

## CONSULTATION REPORT

# OA NEW OAK AUTISTIC RESOURCE BASE EXTENSION

### Executive summary

Oasis Academy New Oak is a unique and fully inclusive primary academy for 4- to 11-year-olds, with a specialist resource base for children with an autism diagnosis as well as a deaf learning base. New Oak serves the community of Hengrove, and currently has 201 children on roll (PAN 234). It is rapidly becoming a hub for its community, and now offers a food bank, courses for parents and regularly delivers community events, for example an under 3s fun day and a community tree planting project.

The Academy has gone from strength to strength, and this was confirmed in its recent Ofsted where it was graded as 'Good' with an 'Outstanding' personal development offer. The Ofsted survey and own in-house surveys indicate an increasingly positive response from families. The last survey showed 91% of our parents reported their children were happy and 90% reported their children feel safe at school.

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 high levels of integration between the main school and the resource base where the curriculum is skilfully tailored to the individual needs both in the main school and in the specialist resource base. The resource base's current PAN is 14 providing education for 14 pupils across 2 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. New Oak was approached by the local authority (LA) to increase SEN spaces and the academy has subsequently been awarded funds for the project to increase the Resource Base PAN from 14 to 28 (students from Reception to Year 6 for children with severe and complex learning difficulties including autism in line with current cohorts).



As part of the Significant Change Process, the Academy undertook a public consultation which ran from 10<sup>th</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> 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 20 responses to the online survey that were received.

## Statutory consultation

The consultation ran for 4 weeks from 10<sup>th</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Information provided to stakeholders took the following forms:

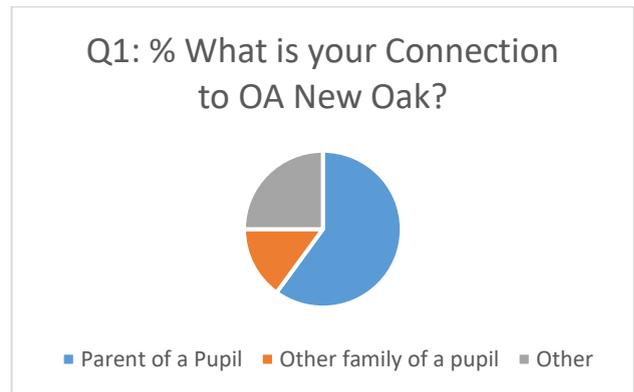
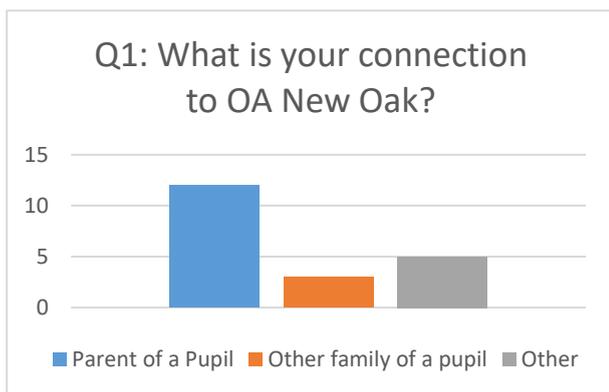
- Website information on the proposals, site location and aims, with details of the public event and embedded survey <https://www.oasisacademynewoak.org/news-and-events/autistic-resource-base-expansion-proposal>
- Postal flyers to adjacent properties likely to be most affected with link to website and 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 Autistic Resource Base within the Oasis Academy New Oak site.

