

Summary of consultation responses and notes of public meeting

Expansion of Cricket Green School and Changes to Age Range

Consultation Responses

Responses received:

Headteachers	2
Other local authorities	1
Parents	18 (includes 1 joint response from 15 parents)

Responses

1. Perseid School – governors support in principle the expansion of Cricket Green to meet the additional need. However they state that it is more important that Early Years SEND Support Workers are able to accurately and confidently signpost parents to the most appropriate nursery provision for their child. Perseid are happy to work with these works to support any development or training.
2. Headteacher from Merton Primary School – the expansion is an excellent proposal to provide an excellent education to Merton pupils and families.
3. Richmond & Wandsworth Council – the council supports this proposal which is in line with similar initiatives being taken in this borough to increase places for children with additional and complex needs.
4. Parent – Plans for the scheme look very good and is a positive way forward to ensure the ongoing success and support for the school. However have the following concerns: (i) Ensure the Health provide can provide the therapies and meet the needs of the existing and increased number of pupils. If not, funding needs to be addressed and perhaps the school can recruit direct. (ii) Potential future development of Worsfold House site – feel this should be incorporated into the school expansion plan. If not, concerned regarding increased traffic, privacy of pupils, and disruption caused to pupils during construction. (iii) Concerned re size of school grounds. Only a small piece of land has been added which is not enough for the needs of the pupils. (iv) Concerned no kitchens, life skills (Shed 13(art) areas haven't been proposed for the new secondary building. Existing kitchen is small and it would be better to have all secondary facilities in one area. (v) Concerned about number of parking spaces available for staff and parents, especially as more parents are having to take their children to school.
5. Parent – Has deep concerns and objects to the proposed expansion. (i) It will be the largest single site special needs school in the country and concerned regarding the lack of separation of children at primary level and children and young adults in post 16 level. (ii) Existing one way system with one entry and exit point is unsafe. Area is currently congested, chaotic and potentially dangerous at pick up and drop off.

Whilst a fenced car park is a good idea, it would impede any emergency services vehicles accessing the furthest buildings and an evacuation of buildings. (iii) Lack of recreational space and any dedicated play areas which will be detrimental to the children's wellbeing. Also has concerns not mentioned in the plan that no increase in the therapy facilities and qualified therapy staff has been mentioned. There needs to be a dedicated increase in budget to this. Overall regards the plans as ill-conceived with a short term view of providing special needs places. It will not be a better option for children who require smaller classes and calmer environments.

6. 15 x Parents – Have several concerns. (i) Reduction of open space would have a detrimental effect on the current and future children. Request the school grounds are increased behind block C. (ii) Worsfold House land – concerned regarding the narrowness of the access road if the site is redeveloped for housing. (iii) Traffic and parking which is already a major problem needs to be addressed as a potential health and safety risk. Request a more detailed breakdown of suggested parking arrangements with consideration given to the access road and any future development of Worsfold House. (iv) Effect of increased pupils and current pupil's access to health/therapy professionals. Request reassurance from Merton SEND department and Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust that access will not be affected and staffing levels will increase to meet demand. Would like to be involved and consulted on any further developments and plans.
7. Parent – Has several concerns. (i) The reduction in play space plus additional pupils is detrimental to the children. The school will have increased by 69% from 2013 without the same % increase in land. Also, the recreational area is next to an academic block and if usage was staggered due to the numbers of pupils it could accommodate, it would be in almost continuous use which is an inadequate solution. The additional council owned land at Worsfold House should be allocated to the school rather than a housing development. (ii) Current access and egress already difficult and will only get worse with more pupils. (iii) Disruption to the pupils during the building works. This should not be underestimated so it is imperative that as much of the building work is undertaken during the holidays. Am fully supportive in principle of the expansion however the plans must be fit for purpose and the current lack of land means they do not.

Cricket Green expansion proposal - Notes of public meeting, 12 March 2018

The meeting was attended by approximately 12 parents and governors and two pupils, with presentations by Celia Dawson, Headteacher of Cricket Green School and Tom Procter, Head of School Organisation, Merton Council

Celia Dawson introduced the meeting, explaining the positive development of the school in her 17 years – at this time it was threatened with closure but the school has continued to evolve with growth in numbers and an increase in the site and buildings.

This was now an opportunity to provide a purpose built new building, and consider how the previous growth can fit together.

Tom Procter spoke through a PowerPoint presentation that showed:

- The recent growth in SEN numbers
- The particular growth in ASD and MLD
- The previous expansion
- The strategic work on SEN planning currently being developed but the need to provide additional places at Cricket green as soon as possible
- The proposal in terms of pupil number growth
- The building plans

This promoted questions and answers with the following points raised by parents and governors:

- A request to show the present capacity and numbers by age phase compared to the present so that the proposed growth could be more clearly seen *
- A request to show the more detailed floor layouts so the building changes could be appreciated, including for parents that could not attend the meeting *
- Concern that the additional site area was small given the size of the school expansion, and questioning whether more of the Worsfold House land could be transferred to the school, especially if there was a future intention that it could be housing with the related traffic implications from this
- Reassurance provided that the construction works would be managed safely for children and staff, with a detailed plan to be developed to ensure this, with appropriate separation between construction works and pupils – access to be through the rear of the site
- Concern about whether the increase in pupil numbers could impact on the availability of therapy, and impact on the school budget generally
- Questions regarding the sufficiency of on-site parking

(* This information is now included in a revised PowerPoint to be sent to parents)