



**Fraserburgh New School Informal Engagement
Engagement Meetings & Online Survey
Summary Report**

1. Introduction

Aberdeenshire Council has agreed investment in new school provision for Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School. The proposal requires both the schools to be closed and merged into one new school.

The Learning Estates Team are undertaking the informal engagement process prior to the statutory consultation.

During the informal engagement period officers undertook the following tasks and met with the following stakeholders to discuss the project scope:

22 April 2021 - St Andrews Parent Council Meeting
18 November 2021 - Full Council - Agreed to include the project within Capital Plan
01 February 2022 - St Andrews Parent Council Meeting
04 February 2022 - Cluster Head Teachers Meeting
08 February 2022 - Elected Members Briefing
15 February 2022 - Fraserburgh and District Community Council Meeting
17 February 2022 - Fraserburgh North School Parent Council Meeting
02 March 2022 - Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Suitability Visits
08 March 2022 - Fraserburgh Academy Staff Meeting
09 March 2022 - Fraserburgh North & St Andrews Staff Meeting
30 March 2022 - Fraserburgh Academy Parent Council Meeting

A pupil engagement session was held with Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School pupils on 20 April 2022.

A staff meeting of Fraserburgh North School, St Andrews School and Fraserburgh Academy was held at St Andrews Infant Building on 11 May 2022.

A public meeting was held at the St Andrews School Infant building on 11 May 2022 at 6pm and invites sent to Fraserburgh North School, St Andrews School, Fraserburgh South Park School, Lochpots Schools and Fraserburgh Academy parents/carers and members of the wider community. Staff of Fraserburgh North School, St Andrews School and Fraserburgh Academy were also invited to the public meeting.

Officers will also engage with Fraserburgh Academy pupils on 16 June 2022 to gather their views on the project.

This report gives a summary of comments received at informal engagement session with pupils held on 20 April 2022, during the meetings held with staff and members of the public on 11 May 2022 and a summary of online survey responses that were available during the informal consultation period.

2. Pupil Engagement

Pupil engagement online session was held with a selection of Fraserburgh North School and St Andrews School pupils on 20 April 2022.

Around 10 pupils from each school took part in the session. The pupils were shown a presentation with information about the project. During the session, the pupils had several questions and concerns that were answered to by officers at the time.

Questions and comments from pupils about the merger of the two schools are listed below:

- worried about classes being bigger;
- sad to be leaving the old building;
- happy that there will be more space and more games;
- excited at a new building and new playground;
- scared that it will be a really big school;
- worried about what will happen to the old buildings;
- queried what will the school uniform be like;
- queried about the new school name;
- queried if the new school will have a second floor;
- queried if there will be a lift for people in wheelchairs;
- queried if P7 trips still happen.

The pupils were very excited that the new school will be a two-storey building which will ensure that there will be a lot of good outdoor space. Pupils were asked if they were happy with the overall concept and they agreed.

Following the session, pupils of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools prepared display boards that were shared with the staff and members of the community on 11 May 2022.

3. Informal Engagement

A public meeting was held on 11 May 2022 at 6pm – 8pm at St Andrews Infant Building. A separate meeting for staff was also held earlier that afternoon.

Communication regarding the staff engagement with a link to the online survey was issued to Fraserburgh North School, St Andrews School and Fraserburgh Academy.

Communication regarding the public meeting with a link to the online survey was issued to Fraserburgh North School, St Andrews School, Fraserburgh Academy, Fraserburgh South Park School, Lochpots School, Fraserburgh Library, Fraserburgh Community and Sport Centre, Community Learning and Development Team, Fraserburgh Partner Providers and Childminders and essential users of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools.

Local Elected Members and Banff & Buchan Area Manager also received the communication with a link to the survey.

Communication regarding the informal public meeting with a link to the online survey was also published on the Council's Website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

A copy of the launch poster was distributed to be displayed at Fraserburgh North School, St Andrews School, Fraserburgh Academy, Fraserburgh South Park School, Lochpots School, Fraserburgh Library, Fraserburgh Community and Sport Centre and also to Community Learning and Development Team and Fraserburgh Partner Providers and Childminders.

The staff meeting was attended by 50 staff members and the public meeting by 45 members of the public.

