

Clipstone Brook Lower School

A good school with 10 outstanding grades - Ofsted, May 2010

Brooklands Drive
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 3PG

Tel: 01525 376085

e mail: clipstone@cbc.beds.sch.uk

Website: www.clipstonebrook.beds.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Angie Hardy

Proposed Expansion Consultation Report

2nd February 2015

Communication regarding the proposal to internal interested parties

- 4th Sept - Chair of Governors; Vice & Finance Governor were informed and agreed to the proposal.
- 6th Sept – full governing body informed and verbally agreed.
- Early Sept – Senior Leadership team were informed
- Early Nov – Teaching and support staff notified
- 11th Dec – Support staff saw the plans
- 2 Feb – the full governing body met and approved the proposal.

Consultation

Took place: 12th December 2014 – 23rd January 2015.

- Dec extension proposal was included within the Leighton Buzzard Observer
- Dec Press release sent out from CBC

12th Dec

- Letters & questionnaires were sent to parents / staff
- Web site adjusted to include the letter & questionnaire

18th Dec

- Letters & questionnaires were hand delivered to all our neighbours who border onto the school grounds.

7th Jan

- A text reminder was sent to all parents on our list to remind them of the consultation evening
- Meeting with Oscar

8th Jan

- Consultation evening at school

13th Jan

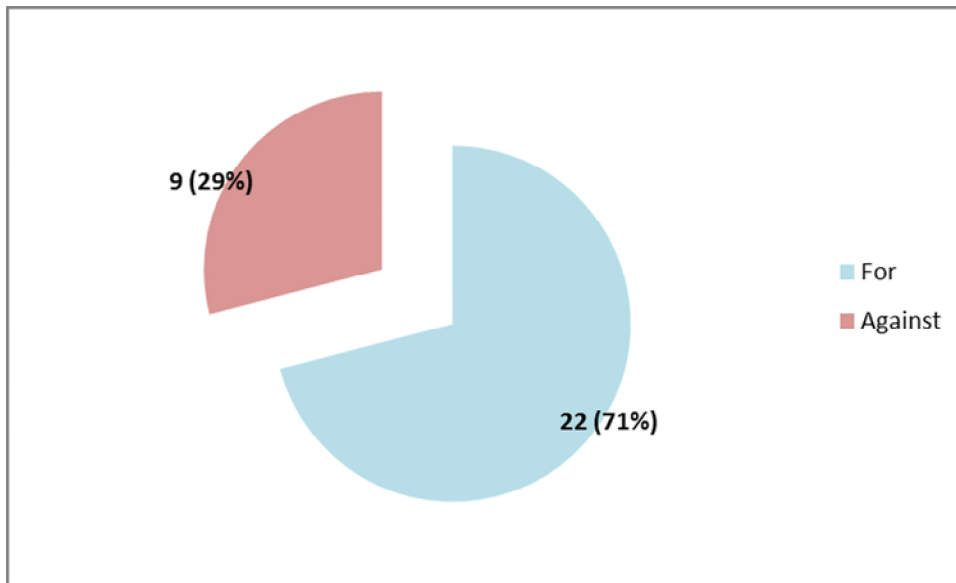
- We included an update about the consultation evening on our newsletter and reminded parents that they could still view the plans.

