

Fairfield First School - Response to Consultation Comments

Remaining a Village School

Our school ethos and values are based around being a village school – this would not change! The reason our parents choose us, our staff work here and the children gain so many valuable experiences is down to our rich community, outlook, location and its history. The increase in numbers would not hamper this in the slightest. We feel that it is important that a school within a village, such as ours, promotes its environment and the resources and skills within it. It has always been our aim that by the time our children leave in Year 4 they feel proud to have been a part of the rich tapestry of both Fairfield School and the village of Fairfield surrounding us.

Pre School

It is wonderful that Pre School numbers have grown significantly over recent years. I would like to think that the success of Fairfield First has played some part in this. Unfortunately, our current PAN of 23 means that not all of the children currently attending Pre School will be able to gain a place with us in our Reception year.

Size of hall

Our School Hall was built in 2011 and was originally the first phase of a project to replace the mobile classrooms and extend the school. As such our School Hall is more than adequate for an increase to a PAN 30.

Mixed Classes

The standards of education our children receive within their mixed aged classes is very good. This can only be enhanced if staff only needed to plan and resource learning sequences for a single year group. It would make transition between classes much smoother and would allow us to carry out more effective and rigorous moderation and self-assessment alongside other educational settings.

School Environment

The removal of the very old and dilapidated mobile classrooms would create a large amount of recreational space for our children to use. This would not only enhance our school grounds for educational purposes but also give additional space allowing us to offer further opportunities to cater for the health and wellbeing of our children and if possible the local community .

With the farmer vacating the site behind school it is hoped that we will also be able to extend our extremely successful Forest School provision again enhancing the provision and experiences for our children and the local community.

Families playing a part in village life

Since the start of the academic year 2018/19 our parents have been present at the following joint school/village events:

- Harvest Festival
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Children in Need Coffee Morning
- Christmas Plays
- Village Carol Service
- Various Christmas church services

We also have families that use the Pre School, are regular visitors to St Marks Church, run teams (and play) for Fairfield Villa FC, many of our families use the café and Post Office on a regular basis as well as frequenting The Swan public house!

Staffing

We work very hard to ensure our school budget is spent both effectively and wisely. Through continued close monitoring and ensuring best value alongside the additional funding from increased pupil numbers we will be able to fund 1 FTE teacher and 1 approx. 0.6 teaching assistant. All staff employed would be subjected to our very stringent recruitment policy.