During the sessions, the attendees were presented with a PowerPoint presentation and various boards were on display. The attendees were provided with information about the site appraisals, merger of the two primaries, co-location benefits, indicative site plan, project timeline, statutory consultation process and timeline, information regarding indoor and outdoor facilities and future Early Learning & Childcare provision in Fraserburgh. Following the presentation attendees were given an opportunity to discuss the project in greater detail with officers.

3.1 Exit Polls

Three Exit Polls were available for the attendees during the meetings. The attendees were invited to vote on the below topics:

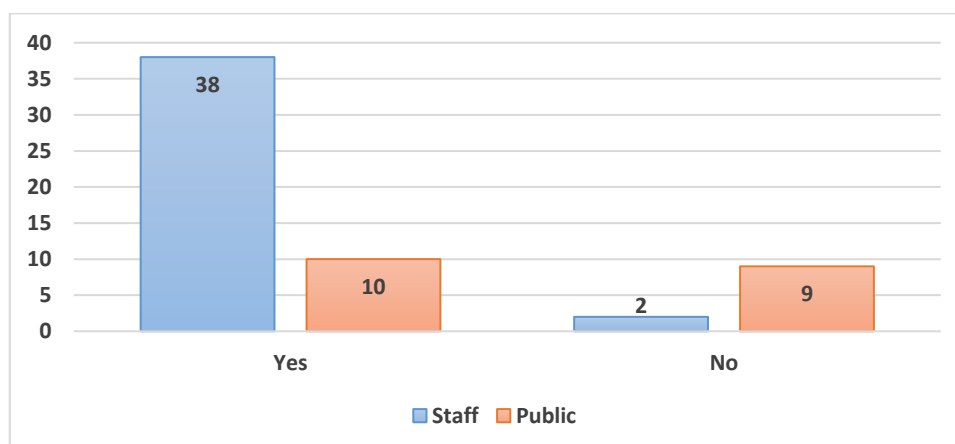
- Exit Poll 1 - New School location at the Academy site
- Exit Poll 2 - Merger of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews
- Exit Poll 3 - Preferred option for the Nursery

Results

Exit Poll 1 - Do you agree with the New School location at the Academy site?

In total 66 attendees completed Exit Poll 1. Chart 1 below shows that 48 (81%) support the Academy site for the New Primary School, while 11 (19%) is against the New School being built at the Academy site. The public opinion is nearly split to 50/50.

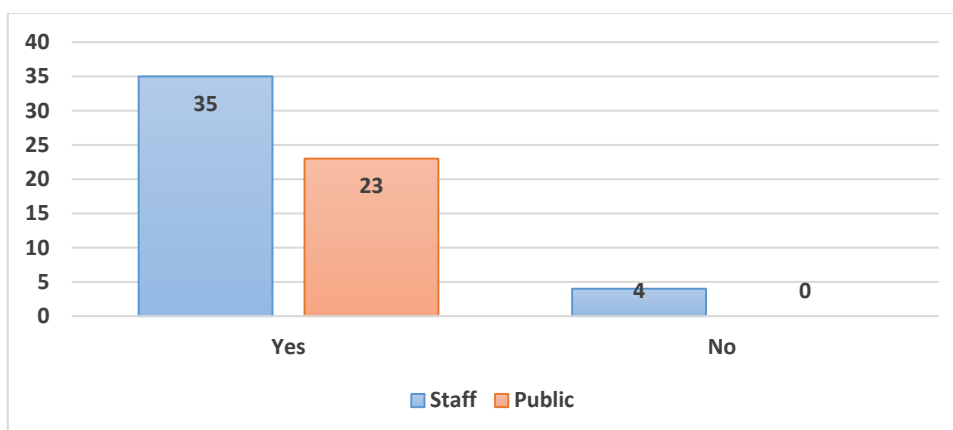
Chart 1



Exit Poll 2 - Do you agree with the merger of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews?

In total 67 attendees completed Exit Poll 2. Chart 2 below shows that 58 (93%) support the merger of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools into a one new school, while four (7%) is against the merger.