23rd Jan

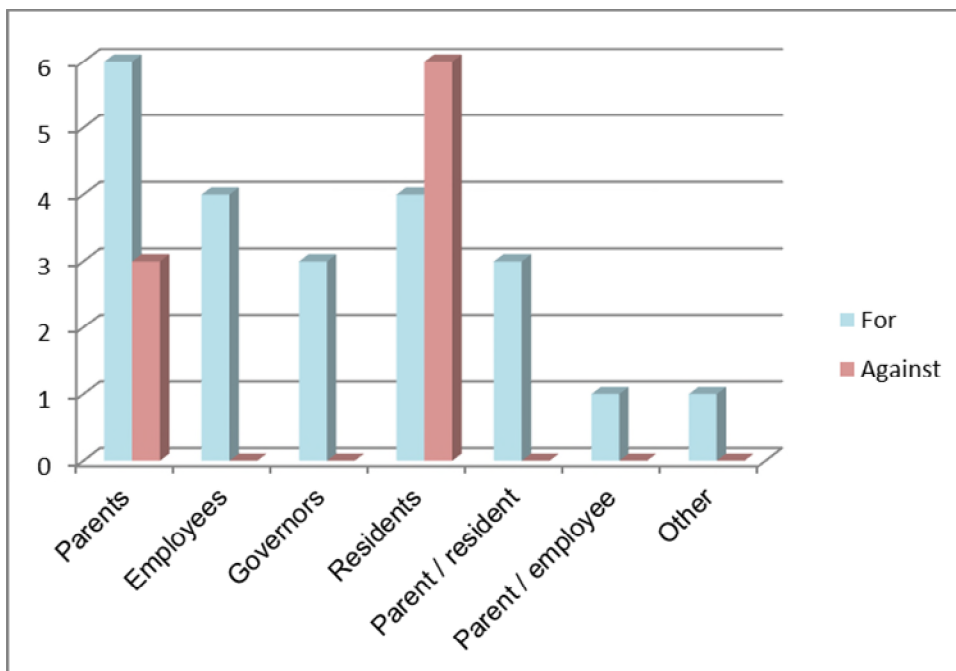
- Final questionnaires received.

Responses

Totals



Breakdown of Responses



In addition, we had communications from two local schools and a resident from a nearby locality (not bordering onto the school grounds) opposing the proposal. The resident was also invited into school to view the plans and complete the questionnaire. He didn't take up the offer re the visit and we are uncertain whether he returned a completed questionnaire. Details of all three letters were forwarded to CBC.

Clipstone Brook Lower School Expansion Consultation Questionnaire

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick one)

- Parent of child at Clipstone Brook Lower School
- School employee of Clipstone Brook Lower School
- School governor of Clipstone Brook Lower School
- Local resident
- Other

Please specify _____

Q2 If you are a parent of a child or pupil currently at another school, please tell us which school.
(Please write name of school)

Q3 Do you support the proposal to expand Clipstone Brook Lower School, in order to provide the additional lower school places required? (Please tick one)

- Support
- Do not support

Q4 Are there any comments you would like to make about this proposal?

CONCERNED ABOUT INCREASE OF TRAFFIC
WITH PARKING. HORRENDOUS NOW
8.30.A.M. 9.00.A.M
3.15 P.M. 3.45 P.M.
NO LONGER ANY CONTROL. PERSON AT
BROOKLANDS

Please turn over

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(Please write name of school)

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- Support
- Do not support

Q4 Are there any comments you would like to make about this proposal?

PARKING.
This is already a great problem
and unless something is done to help
residents - I can only see it getting
worse - so I cannot support
this proposal.

Please turn over

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- Support
- Do not support

Q4 Are there any comments you would like to make about this proposal?

My two concerns about the building work and additional school spaces are:

- There must be adequate parking for staff in the school so as not to add parked cars on the street.
- There must be a traffic management plan for outside school. Additional places are likely to be filled by those travelling from the new estates,

most likely in cars. Currently I think cars park, on the whole, quite sensibly but it won't take much more traffic for the situation to become unsafe for children walking to school.

Please turn over

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(Please write name of school)

Q3 Do you support the proposal to expand Clipstone Brook Lower School, in order to provide the additional lower school places required? (Please tick one)

Support

Do not support

Q4 Are there any comments you would like to make about this proposal?

I think the school may lose touch with what makes it stand apart from the rest... in being able to know the pupils as individuals and be able to fully support them and their needs, as well as parents. Larger classes may lead to pupils becoming a number and not their own person as teachers & staff may not have the time they need. The school may lose its sense of a 'little community'.

Please turn over

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- Local resident
- Other

Please specify _____

Q2 If you are a parent of a child or pupil currently at another school, please tell us which school.
(Please write name of school)

N/A

Q3 Do you support the proposal to expand Clipstone Brook Lower School, in order to provide the additional lower school places required? (Please tick one)

- Support
- Do not support

Q4 Are there any comments you would like to make about this proposal?

I think it's a fantastic opportunity for the school but as a resident and a parent, I live just around the corner from the school, I'm a little worried about what it is going to do in regards to parking. It is already a problem and I think consideration should be taken for this.

