

CONSULTATION REPORT

OA LONG CROSS SPECIALIST RESOURCE BASE EXTENSION

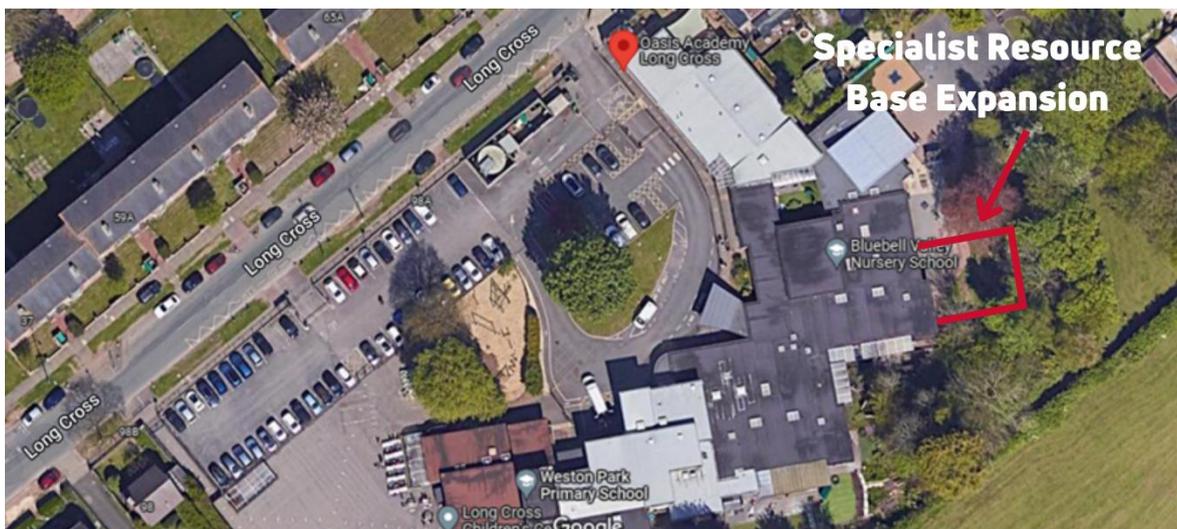
Executive summary

Oasis Academy Long Cross is a unique and fully inclusive primary academy for 2 to 11 year olds with a specialist resource base for children with severe learning difficulties, complex needs and life limiting conditions. The Academy is a hub for the local community with a nursery, children's centre and NHS centre on site. Long Cross serves the community of Lawrence Weston, an area of high socio-economic deprivation with most children living in postcodes that fall in the 0 – 10% most deprived areas in the country.

The specialist resource base is in high demand, highly recommended and is always oversubscribed. At the most recent Ofsted, the school was graded as 'Good' with the resource base 'providing exceptionally well for its pupils'. The resource base's current PAN is 35 but is at present providing education for 36 pupils across 5 classes.

Bristol Local Authority has sought applications for the expansion of SEN spaces across Bristol due to a shortfall in SEN spaces available in the region. OA Long Cross was approached by the local authority (LA) to increase SEN spaces and the academy has subsequently been awarded funds from the local authority and Cabinet for the project.

The expansion project seeks to increase the Resource Base PAN from 35 to 49 students from Reception to Year 6 for children with severe and complex learning difficulties including autism in line with current cohorts. This would mean that Long Cross Resource Base becomes a single form special school within Oasis Academy Long Cross.



As part of the Significant Change Process, the Academy undertook a public consultation which ran from 31st October to 30th November 2022, which included public events, marketing, a website and online survey. The local community responded positively throughout this period and this consultation report is based on the 27 responses to the online survey that were received.

Statutory consultation

The consultation ran for 4 weeks from 31st October to 30th November 2022. Information provided to stakeholders took the following forms:

- Website information on the proposals, site location and aims, with details of the public event and embedded survey [Specialist Resource Base Expansion Proposal - Oasis Academy Long Cross](#)
- Postal flyers to adjacent properties likely to be most affected with link to website and info on public event
- Email invitation to local councillors and MPs
- Emails to all parents of pupils at the Academy
- Online survey
- Marketing via Facebook community pages and local community noticeboards
- Open evening with outline plans and aims

The aim of this consultation was to allow all members of the community and stakeholders to share their thoughts and feelings on the proposals to extend the existing Specialist Resource Base within the Oasis Academy Long Cross site.

