

APPENDIX 4



OASIS ACADEMY JOHANNA (OAJ) SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FOR SEND RESOURCE BASE CONSULTATION REPORT

August 2020

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1. Executive Summary

Oasis Community Learning (OCL) proposes to provide a SEND Resource Base in a new school building based at Oasis Academy Johanna (OAJ), Waterloo. Cognisant that although this is a development of what the school already provides in terms of meeting the needs of children with physical disabilities and related Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), this constitutes a Significant Change. We have, therefore, consulted with all key stakeholders (listed elsewhere in this report). OCL undertook a 4.5-week consultation (based on the advice of the DfE) in accordance with the statutory requirements from Fri 19th June 2020 to Wed 22nd July 2020.

The consultation sought views on key aspects of plans including:

- The need to provide inclusive education and support for children with MLD and also those with physical disabilities
- The broadening of the offer from that which we currently provide
- The idea that the offer would include time in mainstream classes, as well as time in small-group environments according to each child's needs
- Bespoke staff support
- Which children would benefit from this Resource Base
- Why we wanted to as well as needed to consult with the local community.

The consultation was underpinned by an ongoing commitment to meaningfully and inclusively engage with the local community in developing and refining our plans.

Of the circa 600 stakeholders contacted, there were 64 responses in total. The overwhelming majority of these were supportive of the proposals to open the SEND Resource Base at Oasis Academy Johanna when the new building, with a capacity to accommodate up to two forms of entry is opened and ready to use. This was a circa 10% response, which is a high level of engagement.

On the strong evidence of the positive responses to the consultation, OCL wish to proceed with plans around the opening of the SEND Resource Base as part of our wider mixed-use scheme. Throughout this process OCL will continue our open dialogue with local stakeholders so that they are involved in shaping our plans.

2. Introduction

The vision of Oasis Community Learning is to deliver 'Exceptional Education at the Heart of the Community'. As well as delivering first-class, innovative education, we seek to create safe and inspiring local neighbourhoods, with a range of integrated and diverse services, in order to benefit the whole person in the context of their whole community.

We have a commitment to inclusion, social integration and closing the disadvantage gap; we want to give advantage to the disadvantaged. These principles are intentionally developed and embedded in all our academies through their day-to-day life.

In context, Oasis Community Learning is a subsidiary charity within the Oasis group of charities established in the mid-1980s in order to build healthy communities within which everyone can flourish and achieve their full potential. Together we work around the themes of education, youth and children's work, housing, health care and wellbeing, youth justice, financial inclusion, food poverty programmes and family support services.

We do this in order to tackle the root causes of disadvantage that any community faces. We always seek to ensure that school improvement and community development go hand in hand. In this way, the improvement is likely to be deeper, mutually supporting and longer lasting.

Oasis Academy Johanna is located on a 6,330m² (0.63 ha) site in central London. Its current buildings date from the 1960s and require extensive refurbishment or replacement in the medium term. LBL have also identified the development of the site as a regeneration priority.

Therefore, our proposal is to regenerate Johanna as a modern, fit-for-purpose, value-for-money learning environment at no net cost to OCL or the DfE, through a mixed-use private public cross subsidy model.

The proposal is to increase the current 1FE space to a brand-new building that can accommodate up to two forms of entry (which is in line with both government guidance and the requirements of the Local Authority). This increase in size is to future proof the building for the time when basic need may indicate a requirement for this increased space.

In the meantime, the LA have requested that OCL provide a much-needed SEND Resource Base, which will support Lambeth's need to stop sending SEND children to costly out-of-borough placements in order to gain access to the education and support that they require (see Appendix 9.1 – letter from Adam Yarnold SEND Lead, LBL). Should basic need grow, we are confident that the design of the school will enable us to flex the number of SEND places in the Resource Base accordingly without losing this specialism.

Through conversation with LBL, discussions have indicated that the revenue funding of the operational costs for SEND provision will be covered, subject to relevant approvals and the signing of a Service Level Agreement. As the school is part of a wider mixed-use development scheme, we are also working in close partnership with the CEO of the Council, as well as the Regeneration and Planning teams.

This goes to the heart of who we are as an organisation and also allows us to build on our existing strengths and approach to SEND; Oasis Academy Johanna already serves a limited number of children who have physical disabilities and associated MLD as part of Lambeth's SEND provision.