Please turn over

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- Local resident
- Other

Please specify _____

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(Please write name of school)

Q3 Do you support the proposal to expand Clipstone Brook Lower School, in order to provide the additional lower school places required? (Please tick one)

- Support Do not support

Q4 Are there any comments you would like to make about this proposal?

Clipstone is a wonderful environment for pupils to learn & I think offering more children the opportunity to attend here would be of great benefit to the local community.

Please turn over



Angela Luker
Clipstone Brook Lower School
Brooklands Drive
Leighton Buzzard
Beds
LU7 3PG

21 January 2015

Dear Angela

Reference: Lower School Expansions

We are writing regarding the proposed expansion of Leedon and Clipstone Brook Lower schools.

The proposed very significant increase in the size of the two lower schools within close proximity of each other very near to our catchment area cannot help but have a destabilising influence on St. Georges Lower School. We fear it could suffer a reduction in numbers during the next five years while the anticipated growth in pupil numbers synchronises with the faster increased availability of school places driven by these expansions.

At the present time St Georges Lower School is a graded as a "Good" school by Ofsted. The LA has identified it as a very underutilised lower school in the area which could absorb much of the anticipated growth in pupil numbers immediately with minimal investment. We have been proactively making numerous efforts in order to increase our pupil numbers which are slowly increasing. However the proposed expansion for both schools would place our efforts at risk and place further pressure on the school budget.

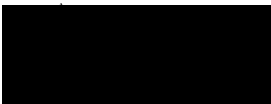


Consequently we object to the proposed expansion program on the basis that:

- The planned very significant and costly (£3.7m) expansion of two schools is disproportionate in the light of the LAS's own annual PAN forecasts for the next few years as referred to in School Numbers on Roll – Summer 2014 (Final) tables
- It is an inefficient use of public funds when St. George's "a Good school" could easily accommodate to a two form entry in time for Sept 2015 at relatively little cost and absorb the forecast additional short term demand; other schools in the area have significant systemic spare capacity too
- The consultation publicity/process has lacked transparency of clear criteria to get the new facilities in place for September 2015

We have had visits from the Council and local politicians who agree that the school has made significant improvements which have been endorsed by Ofsted with a "Good" grading and "Outstanding" for pupil care and safeguarding. The LA has agreed that the school will feature prominently with growth plans and indeed have stated that the school's pupil numbers will increase. This however will be put at risk if the proposed expansion plans go ahead before capacity has been reached within our school.

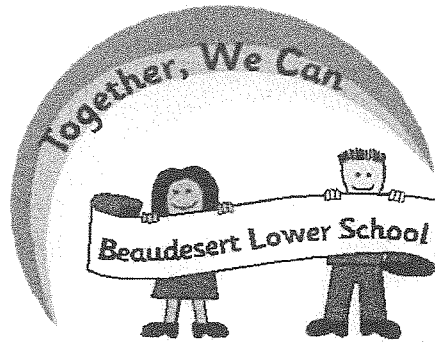
Yours sincerely



Marea Rawlings
Headteacher



Stephen Titkin
Chair of Governors



22nd January 2015

Angela Luker
Chair of Governors
Clipstone Brook Lower School
Brooklands Drive
Leighton Buzzard
Beds LU7 3PG

Dear Ms Luker

Reference: Lower School Expansions

We write regarding the proposed expansion of Leedon and Clipstone Brook Lower schools.

The proposed very significant increase in the size of the two lower schools within close proximity of each other and very near to our catchment area cannot help but have a destabilising influence on pupil numbers at Beaudesert Lower School. We fear it could suffer a reduction in numbers during the next five years while the anticipated growth in pupil numbers synchronises with the faster increased availability of school places driven by these expansions and the other planned school building projects on the new estates. Beaudesert already has spare capacity available in most year groups. It has invested significant effort into driving up standards as seen in the 2014 KS1 and EYFS results.

The entire basis of the Council's plans are the forecast of required places for entry in September 2015. Now that the initial deadline for applications has passed, it is assumed that the total number of registered applications for the schools in the Leighton Buzzard area can be released (along with the comparable number registered by the deadline date in 2014 for entry in 2014) to substantiate these forecasts. Any shortfall in actual numbers compared to the planned expansions will adversely affect the other schools in the area that already have spare capacity.

