



Statutory Consultation on Relocation of Anna Ritchie School

Online Survey Results

The public was consulted on relocation of Anna Ritchie School to Peterhead Community Campus during the statutory consultation period, between 7 December 2020 and 26 February 2021. The survey was made available to parents/carers, stakeholders and community members to express their views on the proposal.

The survey provided a summary of the proposal and a link to the survey was available on the Council's website.

The survey was focused solely on the relocation on Anna Ritchie School to Peterhead Community Campus.

All comments have been considered, categorised and summarised below. This report shows a summary of the results received.

The consultees were asked the following questions:

1. Are you a:
Parent/Carer
Pupil
Teacher/Staff member at Anna Ritchie School
Member of the Community
Other
2. Do any of your children attend Anna Ritchie School?
Yes
No
3. Do you have children who you would expect to attend Anna Ritchie School in the next three years?
Yes
No
4. Do you support the relocation of Anna Ritchie School to the new Peterhead Community Campus?
Yes
No
No preference
5. Please state the reason for your above response.
6. If it is decided to relocate Anna Ritchie School to the new Peterhead Community Campus, in your view, what are the most important issues that would need to be considered?

Overall Analysis

A total of 47 respondents took part in the survey and 73 open ended responses have been received. Out of those 47 respondents who completed the survey 8 chose not to leave any comment.

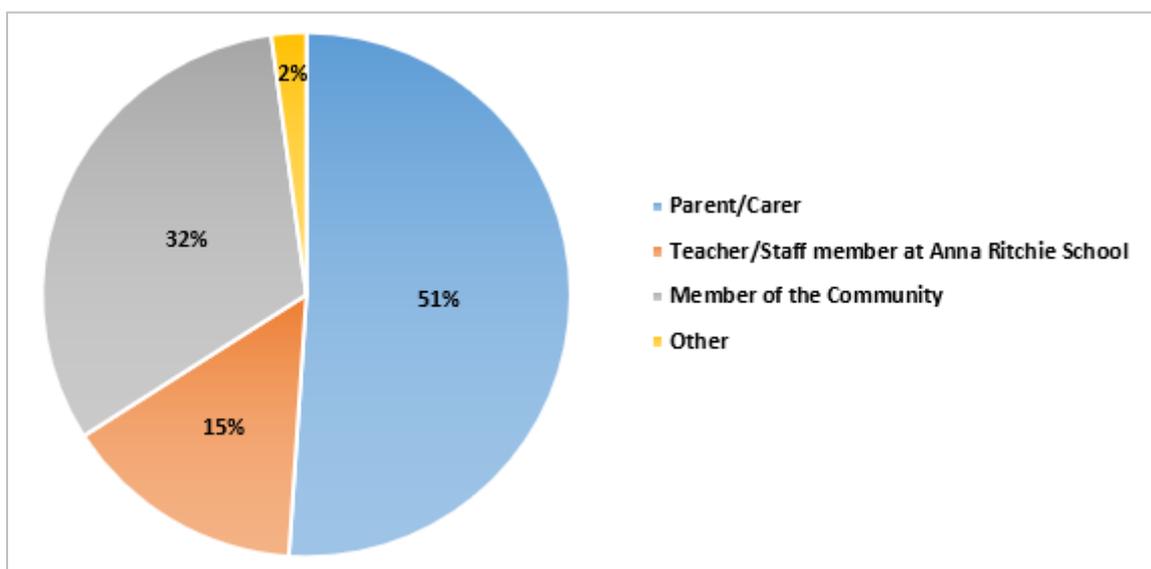
The respondents were asked what interest group they represent.

For the purpose of this report 1 staff member, 1 community member and 1 undefined respondent have been included as 'parents/carers', as they either have a child currently attending Anna Ritchie School or expect their child to attend the school in the next three years.

Concluding, the survey was completed by 24 (51%) parents/carers, 7 (15%) teachers and staff members, 15 (32%) community members and 1 (2%) undefined respondent. No response has been received from pupils.

The results from question one is shown in Chart 1 below.