3. Vision and Ethos

Our vision for the SEND Resource Base at Oasis Academy Johanna is that it will provide inclusive mainstream education, as well as bespoke support for those who need it in order that all children can access the curriculum.

The Resource Base would support children and young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), and who would benefit from additional specialist support in order to achieve inclusion in mainstream classes and access to the curriculum.

Teaching, support and relevant therapeutic interventions will be planned, based on each individual child's needs, giving them access to small group learning for key skills but also allowing for inclusion in their mainstream class as a priority throughout.

The students will benefit from extra support from additional staff, who are well trained and highly effective in their role.

The larger space and increased resources will enable us to continue to build on our existing experience of including children who have significant physical and/or communication needs (SEND) often with associated moderate learning difficulties in mainstream education.

The children who benefit from the base will be those who have one or more 'basic access barriers' to the curriculum (i.e. a physical disability that impacts on their access to the building and its resources, or a communication difficulty that requires some alternative ways to speak and record their ideas). Although the learning difficulties of these children are significant, they are able to access some mainstream learning at a slower pace or in a different way – and this new facility will give them that opportunity.

From our previous and existing children and families, we know that Johanna's expertise in this area is highly valued by children who have significant barriers to learning and who might otherwise find themselves excluded from mainstream education. The inclusion that we are able to offer gives them the opportunity to benefit from the cognitive challenge of, and exposure to, a range of social and language role models in the mainstream environment. The families who choose to send their SEND children to Oasis Academy Johanna are often those who require a high level of support but who want them to remain as part of their wider community.

The Resource Base would cater for up to 24 children (including the Nursery) as a maximum limit, with modern levels of accessibility and specialist aids. They will be allocated within each Key Stage as appropriate to ensure high-quality provision and continuity for each child and their family.

The Resource Base will have a dedicated Leader who will report to the Principal, and will be part of the Academy Leadership Team to ensure a fully integrated educational experience as appropriate to each child. Other staff ratios will be adjusted to meet the needs of individual children.

4. Engagement prior to formal consultation

Prior to entering the formal consultation OCL has spent many months in dialogue with the LA SEND team to understand the local need and future requirements for a SEND Resource Base, as well as the offer and size of the Resource Base that would best meet the need. We have also had conversations with our own parents and others who are crying out for such a facility. In Adam Yarnold's email (Appendix 9.1) you will see how our vision and approach matches that of the LA to, wherever possible, keep SEND children within mainstream education. It also reflects the LA's acknowledgement of our expertise in this area – hence their strong commitment to work with us in this way.

The LA acknowledge that local mainstream schools struggle to include children with MLD/physical disabilities and that Primary special schools no longer specifically cater for this in Lambeth. OAJ have discussed with the LA how we might be able to support other local schools by offering outreach once the Resource Base is established, further contributing to the local offer for SEND.

5. Consultation methodology

5.1 Overall summary

In designing our consultation, we reviewed our previous approaches for other consultations we have conducted in the past and, although this is not an admission change, we consulted the Admissions Code for best practice in terms of the key stakeholders we should consult.

We developed a short survey designed to give stakeholders a flavour of our proposal and an opportunity for them to express their views on our proposal (Appendix 9.2). The survey consisted of the following questions:

1. Which category of stakeholder do you represent?
2. Which borough you live in?
3. To what extent do you agree that there is need for extra specialist provision in Lambeth to meet the needs of SEND children?
4. To what extent do you support the introduction of a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Resource Base at the school as outlined above?

We also gave space for extra comments, recommendations or questions – in two areas – one where stakeholders could remain anonymous and another where they could insert their contact details for a response or to keep in touch with the development of the project.

There were 5 options on the two key questions (3 and 4) about the Resource Base and for which they were asked to tick one option –

- Strongly agree or support (as appropriate)
- Agree or support (as appropriate)
- Neither agree nor disagree or support or do not support (as appropriate)
- Disagree or do not support (as appropriate)
- Strongly disagree or do not support (as appropriate)

We also included four FAQs to cover key questions that may have arisen around:

1. Why we are doing this?
2. How this might affect children who do not have SEND?
3. What having a Resource Base means?
4. Funding of the capital and operational costs?

Background information was included in the email circulated, and in an attachment with that email, as well as on our OAJ website. The attachment was for those who preferred to print it out, complete it by hand and deliver or post it to our school reception. The form was created using Microsoft Forms, to enable automatic accurate data, which we have used in this report. Our school email address was included for people to contact us should they need to do so.

