

Appendix 1 - Ashmead Primary School - Representation Period Responses

Do you support the proposed expansion?	Comments/Reasons
No	<p>Adds congestion to an already congested area (Ashmead was made one way after the rebuilding of the school, to make the area safer). The school does not adhere to the conservation area build. It may be lovely to use (children and staff) but it is incredibly out of place with a conservation area. The school is currently just right for the 1 form entry but becomes too big not only as a school but for the community, if it becomes 2 form entry. Some of the reasons for expanding eg the curriculum would offer more experiences, there will be more money (each child attracting extra money) - these are not true, as the bigger the school attracts more management at a higher salary. More management would be needed to run a larger school on a small site with its additional problems that will have been created.</p>
Yes	<p>The school appears to have sufficient physical space and land to allow expansion. My son will be reception age in a few years and Ashmead is the closest school to our home. Additional places at the school can only be a good thing for the local community and area. A larger school also affords more educational opportunities and internal resources for the pupils.</p>
No	<p>1. We believe that the pedestrian and vehicle congestion in Ashmead Road at Ashmead School morning dropping off and afternoon picking up times are currently excessive for a small residential road with narrow pavements. The proposed expansion of Ashmead School will obviously make this situation far worse creating far more inconvenience to residents and a danger to pedestrians and pupils attending in the school. 2. We cannot comprehend why there was no provision for future proofing Ashmead School when it was rebuilt in 2008. The school has already been extended since, in 2012 and the proposed expansion of the school will cause further noise, dust and disruption for residents of Ashmead Road during the construction works.</p>
Yes	<p>I agree that enlarging Ashmead is in the best interest of the local community and has benefits to the school. I am concerned about the build in three ways: a) that Ashmead retains as much of the playground space as possible and innovative ideas are considered to ensure this takes place. b) because the build is being joined with the Addey and Stanhope expansion (which is the bigger job), that Ashmead has the power to contest plans / building designs, even if Addey and Stanhope agree with theirs. c) that the works run to time and don't overrun after September 2019.</p>
Yes	<p>I believe the community needs more school places and the school will benefit from economies of scale that expansion offers. Very important however that the build is managed sensitively and in consultation with the school in order to minimise disruption to learning and preserve outdoor space.</p>
Yes	<p>It will benefit Ashmead Primary for the following reasons: - ability for the school to support children better - resources, teaching talent, budget prioritisation, ability to track attainment and progress across a bigger cohort of children - more children in the local area will have access to a school which I believe is delivering excellent education and really cares about outcomes for its pupils - increased roll and</p>

	therefore budget, given constraints on school funding - increased support for teachers, who can co-plan across year groups and have better access to career development
No	<p>This is to log my objection to the proposal of Ashmead School Expanding for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ashmead Road has already been made into a one way system since the addition of the 'bulge' classes. By doubling the size of the school this will exacerbate an already congested area. Saying that the children would walk to school and be local is not a good enough reason. I spent some years, watching a neighbour of mine, drive her child to Ashmead School (all of 1/4 mile). 2. It would appear that Network South East are using St Johns as a depot with access to large vehicles. As can be seen at Christmas - this not only caused congestion but was incredibly dangerous to the children who were trying to walk to school. Has this been resolved yet? 3. Can we have access to the Health and Safety report/policy that I assume the school will have with reference to getting to school safely for both children and staff? 4. For some reason, London children are deemed as not needing as much open space to play in as children elsewhere in the country. In addition to this, we are exposing them to yet more pollution. Has the air quality in the area been analysed before exposing yet more children to it? 5. Has the head teacher commented on this proposal with a personal opinion? 6. It has been suggested that by expanding the school more 'subjects/experiences' will be available to the children. In my experience of 30 or so years of teaching, I have not found this to be necessarily the case. If anything, more management positions are created to manage the extra children as it becomes more complicated to run. And with the extra children, space becomes a premium to find a quiet corner to work with a child who might have difficulties. If anything, the subjects are streamlined to accommodate what curriculum they have to deliver. It all becomes less flexible. 7. We allowed the building of a modern school in a conservation area. It was carefully considered at the time but the needs of the locals was put first where possible but it was accepted that the past school was in such a dreadful state it had to be rebuilt. This was done recently in the last few years. Lewisham should have had the projected statistics of the population and those who would need school places. It was therefore a shock to find that the school had barely been built when 'temporary' classrooms were put in the playground to accommodate 'bulge' years. Now we are 'doubling' the size of the school. What other surprises has Lewisham got for us? 8. Please note that it is difficult to employ teachers at the best of times. Making the school bigger, with less parking, does not make the school more attractive to work in. 9. I am surprised that Lewisham has covered all local possible areas which could have been used to house a much bigger school with yet more housing, and shops and additional people. 10. A new block has been suggested at the back of the school. How high would this block be? Would it overlook 'Stone House' a building of historic importance in a conservation area? There appear to be many questions that need to be asked and we should not be reacting by squashing yet more into an already congested area with overstretched facilities.
No	Currently as a resident of Ashmead road, parking is a nightmare at school drop off and pick up time. Parents with children at the school not only take all the parking on the road, but when there are no spaces left, they block the road with their cars. Is there going to be a parking ban between the hours of 9-11 am (as in other areas)? Or even an introduction of permits? The increase in intake will only escalate this problem. This would make me much more inclined to support the expansion and not oppose it.
No	Thank you for your letter about this proposal. We are very sorry to have to object to the proposal at this stage. The reason for the objection is that no details have been provided about the expected impact of the extra pupils on the residents of Ashmead Road. The

	street gets very congested at school drop off and pick up times, due to the significant proportion of pupils who arrive by car. Parking is a problem at these times and danger is caused to all users of the street, including pupils, by drivers who double-park or park on the school zone markings at this time. The problem is exacerbated by commuter parking at the top of Ashmead Road, near St John's station. We would like to hear what measures will be taken to mitigate this in the context of the proposed increase of what looks to be up to about 180 pupils. For example, policing the school zone markings more effectively, encouraging children to come to school on bike or by foot, or placing restrictions on commuter parking at the top of the road so that space can be used by drivers during school drop off and pick up time. We are supportive of the objectives of this proposal and recognise the evidence of demand, so hope it will be possible to address the issues raised above and then proceed with the scheme.
Yes	Ashmead is a good school and the community requirements for school places are growing. Allowing a greater intake will benefit the children in the local community by providing greater access for more pupils to a good education. It will also enable the school to have an increased budget and have better scope for planning long-term and recruiting the best teachers, with better career development opportunities. It will also enable a stronger classroom environment for children by providing a school that is purpose-built for the size of intake that it has. Finally, having two form entry gives a better opportunity to measure educational performance against a larger cohort of children and improve opportunities and outcomes for the children of the local community.