

Appendix A



GILBERT INGLEFIELD ACADEMY

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Mr Victor Wan
Senior Education Officer (Planning)
Central Bedfordshire Council
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20 November 2018

Dear Victor

Re: Consultation on expansion of Gilbert Inglefield Academy

A public consultation on the proposed expansion of Gilbert Inglefield Academy by two forms of entry for September 2020 was held between 11th October and 15th November 2018.

A public meeting was held at 6:30 pm on 18th October. There were no attendees from the community. A further meeting was held on the 5th November for staff and governors which was well attended.

31 written responses were received from local residents, staff and governors.

26 responses were in support of the proposal (84%). Some stated reasons for supporting the proposal and some supported the proposal with some concerns. In general concerns were related to the level of disruption for existing pupils, in particular around their SAT examinations, whether there would be additional facilities for staff and whether there would be any financial burden on the school.

The school is aware of the need to manage construction work to ensure minimal disruption to the day-to-day running of the school. The proposed location of the construction site will reduce any impact as it is quite separate from the existing school and has good access away from teaching areas.

Where possible, significant heavy work will take place outside of school hours. Arrangements for construction and for site management will carefully take account of not disrupting the work of students and staff.

Other comments included “it could be a golden opportunity but not if handled incorrectly” and “ensure that enough funding is put into the expansion so that it caters for all aspects of the curriculum”.

The council will provide capital funding for the school expansion plus additional ‘growth funding’ to address the revenue costs that the school will incur until it is operating at full capacity and is fully funded by the DfE.

Five responses were not in support of the proposal. The concerns raised included a view that an increase in places should be balanced across several schools in the town (Governor at another school and resident).

The proposed expansion will provide new school places in the area where they are needed, to enable children to access their local school and not have to travel across town to access the new places.

Concerns relating to the effect of the increase in traffic. “We went through this at Leedon Lower school and the traffic management plan was a disaster, the answer was to ask people to walk, which would be a good thing, but people didn’t and has caused even more problems with local residents”; (Resident of Leighton Buzzard) and concerns relating to the children’s communal areas being restricted / limited at wet play time and lunch times. (Parent).

To address this the school will work with Central Beds Council to ensure that our Travel Plan is appropriate for the expanded school.

Following consideration of the feedback from the consultation, the governing body supports the proposed expansion of the school and wishes to proceed assuming the reasonable concerns raised in relation to disruption and finance are included in the plan.

Yours sincerely

Steve Adams
Headteacher