

## Responses to the Silverwood School Place Number Consultation

Prior to the formal consultation period, in accordance with DfE guidance good practice, a pre-consultation informal information session was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The session was promoted to all Silverwood School parents/ carers, staff and governors. The executive head teacher, chair of governors, one governor and one parent carer attended the meeting. Matthew Look, Senior Commissioner, and Alison Enever, Head of Special School Transformation shared the draft proposal at this session and explained what was being proposed.

The feedback from the attendees was that the proposal was sensible and needed to continue to meet the needs of children at the school. A query was raised about the school's capacity to support additional learners and assurance was provided regarding joint planning between the school and local authority for managing the increase. Following this meeting therefore, and with the Executive Head's agreement, the figure of 410 places was confirmed for the proposal.

The formal consultation ran for 4 weeks from 19<sup>th</sup> April – 16<sup>th</sup> May, in accordance with the DfE guidelines. Three responses were received via email, no responses were received via the online consultation and no hard copy responses were received. Of the three responses received, none were opposed to the proposal and two were strongly in favour. The limited number of responses was consistent with previous similar consultations, and in line with expectations given previous engagement and a comprehensive and well received co-production programme for the development of the design for the new build at the Rowde campus.

This proposal was to regularise registered place numbers in line with the number of children attending the school and those forecast to be in attendance in the 2021-22 academic year.

Response	From	Do you agree with the proposal?	Comments regarding response
I support the council's proposal to increase the number of pupils at Silverwood and understand that this will enable it to meet the needs of the increasing number of children with SEND. As governors we will actively support the education and wellbeing of every pupil placed with us.	Chair of Governors, Silverwood School	Yes	Wiltshire Council and Silverwood School have worked closely together since the school formed in September 2020.

<p>I am delighted that we have been able to work in conjunction with Wiltshire Council to support an increased number of pupils attending Silverwood School. Our primary aim is to provide the best possible quality of education for all our pupils and this now affords us the opportunity to further support our pupils, families and the wider Silverwood community.</p>	<p>Executive Headteacher, Silverwood School</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Executive Headteacher, Sean McKeown notes that Silverwood School has been providing additional places, over and above their registered place numbers, and that the proposal would enable Silverwood School to continue to support more families.</p>
<p>While I have no concerns with increasing Silverwood School capacity overall, I am concerned with a single number being used to represent the increase across the school as a whole.</p> <p>(This response then also included an explanation of why they had concerns about a single figure being used to describe the capacity of a school covering multiple sites)</p>	<p>Parent Carer</p>	<p>Not against the proposal</p>	<p>The DfE requirement to have a single published place number figure, including for schools with multiple sites, was outside the scope of this consultation.</p>

Considering the responses to the consultation, and in particular that none of the responses were opposed to the proposal, **the recommendation is to approve the increase in place numbers as per the original proposal.**