



**Results from the Consultation on the expansion of  
St Mary's Church of England Academy  
Rook Tree Lane, Stotfold, Hitchin, Hertfordshire Stotfold SG5 4DL**

**Dates – Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September to Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The following were contacted as part of the Consultation process and given the opportunity to comment on the proposal:

- St Mary's CE Academy, School Governors
- St Mary's CE Academy, School Staff
- Parents/carers of pupils at St Mary's CE Academy, Stotfold
- Local residents/Neighbours of St Mary's CE Academy, Stotfold
- Stotfold Town Council
- Diocese of St Albans
- Diocese RC
- General Public
- Stotfold and Langford Ward members
- Children's Services colleagues
- Members of Central Bedfordshire Council
- Other Schools and Academies in Central Bedfordshire.

161 Responses were received.

Of these, 20 responses were from people with two roles

106 were parents

33 were employees

10 were Governors

20 were local residents

12 were 'Other'. These included a foster carer, the Local Authority and the Diocese of St Albans.

154 of the responses supported the proposal

7 responses did not support the proposal

19 respondents were male

140 were female

The remaining two were organisations

The age range of respondents who completed this section of the Consultation was:

Under 19 years of age - 0

20 to 29 years of age - 9

30 to 39 years of age – 66

40 to 49 years of age – 53

50 to 59 years of age – 18

60 to 70 years of age – 11

70 and over – 1

Of the respondents, two considered themselves disabled.

The Ethnicity of respondents who completed this section of the Consultation was:

Asian/Asian British – 1

Chinese – 1

White British – 148

Black/ Black British – 0

Mixed Race – 2

Other Ethnic origin – 6

The Post code of St Mary's CE Academy is SG5 4DL. The post codes of those who responded are:

SG5 4\*\* - 137

SG6 – 3

SG7 – 1

SG15 – 6

SG16 – 4

From this we can ascertain that the majority of respondents live locally to the Academy.

There were a number of additional comments made on some but by no means the majority of forms. The following covers these:

- Five comments related to the classrooms and class sizes moving forward.

*From St Mary's: There is no planned extra building work as there are sufficient classrooms within St Mary's to accommodate the proposed 300 children. As from September 2018, our plan is for all classes to be single aged with no class having more than 30 children.*

- One comment stated the school is big enough; 'small schools are better'.

- Two comments questioned additional teaching staff.

*From St Mary's: It is our intention to appoint one additional teacher for September 2018 to enable us to split our year 3 and 4 children into single aged classes. All other children are currently in single aged classes.*

- Two comments related to same age group classes benefitting the children.

- Twenty five comments stated that places were needed for an expanding Stotfold; a number also commented about not wanting to lose the community and family feel of the school.

*From St Mary's: We have no intention of changing how we run the school. We believe the community and family feel also comes from the staff, leadership and governance which will remain the same.*

- Three responses commented on developers' responsibilities to provide infrastructure and not just houses and maybe a new school should be built.
- One family would like St Mary's to expand further and cater for Years 5 & 6!
- One comment related to the 'current infrastructure not being able to support current numbers let alone increase them'.
- Four comments related parking, including drop off and pick up being a problem.
- One comment stated 'School will have less resources to cope, can't help kids in school at present!'
- One comment stated they do not support the expansion of Stotfold in general.

Response from Central Bedfordshire Council:

When Central Bedfordshire Council expanded the academy in order to provide additional school places, required to address an expected increase in demand for school places from September 2015, the size of the expansion, at that time, did not meet the DfE's criteria that required a consultation to be carried out for the proposal.

A delayed increase in demand for places has led to a delayed request from the academy to the DfE to increase their funding agreement. Under their current criteria, the DfE classes this request as a significant change, and requires a consultation to be carried out for the 'proposal' change.

Central Bedfordshire Council therefore fully supports this proposal.

Response from the Diocese of St Albans:

**Re: Consultation on expansion of school**

On behalf of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Education I am writing in response to your current consultation.

The Diocese is fully supportive of your decision to expand from a PAN of 45 to a PAN of 60. This makes sense both in terms of education organization and provision i.e two full forms of entry throughout the school thus eliminating the need for mixed age/key stage classes.

It is also an appropriate response to the identified need for the provision of additional primary school places in this part of Central Bedfordshire.

We therefore fully support the request for additional funding from the DfE to meet a real need for additional provision of primary school places within the area.

We understand that such an expansion will not be detrimental to the viability of other local schools and forms part of Central Bedfordshire's expansion programme.