## Statutory consultation results and responses

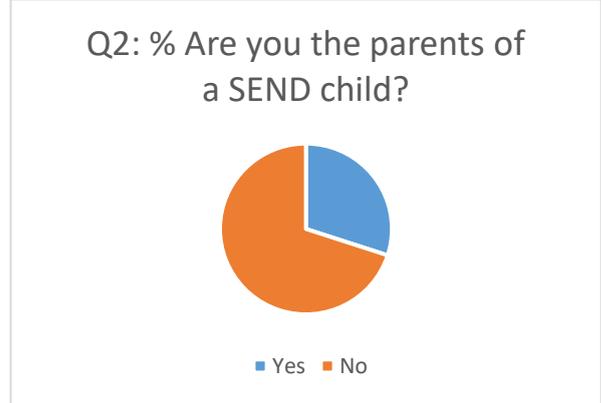
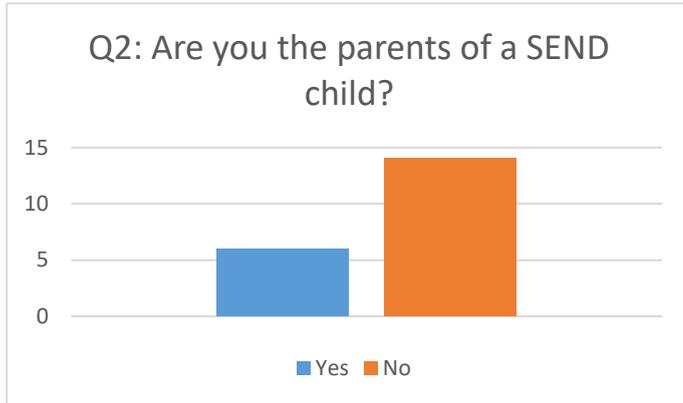
20 consultation questionnaire responses were received, all online. The consultation evening was attended by 8 people. Replies to the 5 questions asked were as follows:

### Q1: What is your connection to OA New oak?



Of the 20 respondents, 12 were parents of a current pupil, with 3 other family members and 5 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 New Oak.

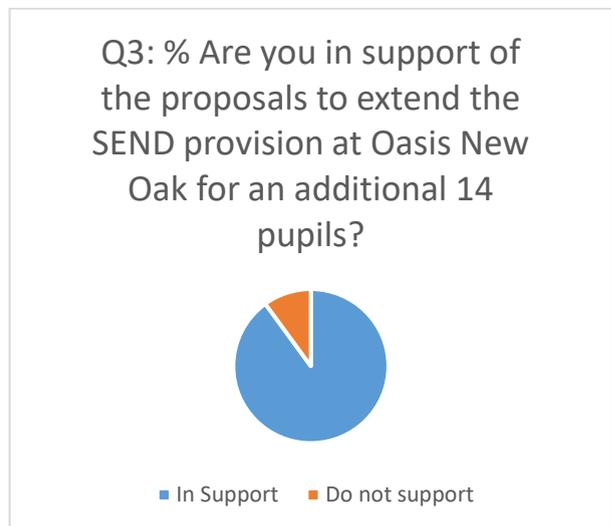
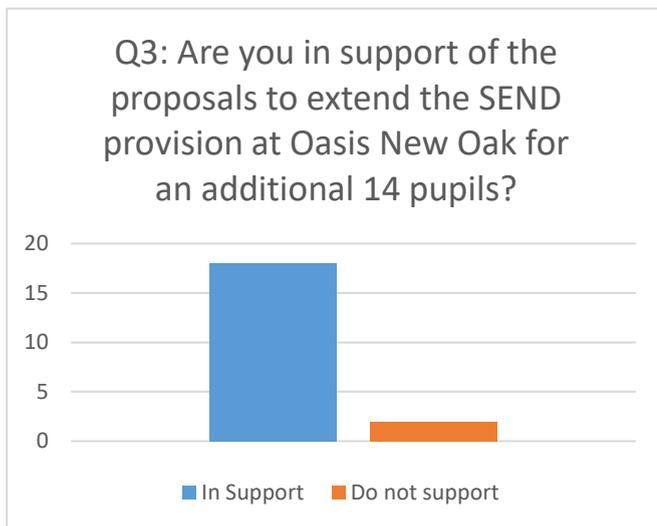
## Q2: Are you the parents of a SEND child?



Of the 20 respondents, 6 were parents of a SEND child (30%) and 14 were not. This means that of the respondents who answered Q1 that they were the parent of a pupil at OA New oak (12), 50% of parental respondents are the parents 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 New Oak 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. 2 people (10%) did not support the plans. One of these respondents was the parent of a pupil in the mainstream academy but did not give a reason for lack of support. The other parent who did not lend support is the parent of a child attending New Oak in mainstream and who commented

*"I've not been told enough about it and feel as though communication is severely lacking this year in comparison to the last. I'm concerned about my child getting the right support in mainstream and am concerned we should be concentrating to children already at new oak before extension"*

This parent did not attend the consultation evening where more information could have been provided, and we are unclear as to which communication they are referencing- it is possible that the first sentence is a general comment rather than for the specific consultation question.

