

Appendix 7

Queen's Park Primary School Report on Statutory Consultation Period

Number of responses received during statutory notice period – four
Number of responses received after end of statutory notice period – one¹

Objections to proposals – five

Support for proposals – none

The statutory consultation period for the proposed raising of age range from three to four years at Queen's Park primary school and closure of its nursery class ran for a four week period from 28th April to 26th May 2017.

During that period four responses to the statutory notice were received by Brighton & Hove city council. An additional response was received on 30th May 2017 after the closing date. This response has also been included in this report.

All the responses were from parents who had children in the nursery class or whose child or children had attended in the past.

The following points were made in objection to the proposed closure of the nursery class (the number of parents who made each point is shown in brackets after the comment).

1. The nursery has an excellent reputation and offers high quality early years teaching with dedicated staff (4)
2. The school has not promoted the nursery or done anything to increase numbers, which has resulted in low numbers on roll (4)
3. The school has not accepted offers from parents to help with marketing, fundraising and promotion (4)
4. Nurseries in other maintained schools are closing; in addition the new entitlement to 30 hours free childcare means that there may be a lack of places for children elsewhere in the city (4)
5. The school has not been open with parents about the difficulties the nursery was facing and its proposed closure; it failed to consult or inform parents (4)
6. Children who attend the nursery do very well in terms of their development, especially those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) (3)
7. The nursery is a valuable asset to the school and to the wider community and also attracts children from other areas of the city (3)

¹ Comments contained in this response have been included in this report

8. The presence of the nursery in the school also benefits its older children, including offering a place of sanctuary(2)
9. The school has failed to deal positively with enquiries from parents about the nursery (2)
10. The school has not listened to parents' objections regarding nursery closure and there is a loss of confidence in the head and governors (2)
11. If the nursery closes it will be lost for ever (2)
12. The council should hold the school to account and investigate the choice it has made to close the nursery; there is a hidden agenda which needs investigating (2)
13. Children who attend the nursery class and go on to attend the school experience continuity of care (1)
14. The nursery is good at teaching children about different cultures which stops racism in the playground (1)
15. Parents have raised money for the nursery in the past (1)
16. Closure is an indication of poor financial management at the school; the senior leadership team has not explained why per pupil spending on supply teachers has increased by 100% in the last two years (1)
17. Numbers of children on roll in the initial report did not include parents buying extra spaces, or the varying number of children attending throughout the year; there were low numbers last year because of children attending who had SEND and needed extra help (1)

Vicky Jenkins
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30th May 2017