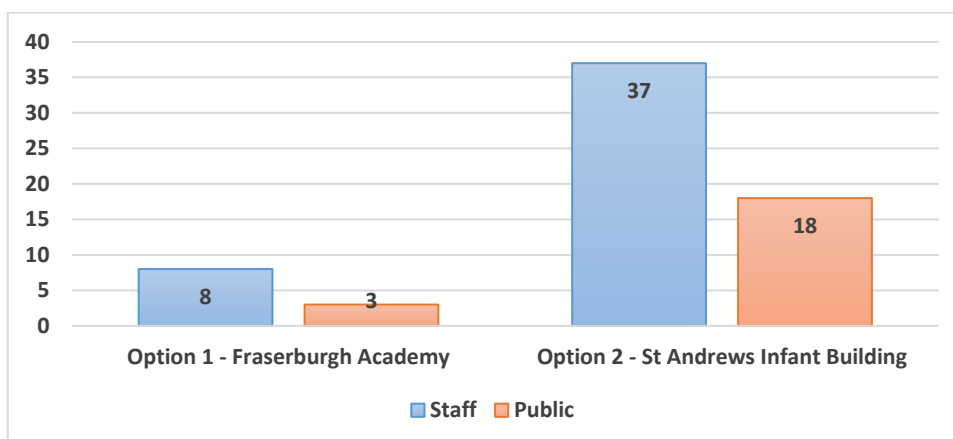
Chart 2



Exit Poll 3 - What is your preferred option for the Nursery?

In total 66 attendees completed Exit Poll 3. Chart 3 below shows that 11 (17%) consultees is in favour of the Fraserburgh Academy site for the new Nursery, while 55 (83%) support the St Andrews Infant Building site.

Chart 3



Across the three Exit Polls, 12 attendees indicated that they would require additional information to make their vote. The consultees were provided with a comment card to submit their questions and a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document will be produced and made available to the stakeholders during the statutory consultation period.

3.2 Comments

In addition to undertaking the Exit Polls, the attendees were provided with a comment card to leave their comments or feedback for officers to consider. In total 34 comment cards were

submitted, 15 completed by the staff and 19 by the community members. Some of them left multiple comments covering more than one topic. Comments made to the officers during the meetings were also noted to be further considered. All comments made by the consultees have been categorised and summarised below:

Concerns

Traffic/ Road

- impassable Dennyduff Road during drop-offs/pick-ups;
- Police, Fire Engines and Ambulance stations located on Dennyduff Road, too big congestion for emergencies;
- drop-offs/pick-ups points and safety issues;
- inadequate staff carpark;
- too big traffic and too many people around the area.

Primary and Academy Co-location

- social issues;
- mixing older children with younger;
- primary and academy sites should be separated/fenced;
- inappropriate behaviour of older children, vulgar talking;
- benefits of primary and secondary on the same site.

Academy Site Location

- most school age children will be coming from the outskirts of Fraserburgh;
- new town areas are most likely to have school age children.

Indoor Accommodation

- facilities and spaces available at the new school;
- adequate storage;
- designated art room;
- meeting rooms;
- ASL spaces;
- proper work base for staff.

Primary Schools Merger

- too big class sizes;
- not enough 1:1 with teachers;
- Fraserburgh North School losing its identity.

Academy Site Grounds

- flooding issues;
- river underneath the proposed Academy site.

Rezoning

- rezoning with all growth at the edge of the town;
- making sure that Fraserburgh North School pupils are not forced out by placing requests;
- timescale for rezoning as will need to consider a nursery enrolment.

Transition

- P1 transition if the nursery in a separate building.

Security

- flight risk with the school size and multiple doors.

Nursery and Primary Co-location

- nursery to be a part of the school;
- nursery and primary to be located at different sites.

Suggestions

- swimming pool site and adjacent grass area solely for early years;
- new school beyond by-pass;
- new school at the St Andrews Infant Building site;
- entrance for academy and staff parking on Alexandra Terrace;
- different break times for primary and academy pupils;
- no exits from play areas;
- outside areas to have fob locks;
- nursery and P1 together in one building as an Onery;
- nursery for drop off times to be considered;
- refurb infant building for central primary and build one on the outskirts;
- demolish St Andrews Infant building and build a new nursery on the site;
- demolish St Andrews Infant building and build a new school on the site;
- unique features of the St Andrews Infant building like shape of the front to be considered somewhere in the new build (heritage);
- Turriff Nursery outdoors could be better utilised.