5.2 Timing

In order to ensure as many people as possible were able to respond – and in line with DfE advice - the consultation ran for just over 4.5 weeks from Fri 19th June 2020 to Wed 22nd July 2020. Because of the Coronavirus lockdown, we conducted this consultation online – something we consulted the DfE about prior to doing so.

5.3 Stakeholder list

The following groups were identified as key stakeholders, and every effort was made to collect their feedback on our plans for the school. We worked closely with the SEND Lead at LBL (Adam Yarnold) who also sent the consultation questionnaire to his contacts; as well as our contacts in the Regeneration and Planning teams with whom we are working on the wider scheme:

- Parents at OAJ – current (including Nursery parents too) (circa 170 emails)
- Parents – potential (via Community Health teams – physios; speech and language therapists; occupational therapists and paediatrician) (7)
- Local Health services (e.g. physiotherapists, OTs, etc. based at the Mary Sheridan Centre). They would have an idea of the number of children with disabilities locally, as well as their ability to access appropriate provision (i.e. how many children would benefit from a Resource Base of this kind). (included in 7 above)
- SEND Parents Forum – borough wide (approx. 250)
- Lambeth Council (including SEND Lead, Director of Education and Learning, Head of Neighbourhood Regeneration, who also made sure that key Cabinet and other senior officers were included) (3 to forward)
- Southwark Council and Westminster Council as bordering boroughs (each LA which maintains an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or statement of SEN in respect of a child attending the school) (17)
- Local Primary Headteachers (88)
- Local Special school Headteachers in Lambeth (5)
- OAJ Hub Council (our local advisory body) (15)
- We also added the consultation information/questionnaire onto our OAJ website (see Appendix 9.3)

6. Results

We received 64 responses via our online survey, structured to enable quantitative and qualitative analysis. A number of respondents gave further comments, and a few asked some specific questions (recorded later in this report).

The results were overwhelmingly and enthusiastically positive, with only two respondents answering with disagree/strongly disagree/do not support/strongly do not support to our two specific questions about the Resource Base.

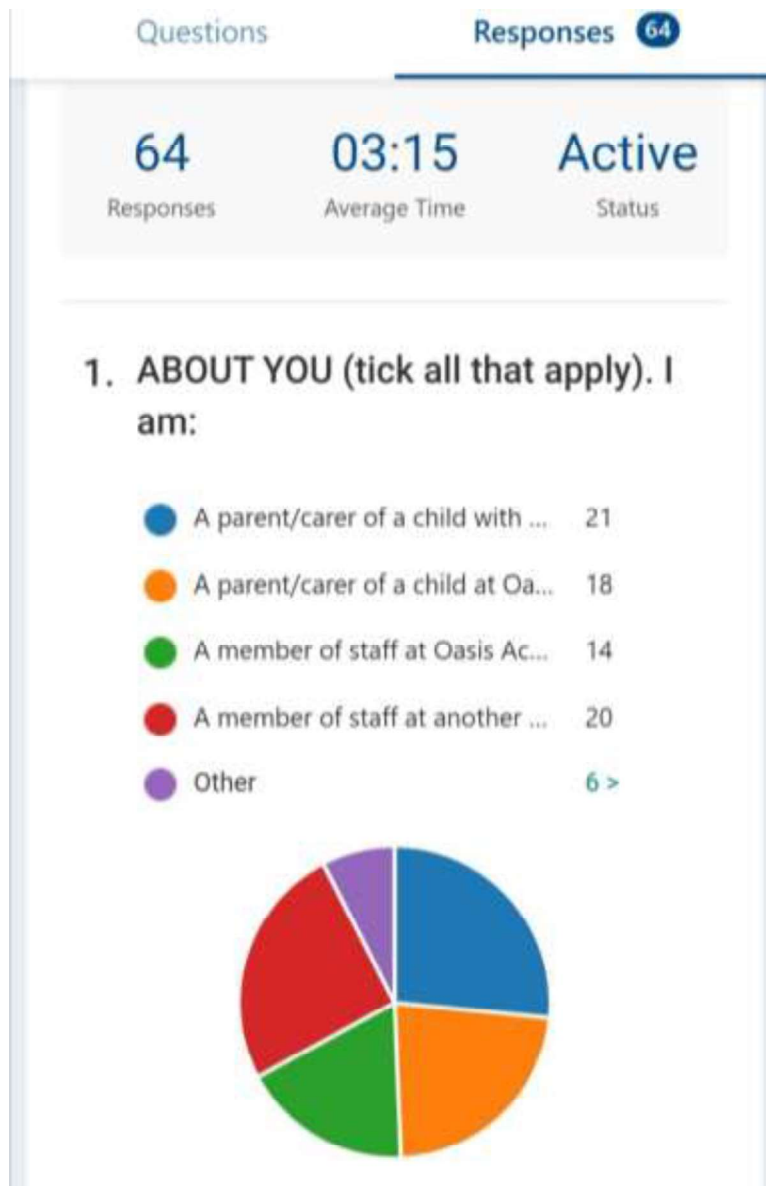
We received no emails or telephone calls regarding this consultation.

