

**Comments received at the public meeting at Osbaldwick on
10 December 2012**

CONSULTATION MEETING QUESTIONS

Comment 1

- 1) What provision will be in place for dropping off and picking up children when they are located on differing sites?
- 2) Is this proposal the long term plan and at some time (and when?) is there going to be one school on one site?
- 3) What happens to Osbaldwick School and the maintenance required to the building if the merger doesn't go ahead?
- 4) The majority of children have been with the same classmates since playschool, how are the existing classes going to be divided? Are friendship groups to be maintained or will it be decided academically or is it just pot luck?
- 5) I chose Osbaldwick School as there was only one class per year. Because of this the children know one another and the teachers know nearly, if not all, the children in the school. I have friends who have children at schools with 2 class sizes for each year group and the school does not have the same benefits as we do because of this. The initially smaller class sizes are only going to get bigger this is not why I chose this school. How will this be addressed?
- 6) How is the fact that there is a nursery provision at Derwent and there is a playschool provision at Osbaldwick going to work, are these to remain separate or are they going to be merged?
- 7) How will we be sure the standard of teaching will be maintained, come September, if our children are then being taught on the Derwent site by a Derwent teacher? (Whom we know nothing about and have had no feedback from parents with children in the higher years.) Bearing in mind the Ofsted reports have not been as good.

Comment 2

- 1) It is not clear at which site the breakfast club would be, what if it's at a different place to their class?
- 2) I have been told that the breakfast club is free at Derwent but £3 at Osbaldwick. How will this be addressed? I would rather there was a charge, if it being free meant there was an increased demand and those that really need it due to work commitments lost out on a place.
- 3) How would we drop children off, if we have one at each site. I wouldn't want the start and finish times to be staggered even more as it would take up a lot of time out of each day picking up and dropping off.
- 4) My son is in reception class and has made lots of good friends, if the proposal goes ahead of splitting 30 or 15 into two classes of 22, will this be 15 Osbaldwick children to 7 Derwent, how will you make sure that children who have settled in won't be split from their friends?
- 5) Reception class are currently on Osbaldwick site and will go to Derwent for year 1, back to Osbaldwick for years 2, 3, 4 and back to Derwent for years 5 and 6, this seems a lot of change for young children, and wouldn't it be a lot more straightforward to have KS9 at Osbaldwick and KS2 at Derwent?
- 6) It would be interesting to see how many apply for Osbaldwick this year now that this proposal has been announced, will the numbers be published?
- 7) Once split into two forms per year, will they stay with the same class each year, or be mixed up every year, very unsettling for young children?
- 8) Will we be given the opportunity to look around the Derwent site and see what the facilities are like?

Comment 3

- 1) We are concerned about how teaching quality will be maintained, both during the transaction and in the short to medium term during the disruption.
- 2) What plans will be put in place to help the children through the disruption of any changes that are put into place?

- 3) Wrap around school care is very important to us as both working parents. Will before and after school care be provided and will this be on one site or two?
- 4) We are concerned about how children will be safely transported from one site to another, especially if wrap around care is located only on one site.
- 5) We are currently concerned about poor management of the before/after school care provision. We would like assurances that any developments will be properly managed.
- 6) Will there be a guaranteed place for before and after school care for all those parents and children who currently use it?
- 7) Will there be consideration as to whether a holiday club can be reintroduced given this opportunity for restructuring?

Comment 4

- 1) Are the 2 sites going to stagger start and finish times so that siblings can be dropped/collected by some carer – it's impossible to be in 2 places at once?

Comment 5

- 1) Why isn't there an Option 6? Where Osbaldwick School serves just its catchment area and stops taking children from other areas. Derwent takes children from its own catchment area. This way the 80% of Derwent families which choose other schools would fill the empty places and Osbaldwick would not be over-subscribed, therefore meeting the needs of the children in the village of Osbaldwick. It just seems to make more sense!

Comment 6

- 1) Don't like the idea of children walking from one school to the other.
- 2) Are the Osbaldwick teachers continuing to teach the year groups that they are currently teaching?
- 3) Not happy with smaller children moving schools, when they are settled and know the school and layout.

Comment 7

- 1) If the proposal goes ahead, how is the splitting of existing classes going to work? Many children have been in their class groups for a considerable time, and close friendships have formed.
- 2) Many families will have children attending school on two different sites. How will the logistics of dropping off and collecting work?
- 3) How much influence do the opinions of parents have on the final decision? The consultation documents give the impression that this is a 'done deal'.

Comment 8

- 1) It was discussed at the meeting the logistics of having the school on split sites with the years split between the two sites. Whilst I understand the idea behind not having an infants and a junior school, it does mean that the majority of parents with siblings born 2 – 3 years apart will have their children at different sites for the majority of their primary education.
- 2) The meeting then went on to discuss how the school would manage the start and end of the school day to enable parents to pick up and drop off their children at both sites. Staggered bell times were suggested, my concern with this is that as a working parent I currently drop my children off in the morning at 8.50am and then go straight for a bus which gets me back into the village in time to pick up at 3.15pm. I would be very grateful, and I am sure I speak for a lot of working parents, if the school would take into consideration that they do not shorten the school day too much by having the last school drop close to 9am and the first pick up earlier than 3.15pm.
- 3) Currently the morning school bell is 8.50am and then the children line up and as parents we wait for the teachers to take the children into school, therefore leaving the playground at any time between 8.50am and 8.55am. If the last morning school bell across the two sites does not ring until 8.55am this could potentially mean parents do not leave the playground until 9am and unfortunately would mean, in my case, I would be late for work.

4) I would be very grateful if my concerns could be taken into account as the school moves through this stage of the process, in the current climate it is very important that parents can work part-time and many look for school hours of 9.30am – 2.30pm and need time to travel to and from work.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

Leave the current catchment areas the same and re-distribute the children to the appropriate school, maybe Derwent and Tang Hall would not be undersubscribed and parents would not be driving to schools they live within walking distance and driving past the schools they should be attending.