

Appendix C

Proposed expansion of Mellers Primary School – consultation report

Consultation timetable:

Date	Audience	Time
Monday 3 November	Consultation opened	
Tuesday 4 November	Parents and carers meeting	2.30pm
Tuesday 4 November	Staff meeting	3.30pm
Thursday 13 November	Parents and carers – gate session	8.30am
Wednesday 26 November	Parents and carers – gate session	3.00pm
Sunday 30 November	Consultation closed	

Responses to the consultation:

20 people responded to the consultation and the results were:

- Yes – 15 responses (75%)
- No – 3 responses (15%)
- No opinion – 2 responses (10%)

The responders were:

- Parents – 15 (75%)
- Staff – 1 (5%)
- Governors – 3 (15%)
- Didn't identify – 1 (5%)

Summary of comments:

The three responders who said they did not agree with the proposal cited preferring the current size of the school to a suggested expansion as their main reasons, and they raised concerns about Mellers being able to achieve the same standards or maintain the same ethos on a larger scale.

Of the two responders who had 'no opinion', only one responder provided additional information and they said they want the expansion not to have an impact on normal schooling.

Of those who responded yes, most of the comments were positive about more children and families benefitting from an education at Mellers. There were also some detailed comments about the building requirements and suggestions for the front of the school.

A table with all of the feedback from the consultation is included at the end of this report.

Feedback from meetings and gate sessions:

25 parents attended the parents meeting and 20 members of staff attended the staff meeting. Below is a list of the questions/points raised at these meetings:

- Will you be replacing green space?
- When will the children start at the school?
- Can you buy the Globe pub?
- Will the staff room be expanded?
- Will there be SEN space included in the build?
- Is there money to buy more land?
- Will there be more dining space?
- Will we have to take more children as soon as the building is finished? Can you guarantee the expansion will be phased?
- Will there be a new car park?
- Will permit parking be introduced?
- Decent classroom sizes are needed

Gate session – 13 November

9 parents were spoken to at the gates. All of the parents supported the proposal and said it was a good idea and they had no questions, that it was good more children would be able to attend the school and that there are too many children on the waiting list at the moment.

Gate session – 26 November

12 parents were spoken to at the gates. 2 had no comment to make on the proposals and the remaining 10 were positive about the expansion stating they thought it was a good idea and they had no questions.

Consultation outcomes in detail.

Outcome	Comments	Type of respondent
Yes	It would be good for Mellers to expand to offer more places for children that are out of school. Children need the best to have positive outcomes	Not given
No	I don't agree with the expansion as I think the school needs to concentrate on the pupils it has. In years gone by Mellers have said they haven't had the best punctuation and Ofsted reports and I think this will hinder Mellers instead	Parent/carer
No	I believe that Mellers Primary School is outstanding in every sense. My child joined the school 2 years ago and with support has matured very well. I (we) liked the school because of its size, amongst other matters and I feel that an increase could have a negative impact on the children e.g. decrease in playground/space surrounding school.	Parent/carer
Yes		Parent/carer
Yes	The area in front of the school gates is often crowded. This makes it harder for the people who wish to enter/exit the building. It would be very helpful if the school could hire someone to organise who is passing by. (My daughter was involved in a car accident near the school because of this exact reason. Thank you.	Parent/carer
Yes	This expansion is a really great idea, There are many does not have the ability to attend the school and have their knowledge and the chance to meet other friends like my son.	Parent/carer
Yes		Parent/carer
Yes		Parent/carer
Yes		Governor
Yes		Parent/carer
Yes		Parent/carer
Yes		Parent/carer
		Parent/carer

No	Mellers has always had a very special atmosphere and I believe that this is, in part, due to the size of the school. Mellers feels more like an extended family than a school; staff know the children well and have positive relationships with the majority of parents. Expansion would bring both extra funding and extra opportunities for staff and children but at the moment I am not certain that these would be worth sacrificing the current ethos.	Parent/carer and staff member
Yes	I agree if the new building is fit for purpose. It's no use just building the extra classrooms - we will need a hall big enough to hold the whole school, a much bigger staff room, more staff toilets, a community room and areas for small group/1to1 work. I only agree to the expansion if the building can allow the staff team to continue to create the ethos and practice that now exists.	Governor
Yes		Governor
Yes		Staff
Yes	None	Parent/carer
No opinion		Parent/carer
No opinion	As long as it does not affect normal schooling. If it is going to affect children's education then I plus a lot of parents will be complaining. Expansion is a good thing with the increase of children in the area.	Parent/carer
Yes	I think it would be a great idea to expand, as it would increase the opportunity of other families to send their children here rather than other alternatives further afield. It would also make good use of the barren old nursery plot.	Parent/carer