6.1 Stakeholder group

Respondents were asked which stakeholder group they identified themselves as belonging to. The options offered were:

- A parent/carer of a child with SEND
- A parent/carer of a child at Oasis Academy Johanna
- A member of staff at Oasis Academy Johanna
- A member of staff at another school
- Other

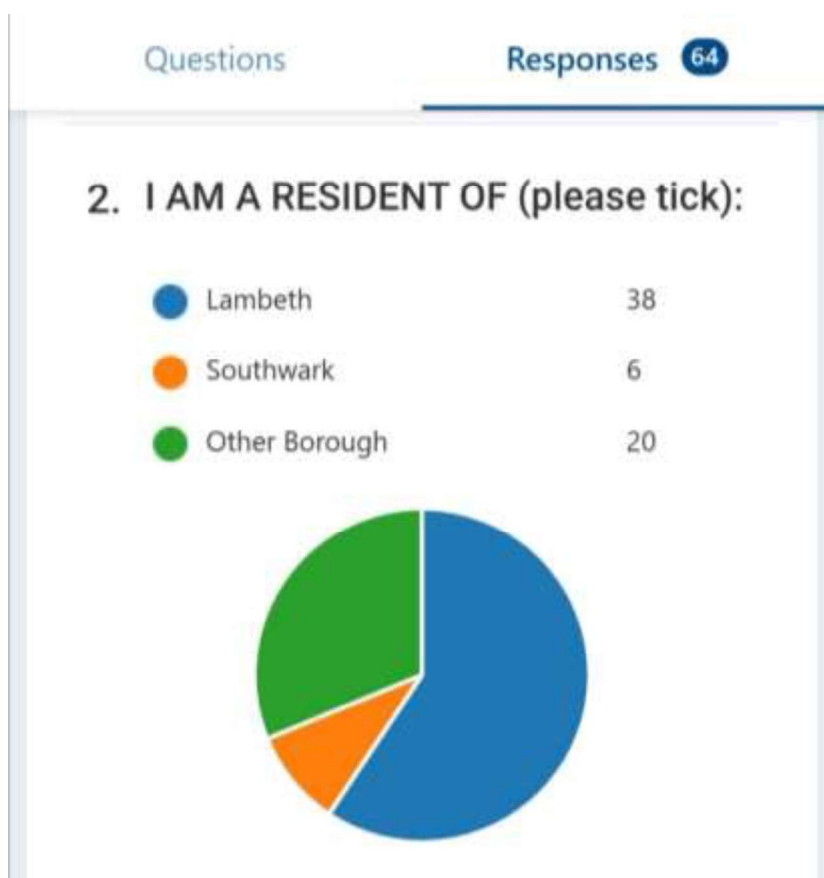
Whilst respondents were from various stakeholder groups, the largest stakeholder group (21 responses) were people who selected 'A parent/carer of a child with SEND (13 were from OAJ and eight not at OAJ)', closely followed by 'A member of staff at another school' (20).



