

Consultation Analysis

on the proposed expansion of Ash Grange
Nursery and Primary School

July 2026



Consultation Analysis

Proposal to expand Ash Grange Nursery and Primary School

Introduction

Surrey County Council published a consultation on the proposal to expand Ash Grange Nursery and Primary School (Ash Grange) from Monday 1 June 2026 to Monday 13 July 2026.

This report is an analysis of responses gathered during the 6-week consultation period.

Consultation Summary

The aim of the consultation was to seek views on the proposal from all interested parties, particularly from pupils and their families who attend Ash Grange, children and their families who may attend the school in the future, staff members at Ash Grange, local schools and the local community.

The consultation was open from Monday 1 June 2026 to Monday 13 July 2026. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website, circulated by the school to the school communities and circulated by Surrey County Council to stakeholders, including local schools, councillors and MPs. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or by email or post.

Two public meetings were held at Ash Grange on Thursday 2 July 2026, at 14:00 and 19:00.

A summary of the meetings, along with questions and answers, is available on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website.

Key points from the consultation responses:

- There were **53** responses to the consultation.
- In response to the question 'Do you support the proposal to expand Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School?' **42%** support the proposal.
- **47%** of respondents indicated they are a resident living close/adjacent to Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School.

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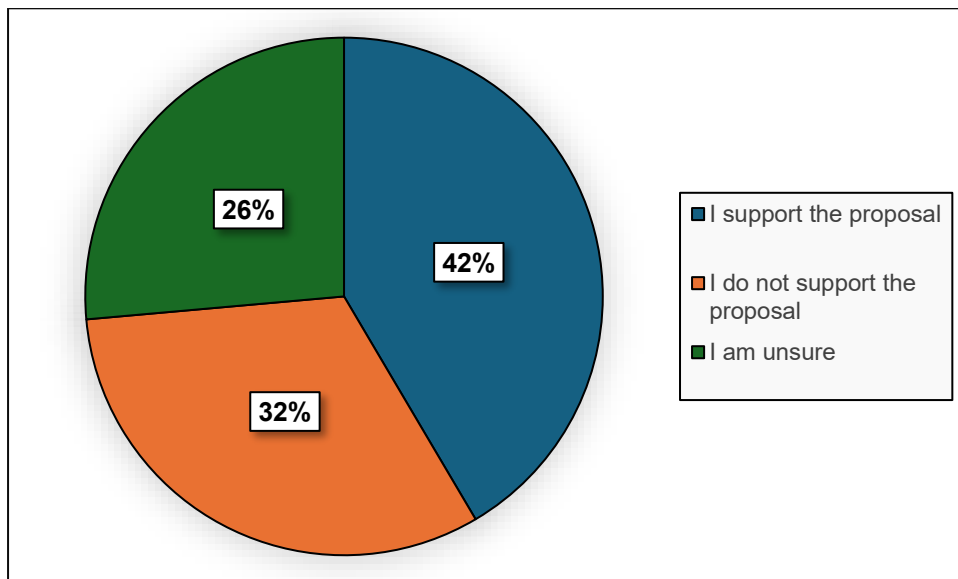
Quantitative Analysis

In total, there were **53** responses to the consultation. The responses to the consultation are:

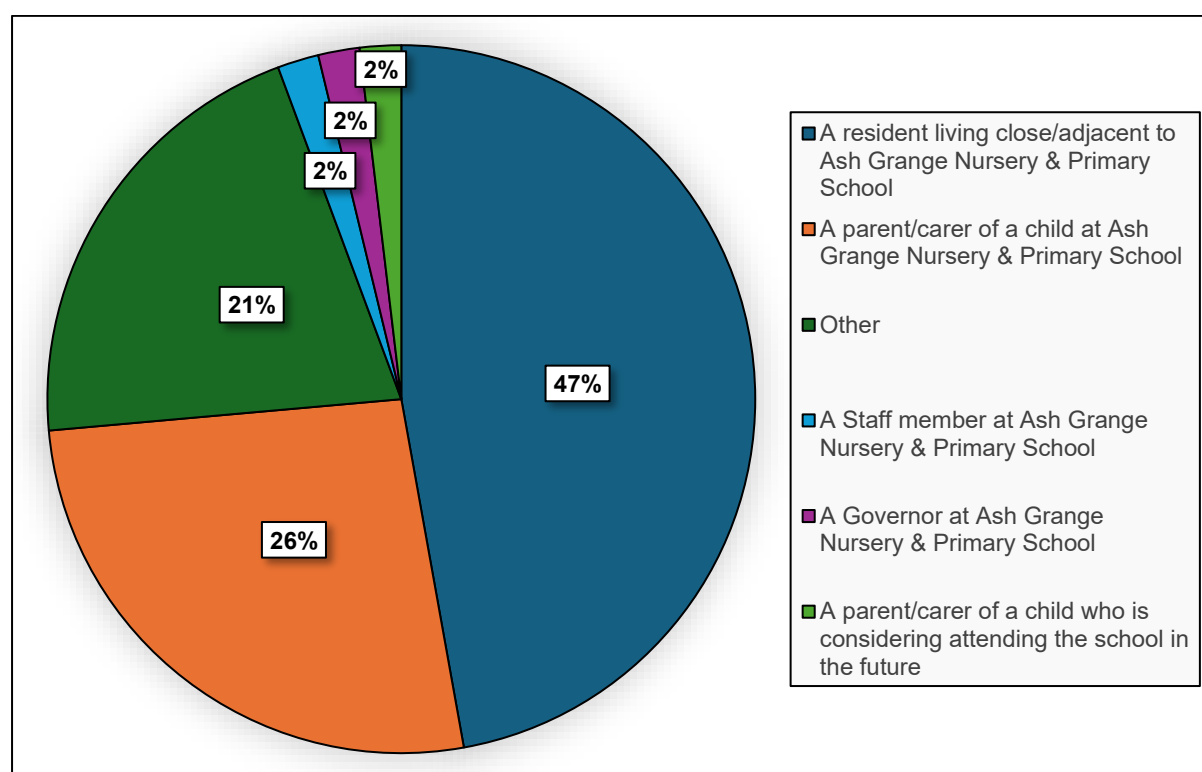
22 (42%) respondents support the proposal

17 (32%) respondents do not support the proposal

14 (26%) respondents stated they were unsure



All **53** respondents indicated their relationship with the school. The chart below shows the distribution of respondents to the consultation.