Consequently we object to the scale of the proposed expansion program on the basis that

- a) the planned very significant expansion of both these two schools is disproportionate (φ) and
- b) it is an inefficient use of public funds while Beaudesert and other schools in the area have significant systemic spare capacity.

(φ) The catchment area of both schools extends eastwards to include areas such as Cherrycourt Way and Meadow Way which are physically nearer to Beaudesert than either Leedon or Clipstone Brook. There is confusion in the L.A's own planning documents – see below - about the need to meet short term increases in "local" demand and the longer term need driven by housing developments to the east and south of the town. There appears to be acknowledgement that the long term growth will be around the periphery of the town and not within easy walking distance of either Leedon or Clipstone Brook.



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Headteacher: Mrs Elaine Cox



The L.A's own School organisation plan states

*"2015-16 is a very high year in the lower school forecasts for South Leighton with a deficit of places of 2 forms of entry in that year alone, which, although not immediately sustained in 2016/17, is forecast to be required in the long-term as the area continues to see significant housing development. An additional 2 forms of entry will be required, on a permanent basis, from 2015-16 to cater for children living **within the catchment for South Leighton Schools, the exact form and location of this provision is still to be determined.** As demand is being driven by pupil yield from **new housing towards the South East of the town**, the additional places are likely to be provided through expansion of lower schools in this area. The Land East of Leighton housing development will eventually include two 2 form entry lower schools, or a total of 120 places per year group. The timing of the phased introduction of this new provision will be in line with the rate of development on site, but is expected to be required from **September 2017**"*

If it is accepted that, in any event, the majority of these young, lower school children will have to be driven/bussed to school, attendees at both of the aforementioned schools will inevitably have to navigate through the middle of town which suffers from severe traffic congestion while Beaudesert on Appenine Way with easy access to the A4012 Leighton Road offers far easier access.

Regards



Mrs. E. Cox
Head Teacher



Mr. S.M. Tiktin
Chair of Governors

Business Case for proposed school expansion for September 2015 implementation.

