

Consultation Responses about Proposal to Permanently expand West Hove Junior School

Responses	
Support expansion of West Hove Junior school	83
Do not support expansion of West Hove Junior school	3

Proposal

West Hove Infant School expanded in September 2011 by three forms of entry which are located at the school's Connaught Road site. This has resulted in a need for an additional three forms of entry for junior age pupils from September 2014. The Council is consulting about the proposal to permanently expand West Hove Junior School by three forms of entry and to locate this provision at Hove Police station in Holland Road. In 2015 it is proposed that there will be four forms of entry.

Comments from Parents: in support of expansion

- The Holland Road site should be temporary while a purpose built school is developed with playing fields. (2 responses)
- The Head Teacher and staff team are exceptional and easily able to manage both sites effectively. (7 responses)
- Support for there to be an automatic preference for the sibling priority to exist on all applications to West Hove Infant and Junior Schools. (4 responses)
- Continuity between West Hove Infants and West Hove Junior Schools is positive, particularly with the priority for siblings as long as standards of teaching remain high. (4 responses)
- It is welcome that West Hove Junior School will remain under LA control. (2 responses)
- How will staff cope with working between two sites and will senior managers be distracted from teaching and existing duties by the need to design, plan and recruit to the new site?
- Enrichment opportunities for children are likely to reduce with the expansion of the school.
- What arrangements will the Council put in place to enable parents to take and collect children from a split site school? A staggered start at the two schools is welcome but may not be sufficient. Will a shuttle bus service be provided? A 20 minute walk is a long way for very small children. (12 responses)
- The adult education centre at Connaught Road may need to be reviewed to ensure capacity for 4 forms of entry to West Hove Junior School by September 2015.
- Concern expressed about industrial vehicles using Holland Road. Traffic calming measures need to be put in place if young children will be using the road.
- A split site school means fewer peers for children to play with which may affect their socialisation.

- Practical issues should be addressed from the outset, for example parking, access, play and dinner timings to avoid any health and safety or environmental health concerns arising later.
- Children need a decent sized external play area which should be included in the planning process. (3 responses)

Comments from Parents: against the expansion

- 1 preference stated for a self-managed free school.
- 1 parent was concerned that the Executive Head was already stretched managing Whitehawk Primary and that the burden of expanding West Hove Junior would be too much for the Head and staff to bear. The suggestion was that a primary school with an outstanding Ofsted would be better placed to expand.

Comments from others including schools

- Governors from Davigdor Infants School are concerned about their future pupil numbers because they believe West Hove Junior School site at Holland Road will meet demand from the West Hove Infants School on the Connaught Road site but not the additional shortfall of local places.