

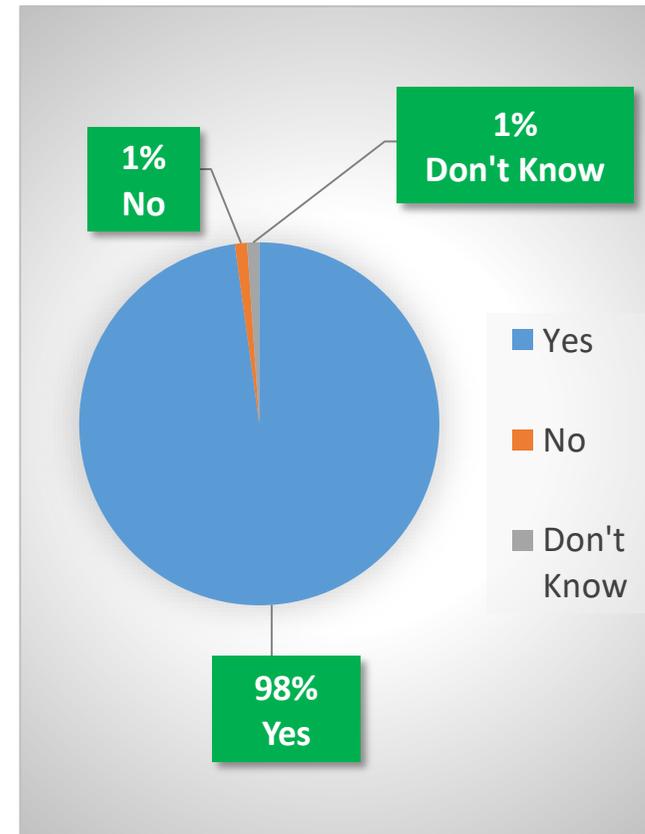
# Fulbrook Middle School

Samantha Clancy, Headteacher



## Consultation Report

### Proposal to Extend the Age Range of Fulbrook Academy to a 9 - 16 extended secondary school From 2020-2021



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Fulbrook Middle School is a trading name of Fulbrook Academy, a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Registered Number: 07695419

## 1. Executive Summary

Fulbrook held a full and open consultation asking the question:

**Should Fulbrook Academy become a 9-16 extended secondary school, with the first Year 9 cohort being able to remain at the school from September 2020?**

The response was overwhelmingly positive, with 1111 responses, 736 of which were from a wide-ranging group of stakeholders and the remaining responses from current pupils.

98% stakeholder responses are in favour of the proposal. When including pupil responses, 90% respondents believe that Fulbrook should become an extended secondary school.

### Why?

Parents, community members and the public were consistently clear that:

- Fulbrook school, along with its feeder schools, offers good and outstanding education from Foundation to Year 8 and there is a clear desire to extend that offer to Year 11.
- education be provided for this population and that the two Local Authorities work together to achieve this locally.
- Fulbrook plays a key role in the community; its resources also serve the neighbouring communities.

Parents, community members and the public were also clear that any option to remove secondary schooling from Woburn Sands, and an expectation that pupils travel to Leighton Buzzard or Milton Keynes from 11 or 13 years of age, would:

- a) separate friends at a critical time, increasing anxiety with a negative impact on mental health;
- b) lengthen the school day with extended travel times;
- c) limit or prevent access to after school activities;
- d) have no public transport available;
- e) result in difficulties accessing school bus services and those available are costly;
- f) reduce family, social and study time due to travel time;
- g) prevent independent travel by foot or bicycle;
- h) reduce the ability to be involved with the community; and
- i) restrict access to friends outside of school, as they are in Leighton Buzzard or Milton Keynes.

Here follows the full report, resulting from the consultation.

## 2. Dates

### Consultation Timetable:

| Event   | Timescale  |
|---|--|
| Consultation Process  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2018 – 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2019  |
| Consultation Drop-ins   | <p>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January: School Hall 18:30-20:00 (parents and carers)</p> <p>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019 the School's Year 5 Block 10:00-16:00 (parents, carers and the wider community)</p> |
| Analysis of responses and preparation of Consultation Report  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> January 2019  |
| Governors consider responses to consultation and determine proposal for the extended age range and decide to proceed.   | January 2019   |
| If the Governors decide to proceed, the decision and the reasons for it will be communicated to those listed opposite; the decision and Consultation Report will be posted on the school's website. | <p>February 2019</p> <p>The Local Authority<br/>The parents of every registered Fulbrook pupil<br/>Anyone else we deem appropriate</p>   |
| Governors to submit a full business case to the Regional Schools Commissioner   | By 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2019  |
| Regional Schools Commissioner decision  | March 2019 (to be confirmed)   |
| Implementation  | The Governors will inform the Secretary of State for Education of the decision.  |
| Final Implementation of Proposals   | 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020   |