**Clipstone Brook Lower School,
Brooklands Drive, Leighton Buzzard, Beds**

1	<p>The need to provide local schools for local children, ensuring a sense of community belonging and also promoting sustainable modes of travel.</p> <p>The development in the local area has increased the demand for lower school places in Leighton Buzzard, one of which is Clipstone Brook. We are unable to accommodate this increased demand without expanding our current school buildings.</p> <p>The number of children who will be of reception age in September 2015 and already living in the area, including additional yield from new housing to be built and occupied in the forthcoming year is forecast to be approximately 700. In September 2016 the size of the Year R cohort is predicted to be approximately 600 and in September 2017 approximately 680.</p> <p>2015/16 has a very high forecast for lower school placements in the area with a deficit of places of 2 forms of entry (60 places) in that year alone, which although not immediately sustained in 2016/17, is forecast to be required in the long-term as the area continues to see significant housing development mainly to the south of the town.</p> <p>As a result it is planned that an additional 2 forms of entry to lower school will be provided, on a permanent basis, from 2015/16. This will cater for children living within the catchments of lower schools to the south of Leighton Linslade as the majority of demographic demand is being driven by pupil yield from new and anticipated housing towards the south east of the town.</p> <p>The additional places required within the lower school age range are to be provided through the proposed expansions of two lower schools, one of which is Clipstone Brook Lower School (225 to 375 places). Both schools are within walking distance of the new housing developments and both are Ofsted Good Schools with sites capable of expansion.</p> <p>Section 76 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on local education authorities to promote the use of sustainable modes of travel. Ensuring the sufficiency of provision local to the areas of demographic demand supports this duty by reducing the need for car journeys and also limits potential growth in the cost of providing school transport on distance criteria to qualifying pupils to meet the Council's statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>The Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives Councils a strategic role as commissioners, but not providers, of school places to promote parental choice, diversity, high standards, the fulfilment of every child's educational potential and fair access to educational opportunity.</p> <p>The education which can be provided within a local lower school to local children at the beginning of their school career is also very important in helping to foster a sense of community belonging. This is especially important for families who are new to the area in establishing relationships within the local community. Section 38 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 also places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools in England to promote community cohesion.</p>
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	<p>Promoting local schools enables children living in the same local community to attend the same school fostering a coherent community identity and enabling community ownership to build around a range of extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>We are currently working with CBC on a new travel plan to encourage improved pedestrian and non-car access to school and we are part of the CBC School Gate project to improve transport arrangements and safety outside the school and the surrounding area.</p>
2	<p>The need to create schools that are of sufficient size to be financially and educationally viable.</p>
	<p>Currently the standard number for intake at Clipstone Brook is 45 children per year group. Leighton Buzzard anticipates a rise in numbers for Foundation Stage settings in September 2015. The expansion is needed to allow us to accommodate a maximum of 30 additional children in the Foundation Stage from Sept 2015. These additional numbers will move through the school over the next 5 years resulting in a maximum school size of 375 children.</p> <p>The size of our expanded school will still allow the head teacher some teaching time, as well as time to manage and monitor. Time will be spent on key issues known to continue school development towards raising attainment by a focus on pupil level data management and engagement with the teaching and learning process. Time will also be spent on maintaining our current 'family caring supportive ethos' so that every child reaches their maximum potential.</p> <p>The proposed expansion will be able to accommodate additional facilities and resources. This will ensure the long term sustainability of good education for the youngest children within this community.</p> <p>Our present head teacher who has been leading the school for approximately 9 years and has lots of experience which will be invaluable in assisting and establishing the expanded school and contribute towards its future success.</p> <p>Our school size is able to deliver and monitor standards. We have enough able governors from our constituency of parents and supporters of the school and are confident that the increased numbers will provide additional governors when needed.</p> <p>The Council will continue to ensure that all opportunities are taken to increase income and to seek alternative funding sources for the expansion of our existing school buildings.</p> <p>The day to day running costs of school provision is met through revenue funding which is made available to our school as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant and is based primarily on the numbers of children attending and will increase accordingly in our expanded school.</p> <p>As our school is undertaking significant expansion on commission from the Council additional revenue support for relevant costs can be accessed on application through the Growth Fund established by the Schools Forum. We will apply for the growth fund grant in the Spring term 2015.</p>
3	<p>The ability to support the expansion of local popular and successful schools or to link expanding schools with popular and successful schools.</p>
	<p>The Council is committed to ensure that every parent can choose an excellent</p>

	<p>school for their child.</p> <p>In line with the council's vision of providing a good or outstanding school in every community, Clipstone Brook is committed to providing a good/outstanding education to all our children. The vision of the governing body and current senior leadership team is that the expansion of our successful school will enable us to provide the highest standard of education to more children.</p> <p>Our most recent Ofsted inspection judged the school to provide good education which was the case of our Ofsted inspection in 2010. This is a major reason for the schools popularity and why parents chose to send their children here from outside the catchment area as well as within it.</p> <p>Our current schools development plan is focused on maintaining and improving the children's education whilst managing the increasing numbers of the expansion over the next 5 years. Our results over the past five years show that good progress has been made as well as good attainment. To maintain these standards we will focus on the recruitment of the best possible teachers and support staff to join the current highly successful team and use the opportunity to use the new designed facilities to provide the highest quality curriculum. These two factors will enable us to motivate the children and support us in implementing curriculum change.</p> <p>As we are subject to an expansion proposal it is intended to procure and deliver the capital project with the support of the Council. CBC have given us assurances of their capability and capacity to deliver the proposal to the school on time and on budget, based on their expertise and experience.</p>
4	<p>The potential to further promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities</p>
	<p>Our school works closely within Learning Community 2 (LC2) on various past and future projects. The Headteacher sits on the leadership and management group, vulnerable children, Gypsy Roma traveller panels. In addition, as a SENCO she has supported other schools locally with SEN paperwork. This means that the school is working to support other schools if needed. In the past the head teacher has supported LC2 schools with child protection procedures.</p> <p>The SENCO and our experienced special needs teacher along with the LC2 family support worker offer high quality support to families and their children in the local area.</p> <p>The Headteacher also sits on the Schools Forum and Growth Fund panels as well as the LAC governing body.</p> <p>One of our senior leaders, who is our maths coordinator, is also sharing maths training with three other local teachers to lead the training in other LC2 schools. Another senior leader attends the CHUMS and SMILE (<i>Tier one social, emotional health & wellbeing</i>) groups to share good practice.</p> <p>The school works closely with the other LC2 school to collaborate re moderation and assessment of our year 2 and year 4 pupils.</p> <p>We are part of the Leighton Linlade Sports Partnership who organise staff training and sporting festivals.</p> <p>The school also works with Inspiring Music and enjoy singing lessons and co-</p>