Questions

- How will Head Teacher be determined?
- What if Councilors object?
- Have the Lochpots School grounds been considered?
- Have considerations of building works been addressed?
- Where will the funding be coming from to replace Astroturf every 8-10 years?
- Will the traffic be controlled either via direction or traffic lights?
- Will Roads Department attend future meetings?
- Will outdoor area be refurbished if Nursery Option 2 is endorsed?

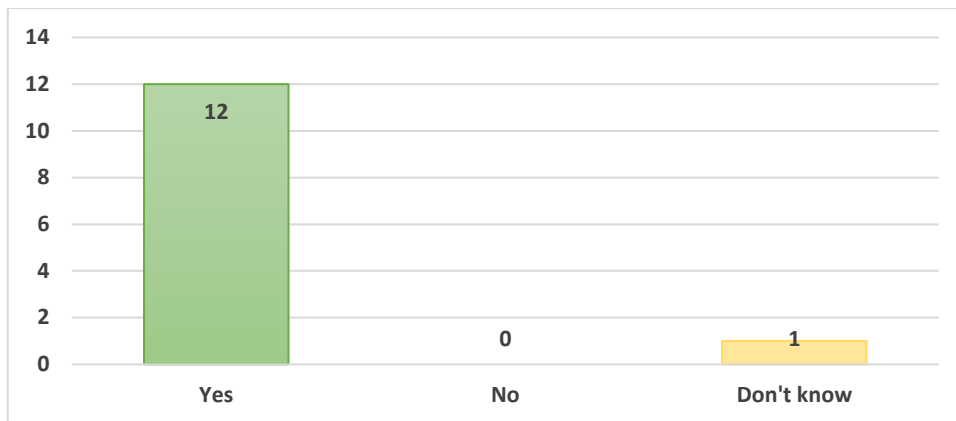
3.3 Paper Format Survey

A paper version of the survey was made available during the engagement sessions. 13 attendees completed the survey and 18 left open-ended comments, many covered more than one topic.

The survey was completed by 10 Staff Members, two Parents/Carers and one Community Member.

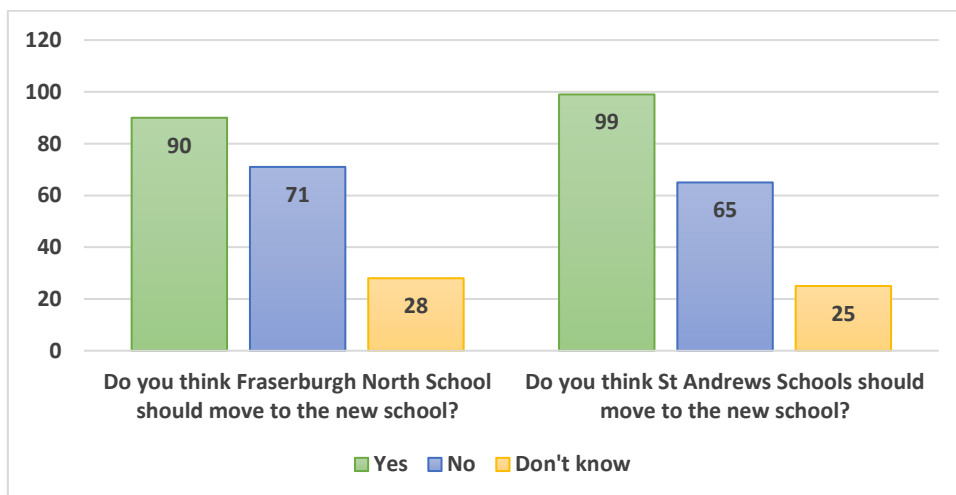
Chart 4 below shows that 12 (92%) respondents support the principle of the new primary school in Fraserburgh and one is not sure. No one voted against.

Chart 4



Eight (62%) consultees think that Fraserburgh North School should move to the new school, one (8%) is against and four (31%) do not know. Eight (62%) respondents think that St Andrews School should move to the new school, while five (38%) are not sure. This is presented in Chart 5 below.

Chart 5



The following issues to be considered by officers have been highlighted by the respondents:

- needs of all to be met;
- issues between older and younger children and bad influence;
- relations between pupils;
- joint ethos and shared values;
- pick-ups and drop-offs due to the volume of traffic, traffic congestion;
- parking;
- bogged site;
- impersonality of a large school;
- fear for vulnerable children in a large school and busy environment;
- P1 and Nursery working together;
- rezoning to ensure diversity regarding deprivation;
- access;
- ASN provision;

- transition;
- vandalism;
- staffing;
- insufficient support for pupils with social work/care issues;
- use of existing buildings.

