

Consultation Responses on the proposed amalgamation of Davigdor Infants and Somerhill Junior Schools to become an all through primary school from September 2015

The Proposal: to merge Davigdor Infant and Somerhill Junior Schools from September 2015

Type of respondent (not all responders replied to this question):

Parent or carer: 60 staff: 7 governor: 3 pupil: 1 [1pupil+parent]

In support: response form: 56 e-mails: 0 online portal: 18

Total in support: 74 [Parents: 47 staff: 6 governor: 3 pupil: 1; 17 did not identify]

Opposed: E-mail: 0, online portal: 3, paper response form: 23

Total opposed: 26 [18 parents opposed 7 members of staff; 1 did not identify]

Positive consultation responses:

- No further bulge years please (2)
- There will be no need to apply to admissions for a place in Year 3 which removes the uncertainty. Simpler process (6)
- Smooth transition needed and the school must retain its nurturing environment and all the current after school activities (3)
- Strange that the schools are not already one school (1)
- Significant benefit in amalgamating the schools with one strong head teacher to manage both schools and further improve standards (3)
- Will create a better, more consistent environment for pupils (2)
- If staff support, the parent will support the proposal (1)
- Positive and exciting proposal (2)
- It is simpler to drop children off at one main reception (1)
- Siblings prefer to be in the same school (1)

Negative consultation responses:

- The school has already become impersonal and unwieldy. Senior Management will not know all of the children and their workloads would be further stretched. Additional duties will distract the Head from consolidating improvements. The school will lose money (11)
- Davigdor Infant School has remained a safe environment for young children because it is separate. There is a marked difference between a reception and Y6 pupil: the benefits of them mixing are not clear (3)
- The proposals are about saving money and are not in the best interests of the children. Put the children first (6)
- The needs of infant and junior school children are different and a different environment is needed with distinct specialist knowledge. The

Appendix Three

new start aged 7 is beneficial and the pupils feel like they are growing up. Transition from Davigdor Infant School to Somerhill is not a problem. Children need to learn to cope well with change (11)

- The school will become too big if it is merged (14)
- The infant school needs a new, dedicated head teacher. The schools can then remain essentially independent but friendly and supportive (2)
- The Year 5 and Y6 pupils are more independent as they prepare for secondary school (1)
- Will the council honour its pledge to limit admissions to 120 children in Reception to Y2 and 128 pupils in Years 3-6? (6)
- Parents are prepared to travel to take their children to school. Resources should be put into weaker, less well-attended schools instead of overloading high-performing schools. Proximity of homes to schools should not be the deciding factor (2)
- Job losses are a concern (for example in the school office and those in leadership roles) (4)
- Staff may be forced to teach a key stage of which they have no knowledge or experience. (3)
- The building does not allow children to mix and play together. (4)
- Insufficient information given about the amalgamation of the two schools. Will teething problems affect pupils in Years 5 & Y6? (1)
- There is no clear plan of how the schools will amalgamate and the timescale of September 2015 is unrealistic (1)