	<p>ordinates with other local schools climaxing with a performance at the Grove Theatre.</p>
5	<p>The ambition to achieve a single phase of education 0 -19 and reduce school transfer points</p> <p>There is evidence that learning can be lost at points of transfer between schools and also transition within schools from one phase or key stage to another. As a result LC2 aims to promote collaboration amongst its 19 schools. Clipstone Brook is one of these schools. The LC2 aims to provide for all children in this community of pedagogy and curriculum shared expectations, progress, behaviour and ethos.</p> <p>Clipstone Brook also works very closely with the onsite OSCAR club which has a pre-school and before & after school clubs. This partnership is essential in ensuring a seamless transfer into school for all of the local children who attend this pre-school and others. At present OSCAR is managed by a parental management committee with our head teacher and chair of governors attending the committee meetings. This will ensure the long term provision for children in this community from the age of 2 plus. It will also improve the continuity of experience we can provide to our youngest children.</p> <p>We work closely with the Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre to assist children in their transition into early years into the school using Bodo the puppet. The parents are encouraged to register with the children centre.</p>
6	<p>The need to support the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA).</p> <p>Effective lower school education is the first step to delivering the coalition Government policy of ensuring that all young people are in either education, training or work related education / training full time up to the age of 18. Fundamental to ensuring that young people have the skills and desire to tackle further education or training they need to have key skills in reading, writing and mathematics and a desire for lifelong learning.</p> <p>Fundamental to the vision of Clipstone Brook Lower school is the desire to inspire all of our pupils to enjoy learning and reach their full potential. We are also committed to providing intervention and support to pupils with additional needs to overcome their difficulties and develop a resilient and determined approach to learning.</p> <p>Therefore our simple aim is to ensure our children are 'middle school ready' by the time they leave us and that they already have aspirations, self-belief and a desire to achieve at this stage in their lives.</p>
7	<p>To seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments for the school and to maximise community use.</p> <p>The school will be designed to provide an inspirational environment which will promote education and sustainability and outdoor learning. The facilities will be designed by the local authority but the school will be fully engaged in contributing towards the design choices both inside and out. The key aim of the design will be to provide premises which are fit for purpose for the increased capacity of the school. The design will take into account the addition of classrooms and a drama/music room that can be opened up to provide extra hall space.</p>

	<p>The school will work closely with all local stakeholders to maximise the use of the school buildings including the sports field.</p> <p>Our protected pond with its Natter Jack toads and other pond life will continue to be available to our children as well as being accessed by the OSCAR club, Rainbows and Brownies when it has been moved to its new site.</p> <p>The hall and our field will continue to be used by outside groups on a weekly basis.</p>
8	<p>To promote the diversity of provision offered in Central Bedfordshire to increase opportunities for parental choice</p>
	<p>As a community school Clipstone Brook is part of CBC comprehensive system of education. It is a co-educational school which provides education for children between ages 4 – 9 years.</p>
9	<p>To support vulnerable learners in local Special Schools and integrate appropriate Special Educational Needs provision within mainstream schools</p>
	<p>Clipstone Brook has a strong and very successful record in promoting inclusion. The school currently supports several children with Social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) and those with specific learning and physical needs within the mainstream school.</p> <p>The detailed SEN register shows the many interventions that support our SEN children. Many outside agencies work with the school to support our special educational needs provision eg Educational Psychologist; Social Services; Jigsaw behaviour team; Speech and Language team; Access & Inclusion Team; Education Welfare Officer; Outreach support from the Chiltern School for our Autistic children; the early years team and 0-19 nursing team.</p>