Chart 1. Interest Groups

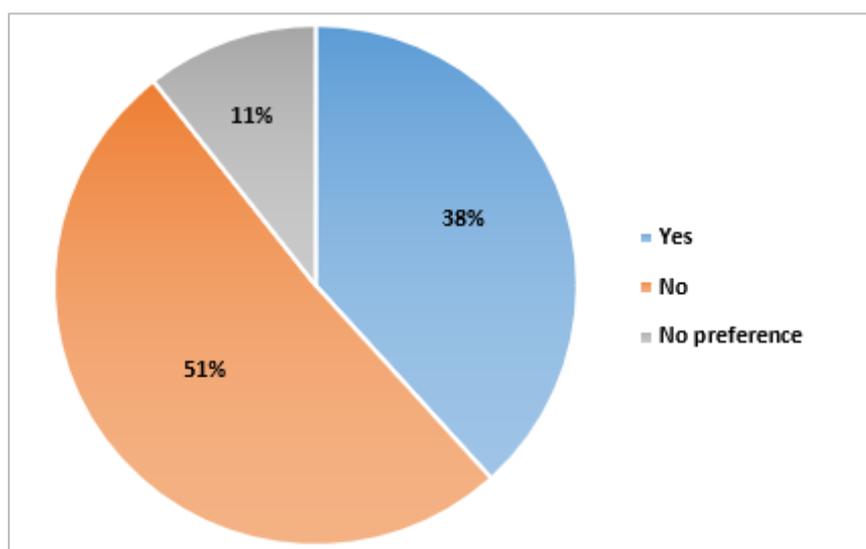


The consultees were asked if they support the relocation of Anna Ritchie School to Peterhead Community Campus.

The result of the survey was that 18 (38%) consultees supported the relocation of Anna Ritchie School to the campus, 24 (51%) respondents didn't support the move and 5 (11%) had no preference.

This outcome is presented in Chart 2 below.

Chart 2. Relocation Preferences



Interest Groups Analyses

The analyses were carried out by Interest Groups and their preferences, views and concerns have been summarised below.

Parents

Of those parents/carers who responded to the survey, 19 have a child(ren) that currently attend Anna Ritchie or expect that their child(ren) will attend the school in the next three years. 5 parents/carers do not have any children attending the school.

Of those 19 parents/carers 7 (37%) support the relocation of Anna Ritchie School to Peterhead Community Campus, 10 (53%) don't support the move and 2 (11%) have no preference.

Of those 5 parents with no children attending Anna Ritchie School 1 (20%) support the relocation, 2 (40%) don't and remaining 2 (40%) have no preference.

The supportive comments left by parents/carers are summarised below:

- more up-to-date school,
- more opportunities for children,
- the school should retain its own identity but needs to be a part of the campus to ensure children's development.

Comments against the relocation are as follows:

- unknown environment,
- current school is a comfort zone for the Anna Ritchie children,
- big change for children with learning difficulties and disabilities,
- large groups,

- community campus is too big environment for children with additional support needs,
- crowded playgrounds,
- the school should remain a stand-alone school, stay where it is with their own facilities,
- community school loss,
- different rates of learning,
- impact on education process,
- bullying,
- mixing mainstream children with children with additional support needs in the same building,
- insufficient outdoor space, scaled down football pitches,
- taking away all playing fields in Peterhead,
- requirements outlined by the parent body missed out of the proposal document.

Concerns raised by the parents/carers for the Council to consider are listed below:

- safety and security,
- access and swipe card entrance,
- secure and separate outdoor area, dining room and fob access only,
- secured doors between the school and the mainstream schools,
- windows overlooking the playground and use of privacy glass,
- shared spaces,
- exclusive gym hall,
- swimming pool,
- storage,
- garden space,
- like for like facilities and their sizes
- reduction of available spaces and their sizes,
- insufficient campus size,
- available car parking spaces,
- no upper levels above the school due to noise and vibration caused by the mainstream pupils,
- reducing class sizes for better tuition but building bigger campuses with more pupils congregating,
- autism accreditation,
- workshops/clubs for children with additional support needs,
- integrating Anna Ritchie children with other children,
- merging Anna Ritchie School with secondary and primary schools,
- keeping Anna Ritchie School separate/far from the mainstream schools,
- bullying and taunting,
- transition process,
- ensuring individual needs of the children are met,
- travel,
- “Getting it Right for Every Child”,
- organisation of staff/teachers.

Staff

Out of 7 Anna Ritchie staff members who completed the survey, 4 (57%) support the relocation of the school to the campus and 3 (43%) don't support the move.

The staff left following comments in favour of the relocation:

- better designed and more up-to-date building,
- being a part of the campus,
- access to all facilities,
- beneficial to pupils and staff,
- flexible placements between the school and mainstream schools.

