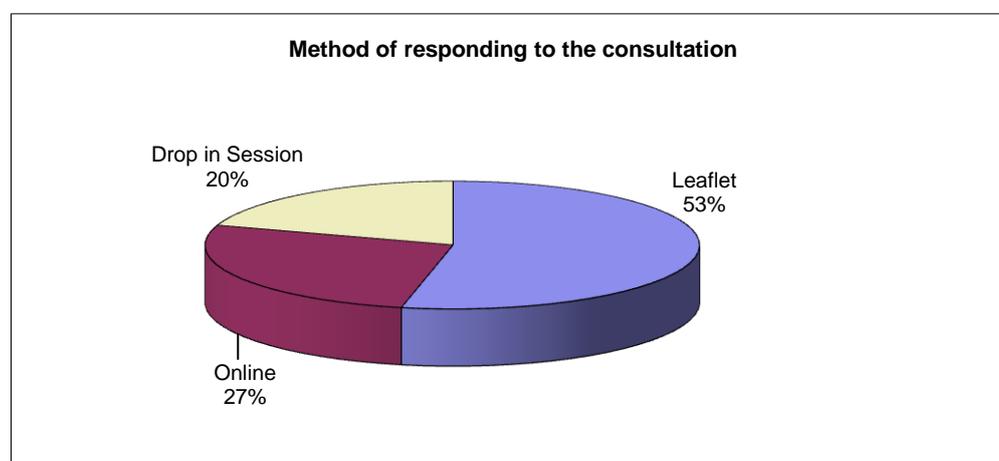
Stakeholder	No. of responses	Yes	No	Not stated
Parent/carer of a child at Ashbrook School	4	1	2	1
Parent/carer of a child at another School	5	0	5	0
Local resident	4	0	3	1
Member of staff at local pre-school	1	0	1	0
Not stated	1	0	1	0
Total	15	1	12	2



Main points of concern raised if against the proposal	Number
Multiple points against the proposal	9
The proposal would result in traffic problems	1
Impact on existing pre-school provision	2
Total	12

In the 'multiple point' category, the response referred to traffic issues, parking concerns, reduction of outdoor playing area, disruption during the build and the impact on existing pre-school provisions.

Main themes raised if in support of the proposal	Number
Increased nursery provision	1
Total	1



Summary of the consultation process

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

A total of 269 consultation documents were sent out to numerous stakeholders, as follows:

- All staff, governors and parents at Ashbrook 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 Ashbrook School held on Monday 3 March 2014 (3.00pm to 6.00pm)	61 people attended this session. Those attending had the opportunity to discuss aspects of the proposal with the Headteacher and representatives of Ashbrook School and officers from the council.

During the consultation period 15 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 269 leaflets were distributed to a wide range of stakeholders. **This results in a 5% response rate.**

A large majority of respondents (12) were against the proposal to change the age range of 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
- A local middle school is currently being expanded and this will increase school traffic and the need for better parking facilities.

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 and a school travel plan.

The proposals at the local middle school will be subject to a separate planning application, considerations will be given to the impact of those proposals on traffic and parking, a separate transport assessment and school travel plan will be provided for this application.

Theme – reduced external play area

- Reduction of outside space would be detrimental to pupils and could compromise the values of the school.

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

Additional play space will be designed in consultation with the school to ensure viability

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

- Disruption to children during the building phase.

Response

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-school providers in the area

- It could have a negative impact on the existing pre-schools and could lead to potential closures
- There is adequate provision from existing pre-schools and the increased nursery places could be filled by children out of the area which could further increase traffic congestion
- 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.

Comment made in support of the proposal

Theme – Nursery Facilities

- The nursery facilities will meet the needs of the local area.



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