6.2 Respondents' proximity to the proposed Resource Base on the school site

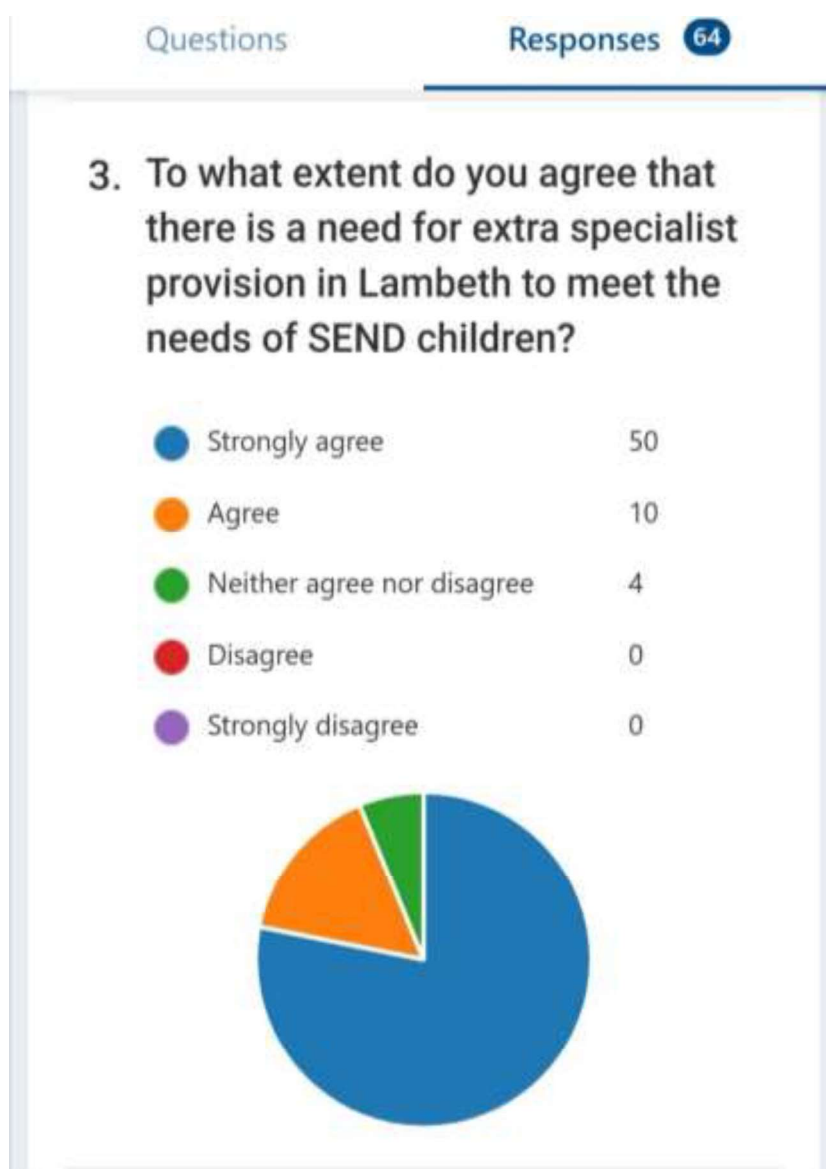
Respondents were asked whether they lived in Lambeth, Southwark or another Borough.

The following chart shows the answers to this question with nearly 60% living in Lambeth.



6.3 Opinion on the need for extra specialist provision

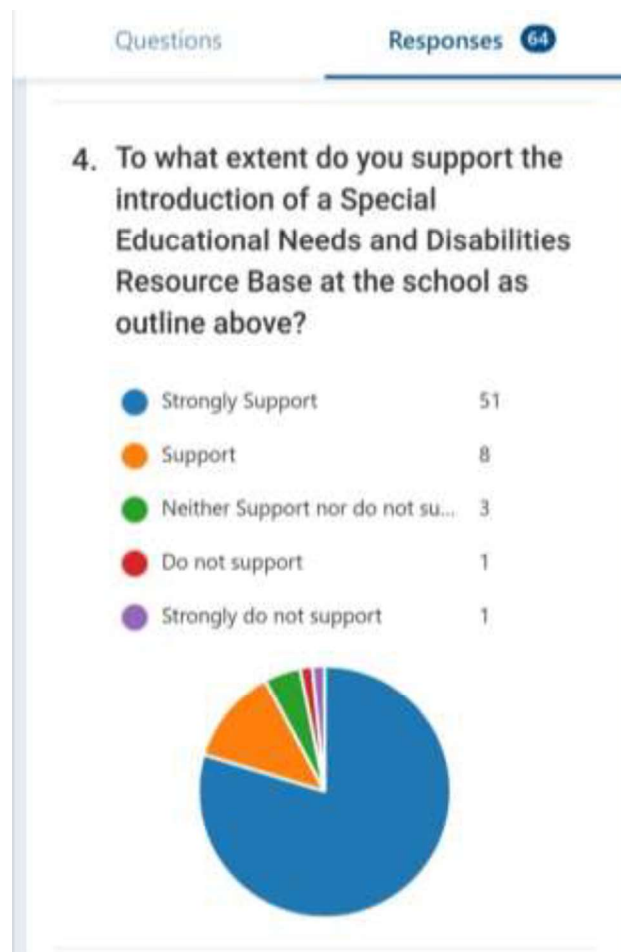
Respondents were asked 'To what extent do you agree that there is need for extra specialist provision in Lambeth to meet the needs of SEND children?' They had a choice of five responses as outlined above. Nearly 94% of people said, 'Strongly Agree/Agree', with no-one saying 'Disagree/Strongly Disagree'. Please see the following chart.