Comments against the relocation are as follows:

- unknown, busy and noisy environment,
- security,
- health and wellbeing,
- discipline issues of mainstream children.

Concerns raised by the staff are listed below:

- like for like facilities,
- insufficient space,
- the school should be well away from the mainstream schools,
- large and safe outdoor space that isn't overlooked by mainstream peers,
- children's protection,
- identical degree of freedom,
- access to all necessary facilities.

Community Members

The survey was completed by 15 community members and 6 (40%) support the move while 9 (60%) is against the relocation of the school to the campus.

The community members made the following supportive comments on the relocation proposal:

- new, purpose built, all in one setting,
- new state of the art facility,
- meeting needs of all pupils and providing new possibilities,
- deteriorating current building,
- greater involvement with the cluster schools,
- new facilities to support children with additional needs,
- better integration with the academy and opportunity for everyone to learn together,
- benefit for mainstream pupils and pupils with additional support needs,
- mutual access to facilities,
- blended placements.

Comments against the relocation are as follows:

- too big environment for children with learning difficulties and disabilities,
- comprising so many children in one building,
- the smaller school would suit them better especially children with sensory needs,
- too much stress and hardship to Anna Ritchie pupils,
- safety and comfort of Anna Ritchie pupils,
- health and well-being,
- children with special needs need special care, proper facilities and space to thrive,
- mixing mainstream children with children with additional support needs,
- bullying, harassment, intimidation and discrimination,
- the current building is a safer environment, but needs revamp,
- loss for the parents and staff of this school.

Concerns raised by the staff are listed below:

- safety,
- access,
- accessibility,
- location,
- separate outdoor area,
- safe spaces,
- having to share so much space with mainstream school children,
- suitable adaptations for pupils to be able to access all areas,
- making sure that Anna Ritchie is not an 'add on', but fully incorporated into the campus life,
- transport,
- appropriate facilities,
- appropriate integration with mainstream children,
- appropriate support,
- bullying and harassment,
- staff integration and relationships,
- classes set up and sizes,
- different start and end for the school and mainstream schools,
- separate breaktimes for some pupils with additional support needs,
- children's needs have to be met above all else,
- road safety,
- vacant site.

Others

The respondent had no preference in terms of the school relocation to the new campus and left no additional comments.

Conclusion

The majority consultees covered more than only one topic. The most common themes in submitted comments were as follows:

- Safety
- Bullying
- Access
- Accessibility
- Access to shared spaces
- Privacy
- Protection and health and wellbeing
- Proximity between schools
- Pupils' blending and integration
- Mixing mainstream pupils with pupils with additional support needs
- Challenging environment
- Transition
- Insufficient site size
- Site location
- Facilities
- Reduction of available space and facilities
- Reduction of Peterhead's playing fields
- Transport

Generally, participants of the survey do not support relocation of Anna Ritchie School to Peterhead Community Campus. However, almost half of those parents/carers who have or expect their child(ren) to attend the school in the future (37%), is in favour of the relocation. More than half of Anna Ritchie School staff (57%) is supportive of the move and a number of the community members (60%) is against of the proposal.

Some respondents recognised that the proposal has a potential to bring benefits for all children and young people. While the current building deteriorates, children will have access to a brand new, well designed building, with access to new facilities to support children with additional support needs. Being part of the campus will provide more opportunities for all, will ensure wider integration and greater involvement with other cluster schools. Pupils will also have access to the full range of learning, community and sport facilities across the campus.

The consultees also provided comments on why they are contrary to the proposal and pupils safety was one of them. Some felt that the school should be revamped and should remain in its current location. Children with additional support needs require a safe and calm place, rather than an unknown, busy, noisy and challenging environment. In their opinion the Kinmundy site is not sufficient to accommodate all required facilities, and that the size of Anna Ritchie School will be compromised in order to accommodate all facilities on the site. Some have the opinion that pupils with additional support needs may be subjected to bullying if mixed with mainstream pupils.

The main areas of concern raised through the comments provided by the respondents were related to bullying, pupil's safety, health and wellbeing, privacy, secured access

to Anna Ritchie School and its facilities and whether those would be overlooked by mainstream pupils and others. Some respondents were concerned about the facilities, the sizes and exclusive access for Anna Ritchie School community only. Some were concerned about the proposed location and the proximity of the new Anna Ritchie School to the Academy. Others stressed that the pupils will require the appropriate support at all times, especially during the transition period. Accessibility was also an important aspect, transport and access to the new school was also highlighted.