### 3. Number of Responses

| Should Fulbrook Academy become a 9-16 extended secondary school, with the first Year 9 cohort being able to remain at the school from September 2020? |                 |            |             |
|---|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| Answer  | Fulbrook Pupils | Public     | Total       |
| Yes   | 284             | 720        | 1004        |
| No  | 44              | 8          | 52          |
| Don't Know  | 47              | 8          | 55          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>375</b>      | <b>736</b> | <b>1111</b> |

### 4. Method of Analysis

**Quantitative data** has been analysed by the answer given to the overall question 'Should Fulbrook Academy become a 9-16 extended secondary school, with the first Year 9 cohort being able to remain at the school from September 2020?'.

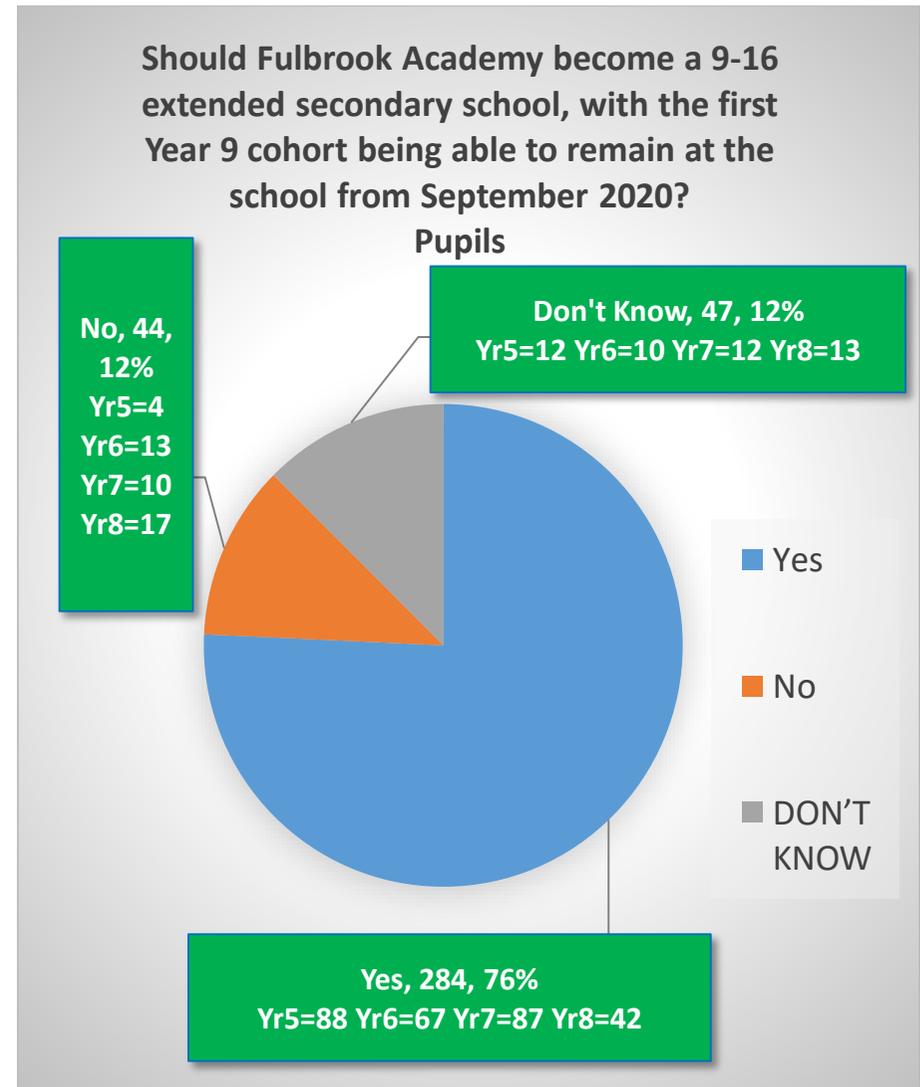
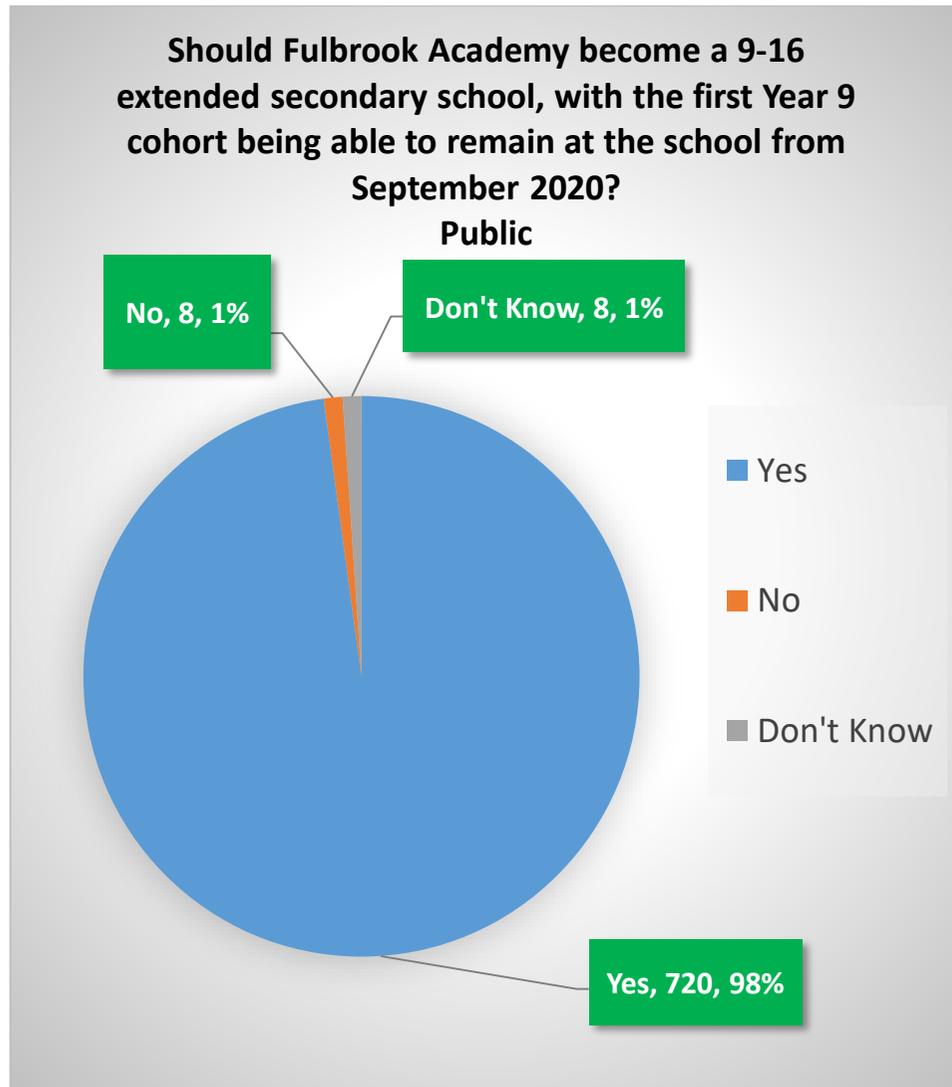
Further analysis of the details of responders has been carried out to ensure representation of all stakeholder groups. Age, ethnicity, gender, and disability charts and graphs can be found at Appendix A.