6.4 Opinion on whether they supported the introduction of a SEND Resource Base as previously outlined

'To what extent do you support the introduction of a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Resource Base at the school as outlined above?' They were given 5 options as outlined above.

Over 92% of respondents either 'Strongly supported' or 'Supported' the introduction of the Resource Base. One 'Did Not Support' and one 'Did Not Support Strongly' (both were staff from another school, 1 in Lambeth and 1 from another borough).



6.5 Any other questions, comments or recommendations received

The following comments and questions were received:

'With ever increasing numbers of SEN children requiring provision, often in mainstream schools, more support is needed for resources and training if staff.'

'There is insufficient provision in Lambeth for those with MLD due to physical barriers , so this would be an excellent and welcome addition.'

'Students with additional needs need support that seeks to include them into the mainstream. All teachers are teachers of all children, however, the training needed to support diversity fully is not currently within the capacity of mainstream educational establishments. Although this is the ultimate aim, with the current workload within education, this is not possible. Therefore a purpose built support such as that proposed by Oasis would, in my mind, be a step in the right direction. It is important though, that this not be inclusion by exclusion as I have seen happen in the past.'

'Very much needed'

'Sounds like a great initiative to help children who have significant barriers, to achieve inclusion in mainstream classes and access to the curriculum.'

'It's been great having kids with SEND in my children's classrooms, my children are the better for it. Johanna has a lot of experience in this area, and this would be a great asset to the community.'

'Lambeth needs all its schools to be resources and a strategic plan to be drawn up about what the best provision would be. This should be don't bu the local authority and not a large MAT who do not collaborate with local schools in the borough.'

'Johanna have developed genuine expertise in SEND. Our SENCO and Ed Psych are excellent (and have been helpful in identifying my middle child as having ADHD) but moreover the whole culture of the school is actively inclusive and celebratory of all children (we have an older child with autism and learning difficulties who sadly did not have such a positive experience when in a different mainstream school). My children at Johanna (1 SEND 2 not) have a great attitude to difference as a result. I believe Johanna would do very well at expanding its SEND provision and expertise- it is well led, ambitious for every child, and achieves its goals. However, neither the current physical school environment nor the financial settlement are ideal and it is great to see plans to correct this and build in appropriate space and resources to formalise the SEND speciality and maximise the potential for all children.'

'I've worked in Lambeth schools for over ten years now and I feel much more focus needs to be on mental health of the children and their families. Many more children could benefit from greater investment in services such as music, drama and art therapy.'

'The increased use of vehicles especially CO2 producing ones may pose a challenge now and in the future'

'I think it is much needed in Lambeth.'

'I think that it is a much needed resource'

'I support the idea of a SEND resource base but worry about oversight as it is a MAT and not under the scrutiny of a local authority.'

'There are resource bases and specialist provision to support children with moderate learning delay and these seem to meet the need for the most part. There is a real need for more specialist provision in Lambeth to support children with significant learning delay. Currently, there are extremely limited spaces available to these children and families and the need for such provision seems to be increasing each year.'

'This is a fantastic opportunity to increase outstanding SEN provision in Lambeth. Given the connection between Johanna and OASB, careful consideration will need to be made to transition from Year 6 to secondary, especially as OASB may not be able to replicate the level of support students have had at Johanna, but parents might still anticipate that students automatically progress from Johanna to South Bank. I'd welcome further discussion around this and would like to support in any way I can. Kate Thackray - SENDCO and Co-Principal OASB.'

'Good development to have a local school with a RB for MLD and PD'

'There is a great need for more Resource Bases in Lambeth. It is often very difficult to cater for all the different needs of all our SEND pupils within our small school.'

'It would give parents more choice, especially for children who need specialist support but do not necessarily need to attend a specialist school.'

'I feel the lack of resource in both Lambeth and Southwark needs vast improving. A brilliant school with staff that understand the children they work with, is needed.'