The respondents have left some suggestions regarding the primary education provision in Fraserburgh, which are listed below:

- new primary at the St Andrews Infant Building site and nursery on the academy ground to help with traffic issues;
- nursery on the St Andrews Infant Building site;
- P1 and nursery located in one building.

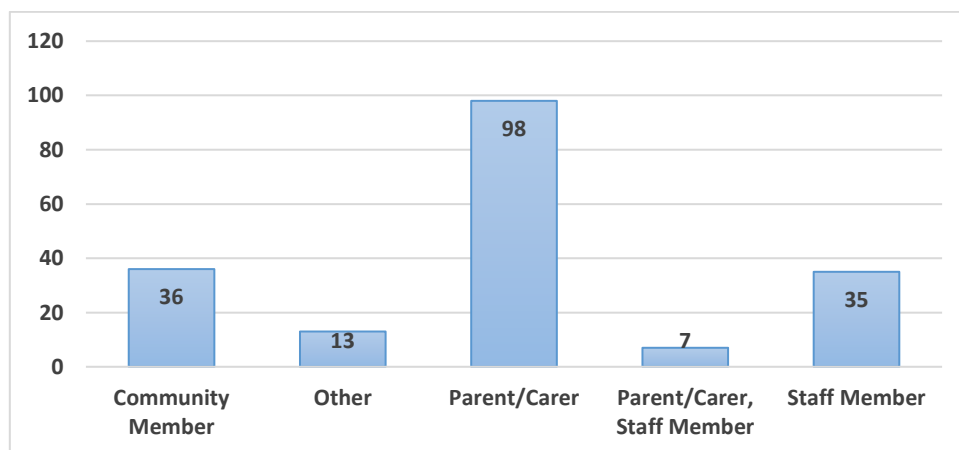
3.4 Online Survey

The survey was open for all stakeholders to complete for the duration of the informal engagement period between 27 April and 16 May 2022.

A total of 189 people took part in the survey with 229 comments left regarding the proposal. It is recognised that stakeholders may have more than one child, therefore more than one answer has been provided for some of the questions. All completed surveys have been analysed and are summarised below.

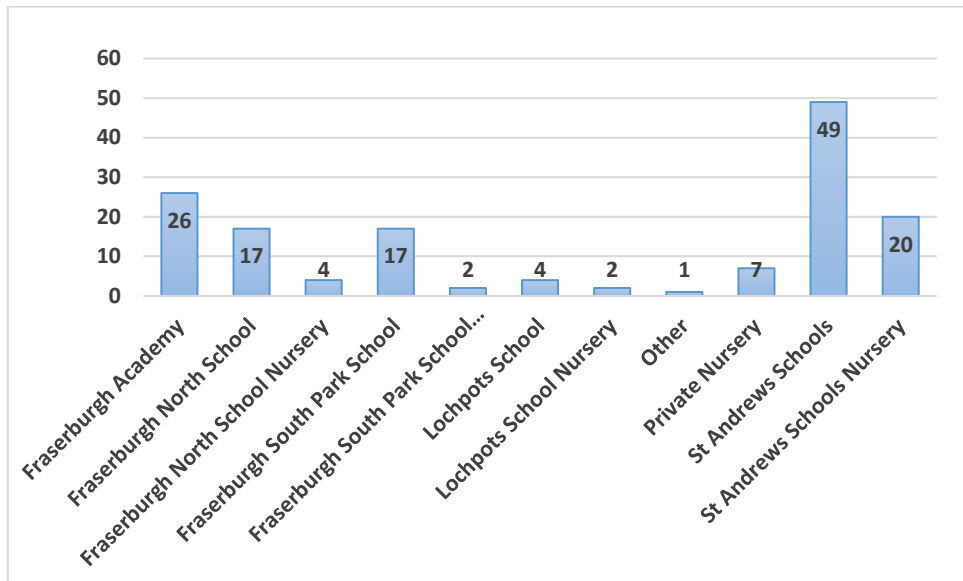
The survey was completed by 98 (52%) Parents/Carers, 35 (19%) Staff Members, 36 (19%) Community Members, 7 (4%) Parents/Carers/Staff Members and 13 (7%) Others, as presented in Chart 6 below.