**Qualitative data** covers the comments made when asked to 'Please give your reasons for your answer, if you wish.'

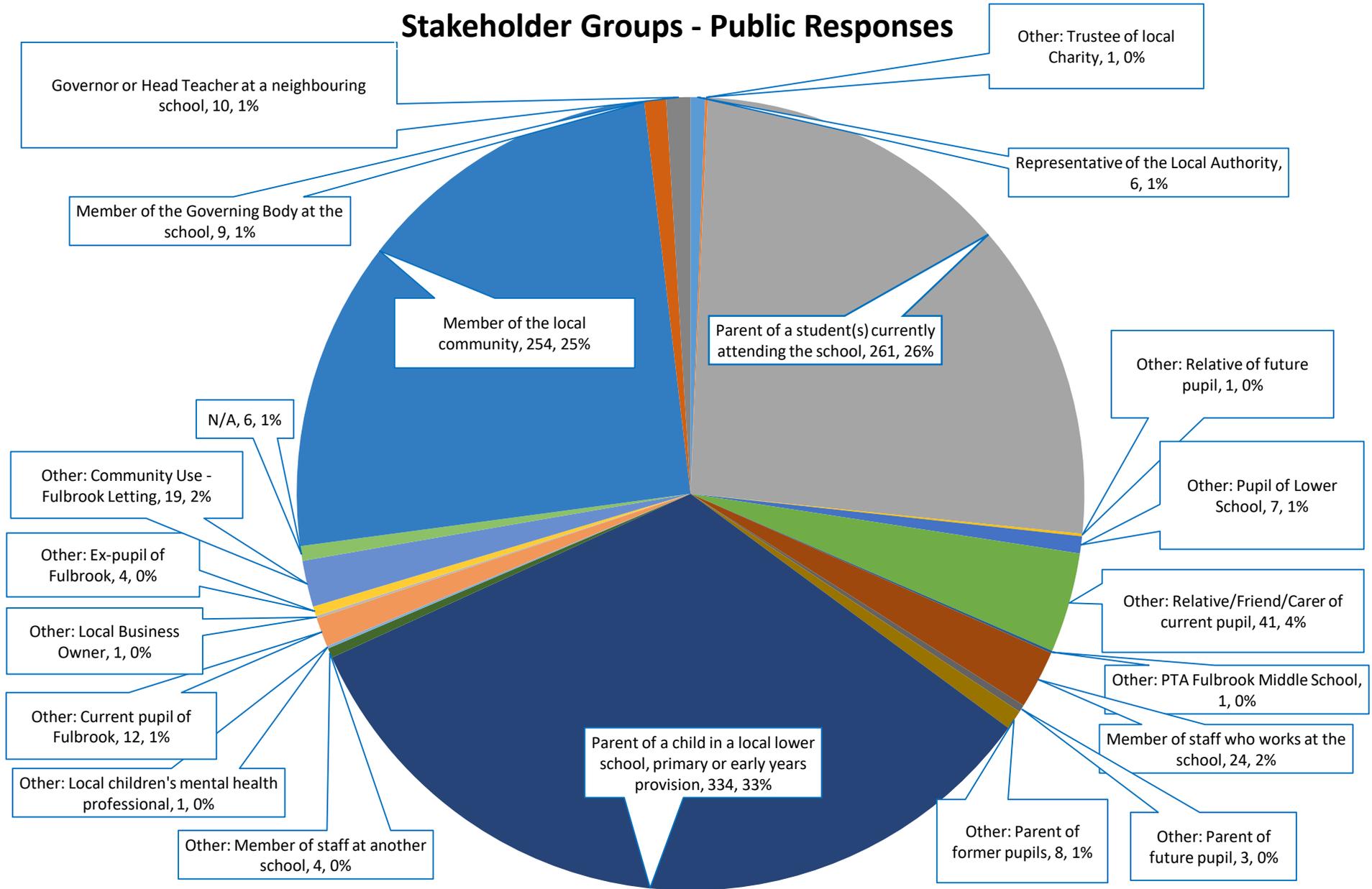
The comments have been read and common themes for positive, negative and suggestions for alternative proposals have been identified.

## 5. Results

### Responses:



## Stakeholder Groups - Public Responses



\*A number of responders ticked more than one stakeholder group. These have all been counted individually making the total across stakeholder groups more than the number of responders.

## Pupil Responses:

| <b>Pupils' Views – Positive</b>                                  |
|--|
| Older pupils will look after younger pupils.                     |
| Will not have to travel so far to upper/secondary school.        |
| Will not have to pay for travel to school.                       |
| We can stay with our friends locally.                            |
| Pupils will know the school and teachers well.                   |
| We need a local school for local children.                       |
| It is becoming difficult to get places at Upper Schools.         |
| It's easy to walk to.  |
| Fulbrook is a good school.                                       |
| Don't want to transfer schools.                                  |
| It will give people more choice of schools.                      |
| There is not a high school in this area.                         |
| It will be good for the community.                               |
| <b>Pupils' Views – Negative</b>                                  |
| The school doesn't have the right facilities.                    |
| There will be too much traffic.                                  |
| It will cost too much money.                                     |
| <b>Suggestions</b>   |
| Keep enrichment.   |
| Separate lunch/break/end of school for older and younger pupils. |
| More GCSE options.   |

**Pupil Quotes:**

*'I think it is a really good idea because schools are becoming harder and harder to get into although I still think that we do need quite a lot of resources to make it happen.'*

*'I think it will be a suitable school from yr5 to 11 since lower school feed in to an easy transition to Fulbrook who will nurture the pupils up until yr11.'*

*'I think it is a good idea because it is easier for children and parents as finding a new school can be difficult and if the child is happy at Fulbrook, they can stay here with no forms to fill out and in theory lots of people that they know will be here still (friends, teachers, etc.). It will also be easy for them to find their way around. It will also be more difficult to get into some upper schools, especially some like Redbourne, so knowing how good the grades are here, staying at Fulbrook means that your child will no doubt be successful.'*

## Key Messages from Responses to the Consultation:

Woburn Sands, Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath is a distinct community.

Its resources also support the surrounding villages.

The responses demonstrate an expectation that education be provided for this population and that the two Local Authorities work together to achieve this.

Many said 'this makes sense', is 'obvious' and a 'no-brainer'.

There is overwhelming support for the extended school proposal and confidence in the school leadership and staff to continue to provide good quality education. Some respondents expressed a preference for an 11 to 16 or 11 to 18 model.

The concerns raised were regarding the increased traffic and parking along Weathercock Lane, although most of the respondents raising those concerns still supported the proposal. Other concerns were raised about the facilities available and ensuring there are staff with the experience to teach GCSEs.

### FULBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSULTATION 'DROP IN' SESSIONS, JANUARY 2019

| Date                       | Parent of a student(s) currently attending the school | Member of the Governing Body | Member of staff who works at the school | Parent of a child in a local lower school primary or early years provision | Governor or Head Teacher at a neighbouring school | Member of the local community | Other (please specify) | Total |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Wednesday 9th January 2019 | 25  | 1                            | 0                                       | 3  | 4   | 9                             | 2                      | 44    |
| Saturday 12th January 2019 | 42  | 0                            | 0                                       | 37   | 1   | 21                            | 12                     | 113   |
| Total                      | 67  | 1                            | 0                                       | 40   | 5   | 30                            | 14                     | 157   |
| % of those attending       | 43  | 1                            | 0                                       | 25   | 3   | 19                            | 9                      | 100   |

\*'Other' category included: Children, Pupils of the school, Grandparents, Woburn Sands Gym Club, Future Pupil, Former Pupil and Aspley Guise Pupil

## Public Quotes:

*'I attended Fulbrook Middle School and later went to Cedars High School. The social and physical impact it had on my life was negative from the start. 2 half hour bus journeys everyday didn't give a young school girl much time to do homework, socialise with children from my area. I was lonely for a very long time. Most if not all of my friends had moved to Walton High. If children have the opportunity to stay at Fulbrook with their friends in the area they live it would have a positive impact on their life, even if it is an unknown one. It would also make it easier for parents and carers during daily life. During my time at Fulbrook, I had a good experience. If children have an opportunity to extend this, then it would be beneficial for everyone.'*

*'Fulbrook would provide secondary education which for many is within walking distance benefitting both the environment and increasing children's physical activity. Fulbrook is a key part of the local community – converting to include secondary education will secure the future of the school as the heart of the community.'*

*'Students miss out on crucial extracurricular activities, support, classes, sports clubs and other outside programmes which are held at upper school outside usual school hours due to having to travel to school miles away and being reliant on buses. Friendships are also compromised due to distance travelled to school and logistics then come into play when meeting up outside of school and opportunities of friendships are lost by missing out on extracurricular activities. It will provide a continuity of education and care where teachers will be able to get to know the children and their families. This will promote greater confidence, a feeling of belonging and security, enabling and allowing each student to grow and reach full potential.'*

*'I would very much like my son to remain at Fulbrook Middle as it offers him stability and continuity. It is a very good school, he has attended since year five, he is extremely happy there and making tremendous progress. He is currently in year seven and sadly he is already worrying as to what school he will attend next as there is no clear feeder school. The chances of him being accepted at Amphill are very doubtful due to being too far out of catchment and it appears the same is very likely to happen with the Leighton Buzzard schools. An extremely worrying time for Fulbrook pupils and parents.'*

*'This extended years combined middle and secondary will be an outstanding school given its catchment and existing reputation.'*

## Local Authority Responses:

- **Milton Keynes Council has no objection to the proposal, but wishes to confirm that it is not deemed appropriate for them to invest capital received to support the Basic Need in Milton Keynes, as there is no insufficiency of provision for their residents in the area.**
- Milton Keynes Council plans to fulfil its duty by offering primary school places at Wavendon CE Primary School, which will be expanding and relocating to the new housing development in Eagle Farm.
- Then, at the end of Year 6, they state that the children, who are residents of Milton Keynes, will be able to access school places at Walton High.
- In the longer term (no date has been confirmed), the council also plans to offer the residents of Woburn Sands the ability to access the new secondary provision that will be opening later in the development of Eagle Farm.
- The council recognises that, despite this plan, some residents will still choose to access schools in Central Bedfordshire, as is their right. Given that residents of Woburn Sands will undoubtedly access provision at Swallowfield and then at Fulbrook, Milton Keynes Council can see why the expansion of Fulbrook to become an extended secondary school might be helpful to support that choice. It might also help those families avoid having to access places in Leighton Buzzard beyond Year 8.
- **Central Bedfordshire Council does not support the proposal.**
- The council confirms its statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for children living within the authority and to cooperate with neighbouring Local Authorities as part of this.
- Central Bedfordshire Council claims that there is very limited housing development planned for the Fulbrook catchment area (within the Central Bedfordshire boundary) within the next ten years. Any additional pupils would be accommodated within the existing school provision available in the local area. Even with any additional housing development, Central Bedfordshire Council claims that there is no additional basic need for school places, for middle and upper year groups.
- Central Bedfordshire Council is proposing to expand Vandyke Upper School to provide the additional upper school places required in the Leighton Linlade area. The demand for these additional school places in the area is a result of the new housing developments planned for the East of Leighton Buzzard.
- As Central Bedfordshire Council does not require additional secondary school places at Fulbrook to meet local demographic demand or its statutory duties, it does not warrant capital investment, required from the Council, to fund the proposal.
- Central Bedfordshire Council recognises that Fulbrook is both popular and successful, attracting pupils from both within and outside the school's catchment area.