90% of respondents were in favour of the extension to the Resource Base, which represents all groups of the community. Some of the comments we received (**for Q5**) are :

*As a previous special educational needs governor for the school with 2 children (now adults) with ASD, the provisions in Bristol have needed increasing for a number of years. I can only see this as a positive move for the whole school family with the correct funding in place. The wider school population will embrace diversity and learn understanding and tolerance.  
Thank you for doing this*

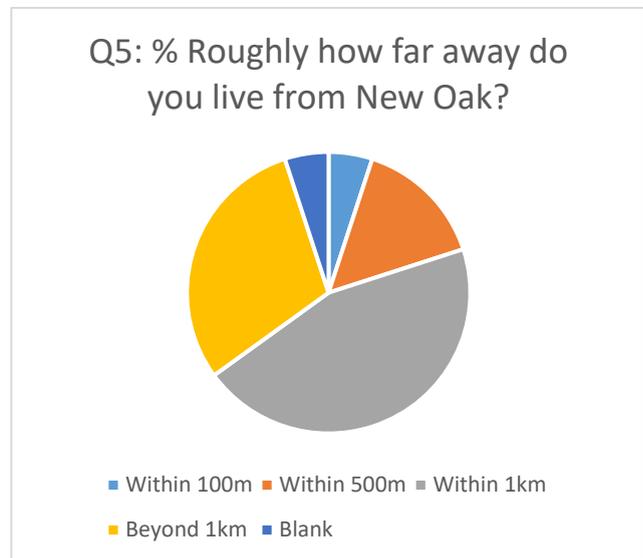
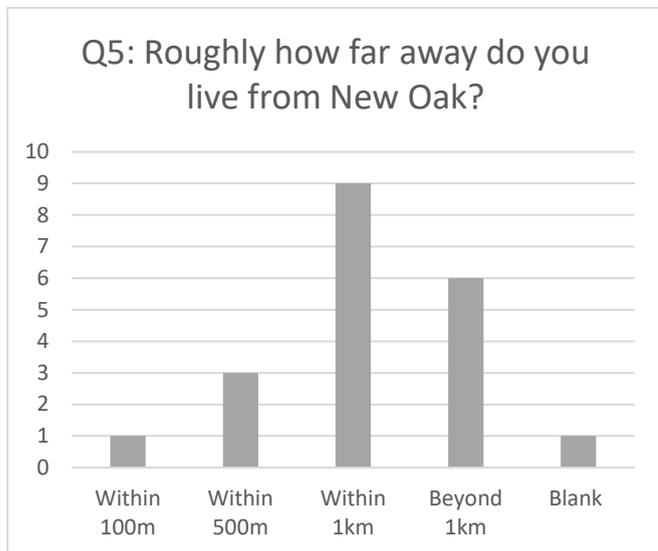
*This is an excellent initiative I hope all existing ARB staff will given extra support to cope with extra influx of SEN. They already do an incredible job.*

*This will mean more children get help  
More needs to be done (we assume this to be confirmation that more spaces for SEN students are needed based on the respondents other responses)*

*More spaces*

Overall, with 90% of the community in overwhelming support for the extension, we are very pleased that OA New Oak will be delivering a resource that the community wants and will value.

## Q4: Roughly how far away do you live from New Oak?



It can be seen that the majority of respondents live within 1km of the academy (65% in total), with only 6 respondents living beyond 1km away from the school site. This means that the survey has worked to target local residents and provide a representative response.

## Summary

In summary, the consultation was successful in its aims to reach a broad cross section of the community immediately surrounding Oasis Academy New Oak, 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 Resource Base and the positive impact it will have on the community.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

We are confident that the OA New Oak SEND Base Extension Project will provide much-needed places for autistic pupils in Bristol 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.