'Also important to have specialists in OT, SALT etc'

'The demand for SEND specialist spaces and resources are essential to enable all children within the borough to flourish.'

'if main stream schools are going to accept more S.E.N.D children the budgets and resources must match the efforts of the staff and institutions delivering it.'

'The more the better. Still feels SEND children and their parent/carers are woefully under-resourced and supported.'

'My son has Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder as well as Attachment Disorder so would require specialist support. Disability support services. So the question arises how disability is defined- will it include mental health and cognitive development issues?'

'We at The Michael Tippett School would love to offer our continuing support (should you need it). :)'

'This would be a valuable and much needed resource for Lambeth in a school that is already excellent at provision for children with additional needs.'

'This is a good opportunity to build on the work the school is already undertaking to build capacity and critical mass.'

'We need provisions for children who's cognitive social and emotional needs do not meet special school level.'

'There needs to be futher clarification on the types of children you will take and how you will interact with NHS service. Also how you will meet the needs to childrens EHCP's.'

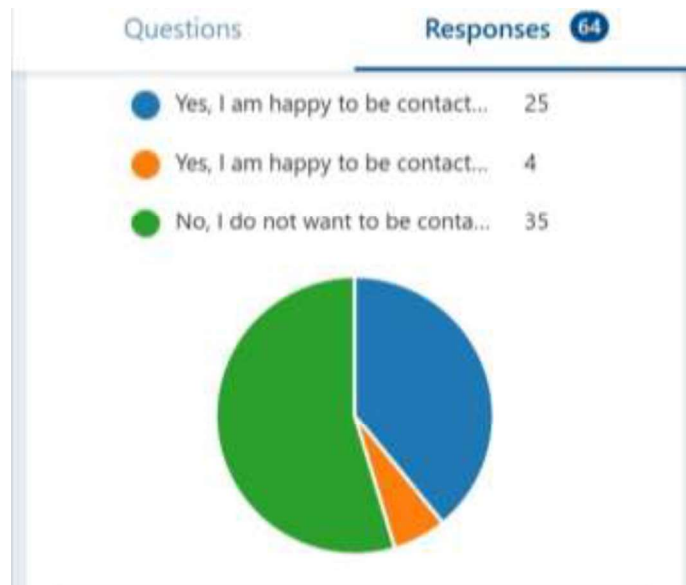
'I am keen to take an active role , as a parent of a disabled child at this school . I would be delighted to share any knowledge or views .'

'Please how does this work with ECHP, already on ground for each child?'

Where specific questions have been asked, and contact details given, we have responded and will keep in touch with the person concerned as things develop, where requested. We have responded to the 1 negative response (who left contact details) and who suggested that there are more specialist needs that require support by explaining that we will keep in close contact with the LA to make sure that the needs met are those identified as having priority, and where we have the skills to meet them.

6.6 How many respondents asked to be kept in touch as things progressed

29 people have asked to be kept in touch as things progress. We will do so.



7. Responding to the findings

Once the consultation report has been approved by the DfE, alongside our Significant Change Business Case, it will be displayed on our website for the public to download and view.

In the light of the overwhelming support received to all aspects of our consultation, and more generally the positive response to our proposals as a whole, we have not felt it necessary to make any substantive changes to our plans. However, we remain keen to hear from prospective parents and other stakeholders about any questions or concerns they have, and we are open-minded about the need for future changes to be made as a result.

8. Conclusions

On the basis of the response to the consultation, OCL are agreed that they wish to set up the SEND Resource Base proposed once the new school building is ready to accommodate this provision.

The Directors of OCL are hugely appreciative of the overwhelming support we have received from the local community in Lambeth and beyond. This support is obvious in the response to the consultation and more widely in our interaction with local parents, schools, our partners and other key stakeholders.

Nonetheless we take seriously all of the issues raised and have sought to respond to them. We do not take community support for granted and will not allow ourselves to become complacent in

our efforts to ensure that our plans for Oasis Academy Johanna's Resource Base reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

Additionally, we have drawn a number of important conclusions from the consultation:

1. We need to ensure that we update and enhance the information we provide to stakeholders when more is available, so they are well-informed about our plans.
2. Local community support is vital to our success and we will establish a stakeholder group to ensure these voices continue to be heard and are involved in the key decisions as we prepare to open the Resource Base and after.
3. We are committed to fostering and maintaining good working relationships with all local Primary, Special and Secondary schools as well as our partners in the wider scheme LBL.