## 6. Conclusion

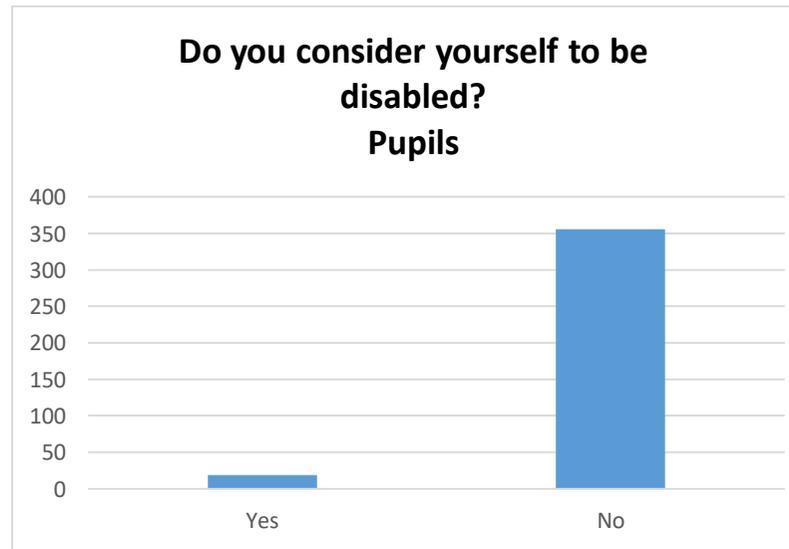
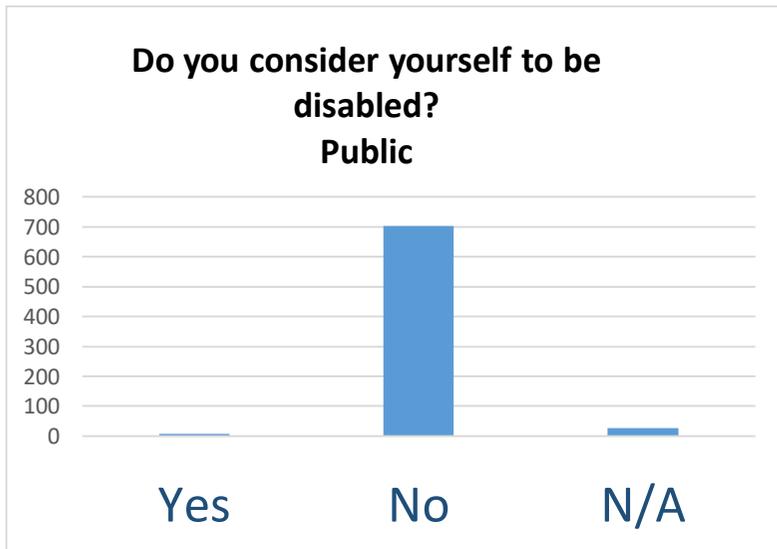
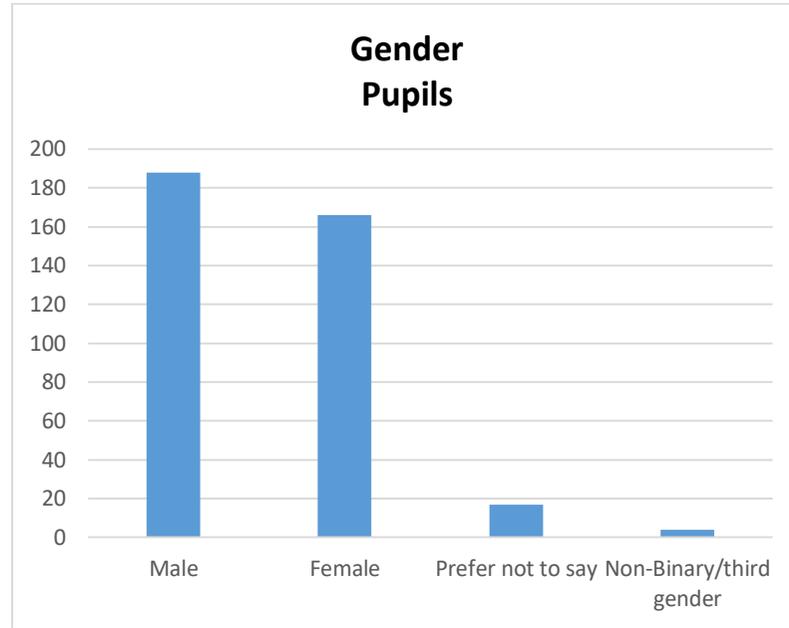
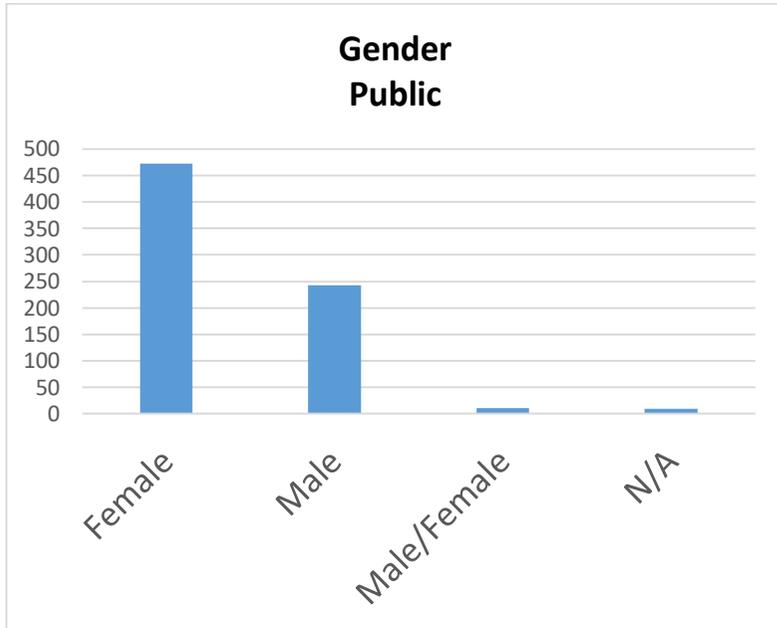
The consultation shows overwhelming support for a school at the heart of Woburn Sands, providing quality education for the growing town and surrounding communities.