Chart 6



The highest number of parents/carers that participated in the survey have children currently attending St Andrews School. More than half of the parents/carers, 87 (58%) have children attending a primary school and 35 (23%) have children attending a pre-school setting. This is presented in Chart 7 below.

Chart 7



The vast majority, as 134 (71%) respondents support the principle of the new primary school in Fraserburgh, 40 (21%) are against it and 15 (8%) do not know. These results broken by Interest Group are presented in Chart 8 below.

Chart 8

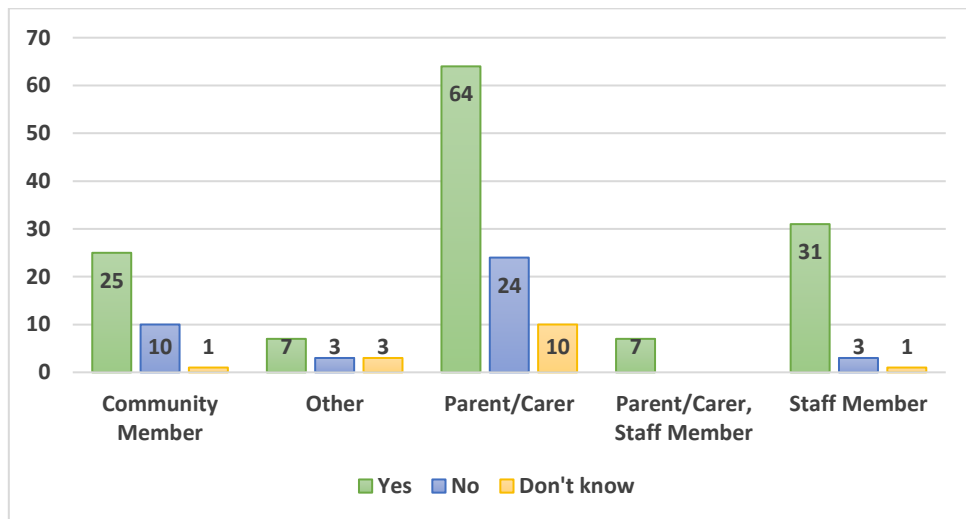
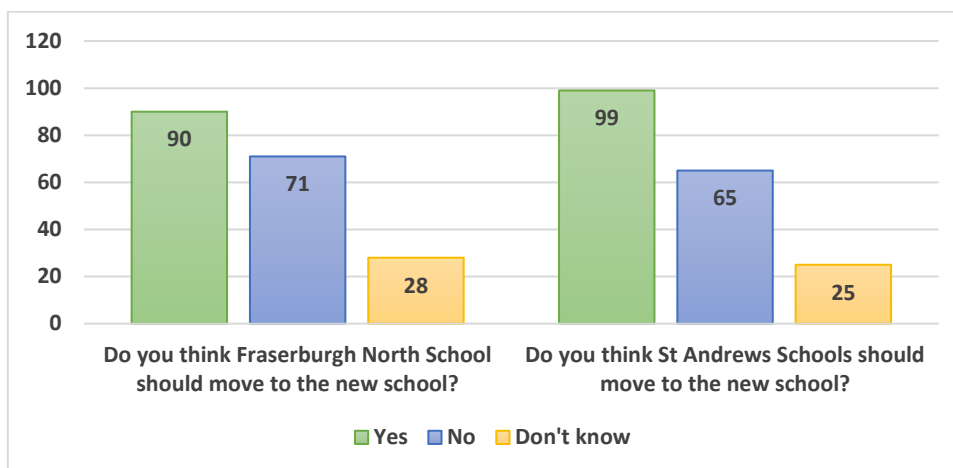


Chart 9 below shows that 90 (48%) respondents view is that Fraserburgh North School should move to the new school, 71 (38%) are against the move and 28 (15%) do not know. 99 (52%) respondents think that St Andrews School should move to the new school, 65 (34%) are against, while 25 (13%) are not sure.