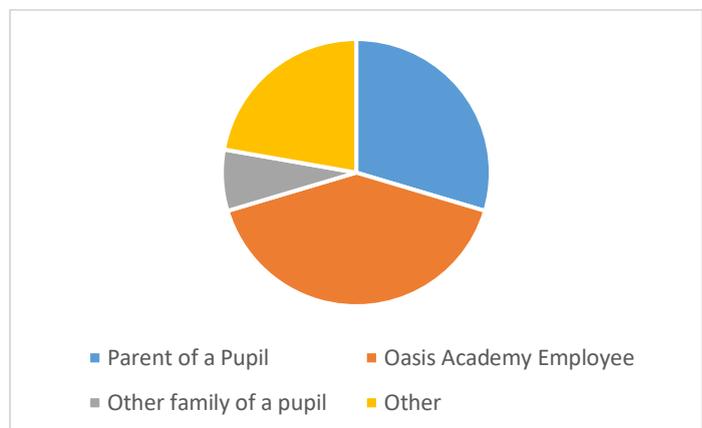
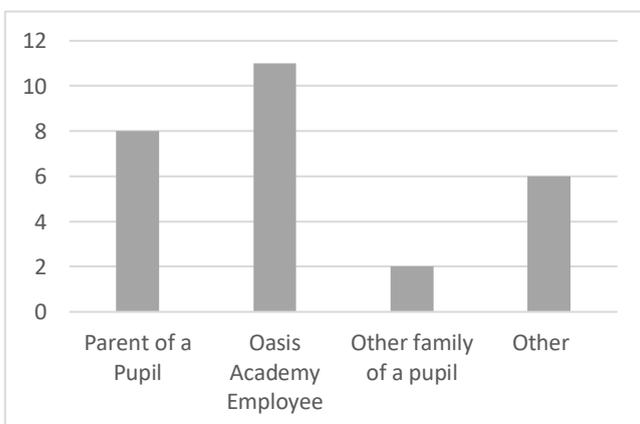
Statutory consultation results and responses

27 consultation questionnaire responses were received, all online. The consultation evening was attended by 6 people. Replies to the 5 questions asked were as follows:

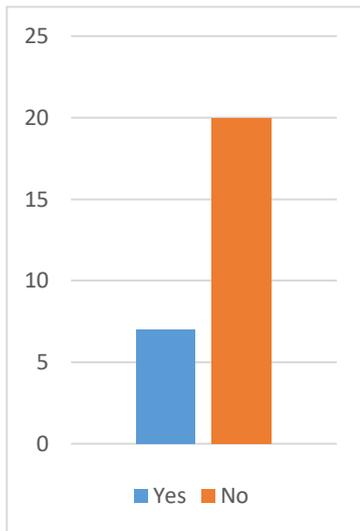
Q1: What is your connection to OA Long Cross?

Of the 27 respondents, 8 (30%) were parents of a current pupil, with 2 other family members and 6 from the wider community. This represents a pleasing cross section of the community around the Academy and proves that the survey information was able to reach people with no direct connection to OA Long Cross.

It's also pleasing that 11 teachers or support staff (41%) responded to show their support and commitment to the extension.



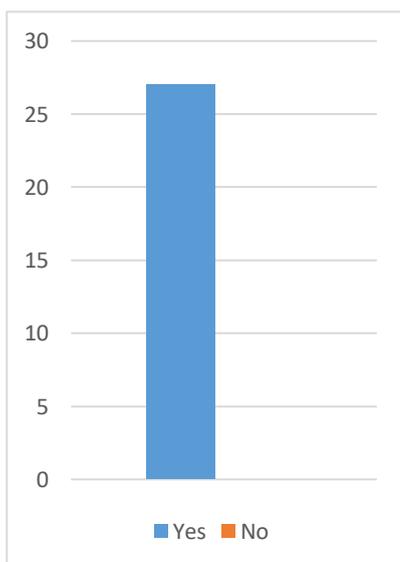
Q2: Are you the parent/carer of a SEND child?



Of the 27 respondents, 7 were parents/carers of a SEND child (26%) and 20 were not. Removing teaching staff and other non-parents from the data, this means that of the respondents who answered Q1 that they were the parent/ grandparent of a pupil at OA Long Cross (10), 60% of familial respondents are the parents to a SEND child at the Academy (the additional respondent of the 7 is a nanny to a SEND child at the Academy).

This means that the survey provides a balanced cross-section of the community, but also has captured the views of the families it will most affect which was the aim of the consultation.

Q3: Are you in support of the proposals to extend the SEND provision at Oasis Long Cross for an additional 14 pupils?



The public response from all sections of the community was overwhelmingly in support of the plans to extend the Resource Base with 100% of respondents in support of the proposals to extend the Resource Base.

Some of the comments we received from parents/ carers (**for Q5**) are :

Fantastic environment for children with special needs to learn under care and supervision. Needs to be expanded to allow others to benefit from the caring environment. Supporting patients and pupils is what they do.

The school does a great job at supporting families of SEND kids and the more families with access to these wonderful people and resources the better

I am in favour of proposed expansion of Long Cross Academy

Would the explanation include going up to year 6 instead of year 4 or will the year groups remain the same?

We would like to see the school be able to educate a full primary school aged children

We are delighted to be able to confirm that the additional 14 places will represent 2 classes; one each for Years 5 and 6. This means that we will now be able to offer a complete primary age- range of provision for our pupils.