Our plan will:

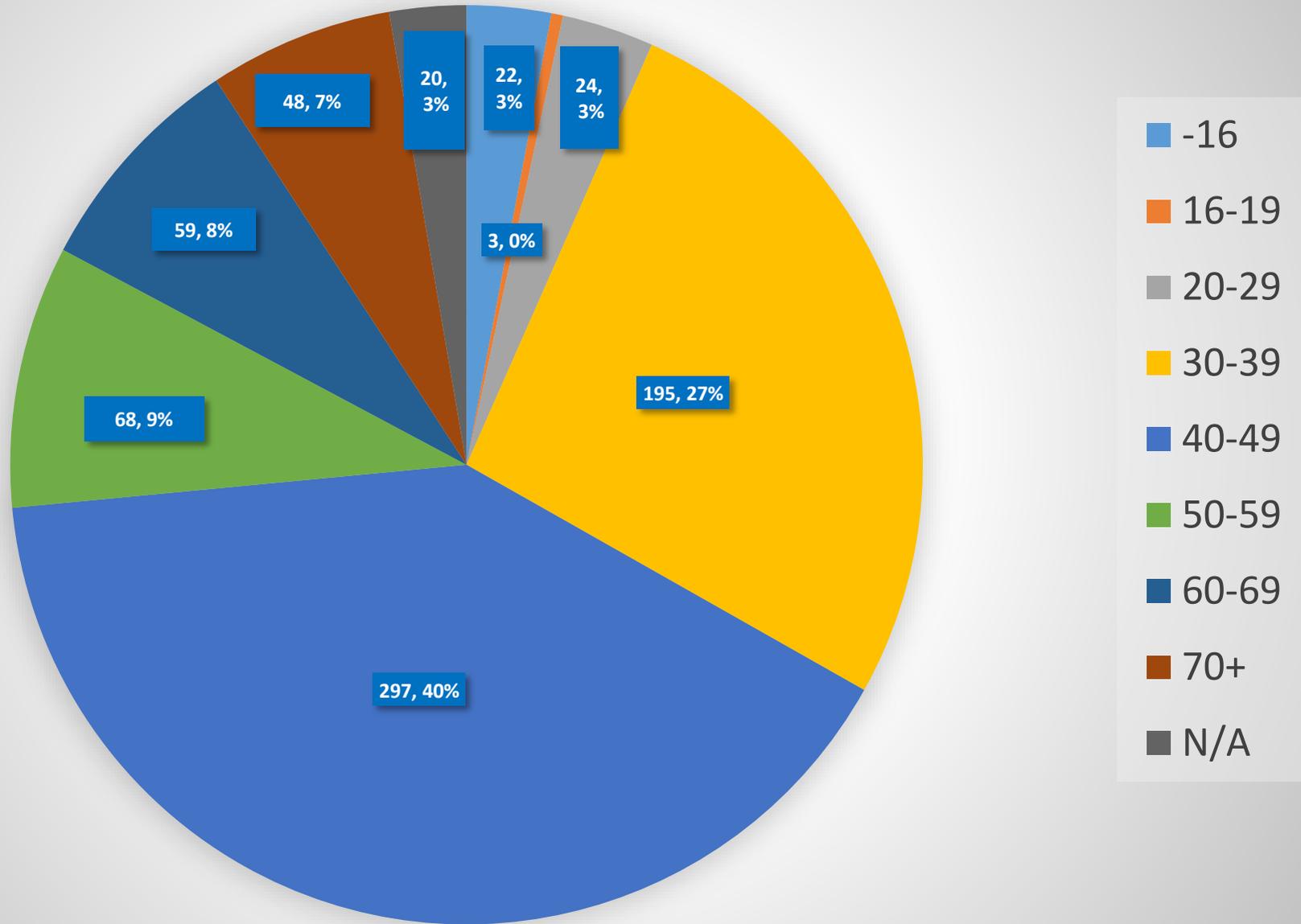
- provide a local school for local children;
- continue the successful collaboration with our feeder schools;
- continue to raise standards and outcomes for our pupils;
- reduce the negative impact of school transfer points;
- further develop the school site as a community hub;
- increase opportunities for parental choice;
- support vulnerable learners by being a more nurturing setting;
- minimise lengthy bus journeys, which in turn will have a positive impact on the environment;
- promote the health, fitness and wellbeing of our children and young people;
- increase extra-curricular participation; and
- develop young people who play an active and key role in the community.