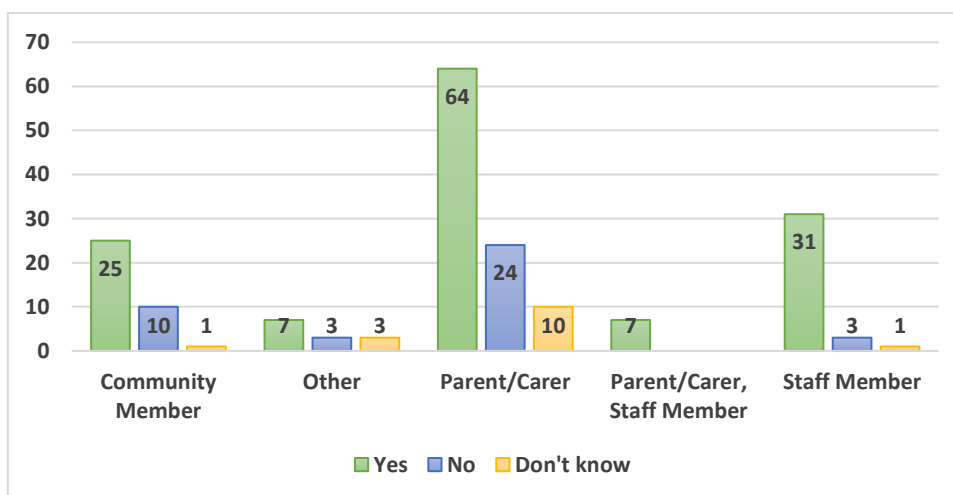
Chart 9



Further analysis of the responses from the parent/carers show that 64 (65%) support the principle of the new primary school in Fraserburgh, 24 (24%) is against it and 10 (10%) are not sure.

Of those staff members who completed the online survey, the vast majority as 32 (89%) support the new school in Fraserburgh, three are against and one is not sure. More details on how the respondents voted on the principle of the new school in Fraserburgh is shown in Chart 10 below.

Chart 10



There were 21 responses from parents/carers who currently have children attending Fraserburgh North School and Nursery. Of those parents, 10 are in favour of moving Fraserburgh North School to the new school, nine are against and two are not sure. Of those parents seven support the move of St Andrews School to the new school, while six are against and eight do not know.

There were 69 responses from parents/carers who currently have children attending St Andrews School and Nursery. Of those parents 39 support the move of St Andrews School

to the new school, 24 are against and six are not sure. Of those parents 24 are in favour of moving Fraserburgh North School to the new school, 29 are against and 16 are not sure.

Of the 35 staff members who completed the survey, 29 are supportive of moving the Fraserburgh North School to the new school, five are against and one does not know. Of those staff, 27 support the move of St Andrews School to the new school, five are against the move and three are not sure.

Of the 36 community members who completed the survey, 18 are supportive of moving the Fraserburgh North School to the new school, 16 are against it and two do not know. Of those community members, 16 support the move of St Andrews School to the new school, 18 are against the move and two are not sure.

Comments

The respondents were asked to indicate what in their opinion are the most important issues that would need to be considered and what are their suggestions regarding the primary education provision in Fraserburgh. A total of 229 comments were received. Many of the participants covered more than one topic, they have been categorised and organised into subheadings below. As many responses contain similar comments they have been grouped together and organised for the purpose of this report from the most voted to the least.

Fraserburgh Academy Site Location

- Traffic and congestion – traffic increase in the area; bottleneck at Dennyduff Road; pupils safety on busy roads; congestion could affect access to emergency vehicle at fire station/ local hospital; pollution due to increased traffic; traffic on Alexandra Terrace;
- Location – not enough space; bad idea;
- Drop-offs and pick-ups – pupils safety on busy roads; additional drop-off & pick-up bays;
- Parking – not enough parking; parking for staff; staff parking on Alexandra Terrace; additional parking bays;
- Distance – may be too distant for some pupils or families who cannot walk or drive; increased distance and impact on attendance of some pupils;
- Access – access restrictions; separate access for the academy pupils and staff;
- Grounds – bogged area; flooding issues;
- Land loss – reduced academy green spaces.

Primary and Academy Co-location

- Co-location issues – overcrowding; too many kids; mixing older and younger children; safety of younger pupils; bad behaviour of the academy pupils; bad influence; bullying; academy and primary should be separated/fenced.

Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Merger

- Merger issues – mixing bigger and smaller school; one school considered as being better than the other; joining two school asking for trouble; sharing of resources; disturbance in classroom; school population will be very large and disparate; children thrive in smaller group settings; underachievement; shared procedures and policies;

- School and classes sizes – too big school; too big classes; reduced support for pupils and pupils with additional needs; busy environment intimidating for pupils with anxiety;
- Staff – not enough staff; staff arrangements; Head Teacher arrangements; strong leadership; staff relations; staffing issues;
- Preparation for merger and transition.

Additional Support Needs and Enhanced Provision

- Accommodation - adequate provision for pupils with additional support needs; adequate enhanced provision; adequate spaces and equipment;
- Appropriate support for pupils with additional support needs.

Indoor/Outdoor Accommodation

- Outdoor spaces – good spaces, where pupils can play on green areas; access to green space for outdoor education; where are trees for forest learning coming from;
- Internal spaces – light and airy; dedicated art, music, families or community spaces;
- Accessibility – access for all; access for pupils with disabilities;
- Security – outdoor spaces visible from the building;
- Fit for purpose – adequate facilities and resources; well-resourced school.
- New school design - heating and electricity cost efficiency.

Vacant Buildings

- What will happen with the existing buildings; use of the current buildings.

Wellbeing

- Meeting needs of all;
- Families and pupils' wellbeing.

Project implementation

- Waste of time and money – money should be spent on other areas; renovate and maintain existing buildings; expansion, not demolition and building;
- Timeline – completion time; no delays;

Other

- Education quality – ability to deliver modern curriculum;
- Access to morning/after school care.

Suggestions

Rezoning

- Consider new housing developments;
- Consider and reduce distances to schools; pupils to be zoned to the nearest school;
- Consider SIMD of all Fraserburgh schools;
- Equitable and practical catchments for the four town schools;
- Consider South Park and Lochpots for sustainable travel;
- Too big current catchments.

New School Site Location

- New school within the new housing development area and existing schools' retention;
- New school within the new housing development area and a new school to replace Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools;
- New school on the Fraserburgh North School site;
- New school on the St Andrews School site;
- New school on the Lochpots School site.

Existing Buildings

- Maintenance of existing buildings – keep maintain existing buildings;
- Renovation of existing building – there is nothing wrong with the existing buildings;
- Academy – the current building needs an upgrade; new academy needed.

Modern and Purpose-built School

- All weather pitches to be built for PE for Primary & Secondary;
- Shared spaces.

Stakeholders' Involvement

- Development plans to be made available to parents/pupils;
- Statutory public meeting prior to the final decision;
- Staff and parents' involvement in the designing process.

Community Campus Approach

- Shared spaces to be used by primary and academy pupils;
- Merge all the schools to make one big super school;
- Build a community Campus with modern facilities.

Additional Support and Programs

- Additional SFL;
- Social Emotional Behavioural Difficulties support;
- Mental support for teachers and pupils.

Futureproof Building

- School must be big enough to hold all the children and more.

Nursery Provision

- Nursery to be located near games hall/old pool;
- Nursery to be located at the St Andrews Infant Building site;
- Onery;
- No nursery on the Academy ground.

3.5 Other feedback

Comments could have been submitted to the Learning Estates Team in writing by email or mail or verbally via phone call. No additional feedback has been received to date.

4. Conclusions & Recommendation

Generally, stakeholders do support the principle of the New Primary School in Fraserburgh and merger of Fraserburgh North and St Andrews Schools into one school. It is felt that the proposal has a potential to bring benefits for Fraserburgh children, as they will have access to a brand new, fit-for purpose building, with adequate facilities, equipment and resources.

The consultees provided comments on why they are contrary to the proposal and the site location on the Fraserburgh Academy ground was one of them, due to the traffic and congestion issues around the area. The other disadvantage highlighted by the stakeholders was the co-location of the New Primary School and the Academy. It is believed that the primary pupils would be exposed to unsuitable behaviour of the Academy students.

It is also believed that the number of pupils per class will increase resulting in less individual time and pupils will not receive the required support.

Some consultees felt that the existing schools should be revamped, and a brand-new school built on the South of the town, where the new housing developments are located.

Many voices indicated a requirement for rezoning of the current school catchments across Fraserburgh.

Recommendation

It is recommended that a frequently asked questions document (FAQ) with questions raised through written responses and informal engagement activities is produced. The document will address questions and concerns raised by the stakeholders and will be available during the statutory consultation period.