Percentage by individual groups

Relationship to School	Support	Do not support	Unsure	% of Respondents
A resident living close/adjacent to Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School	10	9	6	47%
A parent/carer of a child at Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School	7	3	4	26%
Other	2	5	4	21%
A Staff member at Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School	1	0	0	2%
A Governor at Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School	1	0	0	2%
A parent/carer of a child who is considering attending the school in the future	1	0	0	2%
Total	22	17	14	53

Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Out of the 53 responses received, 39 comments were made on the proposal. These comments were broadly themed and separated into 6 possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondent's main interests regarding the proposal.

Sub theme	Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of 39 responses)
Negative	Traffic and Parking	25	64%
	Potential Impact on other local schools	5	13%
	Potential disruption for children already on roll at Ash Grange	5	13%
Positive	Necessity for more school places in the local area	10	26%
	Reputation of Ash Grange	9	23%
	Increased housing in the local area	6	15%

Key themes from the consultation

Negative Impacts

Respondents identified several potentially negative impacts of the proposal, with many expressing “concerns” and that an expansion “would not be fair”.

Traffic and parking

64% of respondents referenced pre-existing issues with parking and traffic around the school site and fears that an expansion of Ash Grange would be “dangerous”. Respondents stated that parking in the area is “difficult”, with one describing the situation as “chaotic”. Several mentioned “inconsiderately parked cars”, causing “huge problems for those in mobility scooters and wheelchairs”. One respondent also cited an example where “an ambulance could not access our lane to our house”. Others referenced cars parking “illegally on the double yellows” and one respondent expressed that an increase in the volume of traffic would “open up the area for serious accidents”.

Additionally, several respondents referenced the recent removal of a layby in front of the school, with one stating that it had made the situation “horrendous”.

"I have concerns about the lack of available parking spaces for parents with children at Ash Grange school"

"There is absolutely nowhere for parents who work to park"

"The roads and adjacent cul-de-sac are already now dangerous, and any increase in that traffic will seriously further impact the safety"

Potential impact on other local schools

13% of comments related to concerns around the potential impact on other local schools. One respondent mentioned that "other local schools are undersubscribed, so would risk their closure". Similarly, another respondent stated that "there are several other schools in the area that are currently not full and have spaces in all year groups" whilst another suggested that the expansion would only cause "an unnecessary surplus of places".

"I feel that more understanding of the schools and places in the area need to be considered too so that other schools are not negatively impacted by dropping numbers"

Potential disruption for children already on roll at Ash Grange

13% of respondents felt that an expansion would negatively impact those children on roll at Ash Grange, with one stating that "especially those needing extra support will not have the care they need if the classes are larger". Another respondent also expressed their concerns about an expansion "diluting the provision available and stretching both staff and facilities too thin in the long run".

"Ash Grange works partly because it is small enough for staff to know every child. How will it be preserved at twice the size?"

"Concern is losing the use of the spare classrooms that are currently used for other activities - like funzone and the arts room"

"A lovely school with only one group per year, this means all the children and adults all know each other and are more like family than classmates"

Positive Impacts

Respondents also identified several potentially positive impacts of the proposal, with one stating that the proposal "makes complete sense" and another that "the need for school places is apparent".

Necessity for more school places in the local area

26% of respondents feel that there is increased pressure for school places in Ash and Tongham, with one stating that "extra places will be needed" and another stating that "the need for additional school places will only continue to increase". One cited their

concerns about where their child might go to school and added that the expansion “would keep us in the area”. Several respondents referenced “living so close” to Ash Grange but having been unable to attain a place in recent intakes.

“The expansion would [...] allow more children to attend their nearest school, build friendships within their neighbourhood, and participate fully in school life”

“The extra reception classes are desperately needed”

“I can see the need for the school to grow”

Reputation of Ash Grange

23% of respondents commented on the positive reputation of Ash Grange, referencing their “supportive environment” and how “parental preferences are strongly going towards Ash Grange”. One respondent mentioned Ash Grange’s “excellent reputation, strong educational standards, and its importance within the local community”, and another praised the teaching staff for being “very passionate and committed to the holistic development of the children”.

“I would be keen for Ash Grange to be able to support more children and families with their excellent provision”

“The school have the facilities to cater for children and give them the best education”

Increased housing in the local area

15% of the comments referenced the influx of housing in Ash and the surrounding areas and that “with ongoing housing development and population growth in the area, the need for additional school places will only continue to increase”. One respondent stated that the “extensive building of homes in the area leaves school places much in demand” and another stated that there had been “a rapid increase in houses with limited changes to infrastructure”.

“The school has plenty of room to increase the intake due to the increase in demand due to increased housing”

What happens next?

The Council will consider all the views put forward during this consultation period before making a decision on whether to publish proposals required by law. These formal proposals may be altered, amended or different from this consultation. If proposals are published, there will be a further period for comments, called the representation period or 'Statutory Notices'. This would last for 28 days, and a final decision would then be taken by Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning as to whether to expand Ash Grange Nursery & Primary School.