We conclude that our plan is the best viable option for our school and shall be putting our business plan to the Regional Schools Commissioner in due course.

## Appendix A

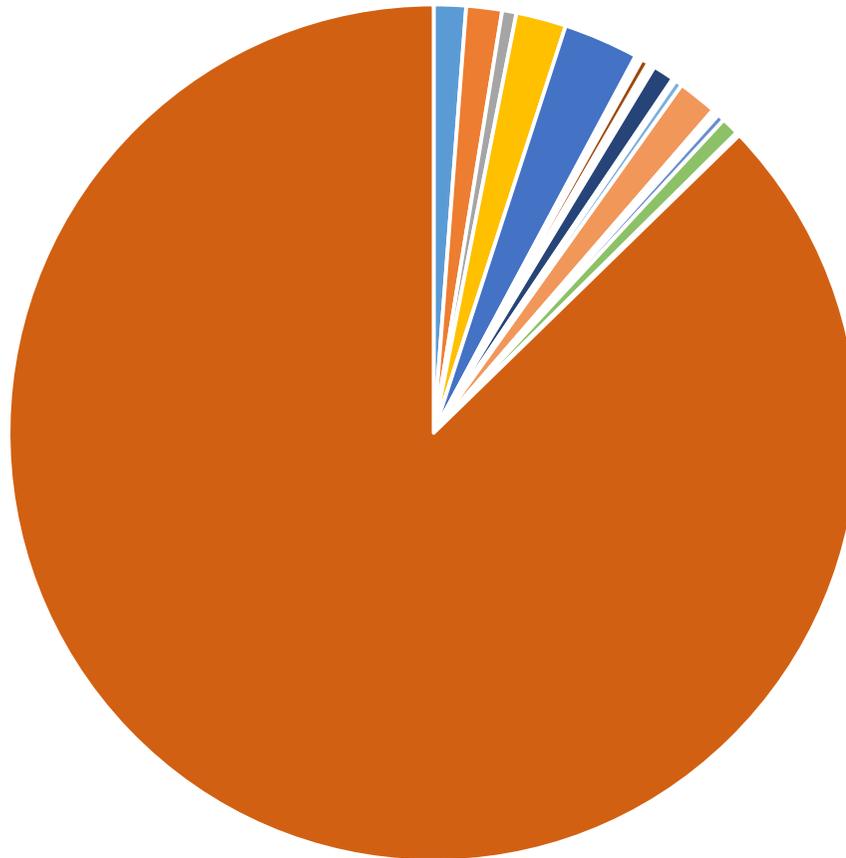


### Age - Public



## Ethnic Group - Public

- Asian or Asian British
- Black or Black British
- Chinese
- Mixed
- N/A
- Other: Aspley Guisian
- Other: Chilean
- Other: Italian
- Other: Japanese
- Other: Kosovan
- Other: Polish
- Other: Romanian
- Other: South African
- Other: White
- Other: White  
Brazilian/Italian
- Other: White  
British/American
- Other: White British/Italian



| Ethnic Group - Pupils  |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Asian or Asian British | 6          |
| Black or Black British | 7          |
| Chinese                | 2          |
| Mixed                  | 36         |
| Other: Australian      | 2          |
| Other: Polish          | 3          |
| Other: White European  | 6          |
| Other: White Irish     | 1          |
| Other                  | 16         |
| White British          | 296        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>375</b> |