It is a fantastic opportunity to give more pupils the specialist education they deserve. With the numbers rising to 50 maybe there should be consideration for the resource base to be a school in its own right.

In response to this last point we made the decision that keeping the resource base as part of the mainstream school was most in line with our vision and goals for our pupils. We feel very strongly that being on this site and an integral part of the Academy is what makes the Resource Base so unique and special. It means that we are able to share the SEND expertise across the academy, which benefits all our students and makes for an authentic and purposefully inclusive community where mainstream pupils and ASD pupils are able to create a blended school community. It also has the benefits of being more cost effective in times where education funding is tight.

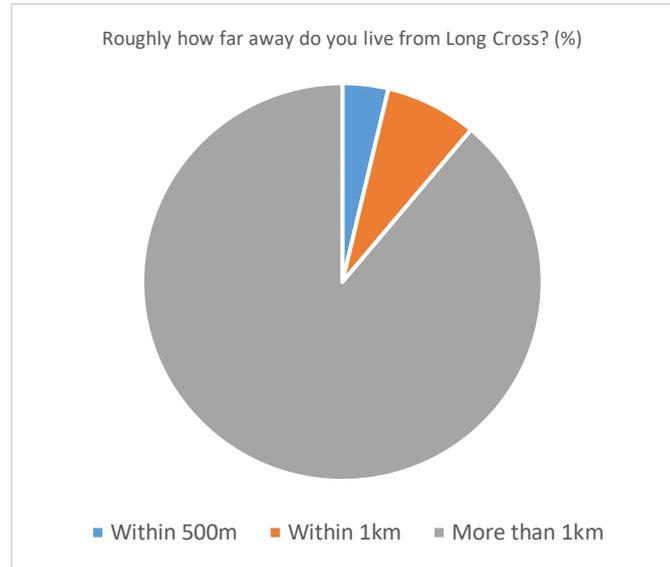
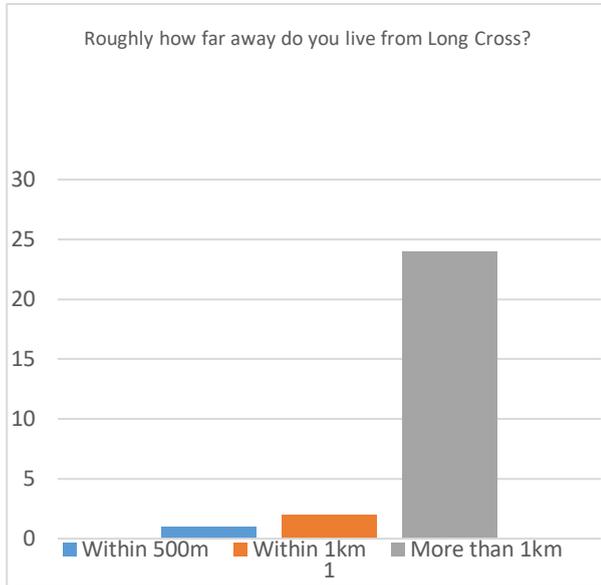
Additionally, there were responses from Oasis staff members which show their absolute commitment to the proposals to provide education for greater numbers of SEND pupils:

Long Cross provides an excellent education for all of its pupils and already has the expertise to support more children in its Specialist Resource Base Provision. I fully support this proposal as there is a high demand for places within specialist provision in Bristol

The work done in the Resource Base is so valuable, the staff work with such genuine kindness and altruism to benefit each and every child the school has the privilege to work with.

I think that the Resource Base provides an excellent education and outstanding support to parents of children with SEND. Being able to support more children would be very beneficial to the community.

Q4: Roughly how far away do you live from Oasis Academy Long Cross?



It can be seen that a minority of respondents live within 1km of the academy (11% in total), with 24 out of 27 respondents living beyond 1km away from the school site. Of the parents, wider family and 'other' respondents (thus removing the OCL employees), only 1 of the 16 lived within 1km of the Academy site and so is likely to be reflective of the large catchment area and the distances that parents of SEND pupils are travelling to be able to access resources at OA Long Cross.

Summary

In summary, the consultation was successful in its aims to reach a broad cross section of the community involved with Oasis Academy Long Cross, which represents parents of mainstream pupils, parents of SEND pupils and also members of the wider community.

The data gathered is overwhelmingly in support of the extension to the Specialist Resource Base and the positive impact it will have on the community.

Conclusion and Next Steps

We are confident that the OA Long Cross SEND Base Extension Project will provide much-needed places for pupils with severe learning difficulties, complex needs and life limiting conditions in the city and this is fully supported by Bristol City Council and Bristol SEN. Funding for the extension has been agreed by Cabinet and Oasis Community Learning will now begin the process of planning applications and associated works.

We would like to thank all stakeholders who have taken the time to read and hear about our exciting plans and provide feedback. We will, of course, continue to work with our stakeholders and community through the planning and building phases of the project. Updates will be posted to the website as we are able to share them.