

**Oak Hill Church of England  
Primary School**

**Review & Results of  
Stakeholder Consultation  
Survey**

**January 2023**



On 13 January 2023 a survey was circulated to the school community's stakeholders including parents, carers, staff and governors plus prospective parents, the two village parish councils and both village communication groups (newsletters, notice boards and What's App groups).

The survey closed at midnight on Sunday 22 January 2023. A total of 32 responses were received.

The survey was circulated digitally and paper copies were also available.

- 75% of responses were received digitally (24 respondents)
- 25% of responses were received on paper (8 respondents)

Contextual information about the school community:

- School currently has 44 pupils (20 male & 24 female)
- Pupils come from 32 families
- 15 members of staff (2 of whom are also parents)
- 9 governors (including Headteacher, 1 staff governor (who is also a parent), 2 parent governors; 2 foundation governors (including Alderton village Vicar) and 3 co-opted governors)

**Points to note:**

- *Those respondents who have more than one capacity within the school community (i.e. staff/governor/parent) have completed the survey as parents only*
- *Of the staff group, 4 members of staff commenced their employment on or after 1 September 2022. They are not therefore able to comment on the move to one site as they have no personal experience of the previous two site structure and were therefore not eligible to participate in this survey.*
- *The Headteacher and Chair of Governors have chosen not to complete the survey to ensure their views do not obscure the results*

- *Three families have joined the school since September 2022 and have not therefore participated in the survey.*

**The survey asked the following questions:**

**Q1.) In what capacity are you completing this survey?**

**Responses:**

- 68.75% of responses from parents and carers (22 respondents)
- 18.75% of responses from staff (6 respondents)
- 9.375% of responses from governors (3 respondents)
- 3.125% of responses from other stakeholders (1 respondent, Alderton Parish Council)

No responses were received from Dumbleton Parish Council or other village stakeholder groups as described above.

**Analysis of the results confirmed:**

- 76% of families completed the survey
- 80% of eligible staff completed the survey
- 75% of eligible governors completed the survey
- 50% of eligible parish councils completed the survey

**Q2.) Do you support the school remaining on one site beyond the trial period?**

**Responses**

- 100% of respondents support the proposal the school should remain on one site beyond the trial period

**Q3.) Please provide any additional comments on the proposal or feedback on your experience of the school united on one site to date.**

**Responses**

1. Children have been able to share their experiences with other year groups especially across key stages. It gives more opportunities for whole school activities. It has been possible to offer wrap around care which has been enjoyed by a number of children.
2. Love the school being one setting
3. I feel that being on one site has had such a positive impact on the teaching, provision, wellbeing and support for pupils, parents and staff and I really feel we would be taking a huge step backwards if we went back to two sites.
4. The school feels far more unified on one site, the children are gaining so much from being able to interact with each other. Over all the school feels like a much happier place.

5. It's the best decision I think the school has made...what a success story!!! I think having all the children on one base works best.
6. Since the school has been on one site it feels a lot more unified than when it was on split sites, it is lovely to see all of the year groups interacting with one another. It has also created opportunities for work to be shared across the key stages, ultimately adding meaning and relevance to the children's work. This sharing hopefully gives the children a sense of ownership and pride in their work. Communication has improved since being on one site, with information being shared at the same time. I believe that the move to one site has been a positive move in many ways and will enable the school to build on the improvements that have already been made.
7. The kids seem a lot happier being all together.
8. My 'yes' above is a qualified one. On balance, my impression is that being on one site seems to be working well overall although I still have some reservations/questions about being on one site (reverting to two sites isn't necessarily the answer though).
9. It's hard to make an informed decision based on the data available to parents at the moment (e.g. no insight into any evidence of improvements in learning, questions about the relative financial impact of occupying, mothballing or giving it up the Dumbleton site)
10. Concerned about the plan for housing the school should we grow significantly. Is there enough space for more pupils?
11. Concerned about the limited parking at drop off and pick up time, especially if the school continues to grow in numbers. Can there be provision for a bike/scooter shelter to encourage non-car options?
12. One issue is the lack of green space at Alderton. Would be grateful to hear more about how the playing field is going to be used and what changes are going to happen on the playground.
13. Only concern would be with a new housing estate, is the Alderton site big enough to take on more children?
14. I feel that the school being based on one site has been a great move for both pupils and parents. All year groups are able to interact and form friendships which is lovely to see. From a parent's point of view I find it really helpful being able to speak to the children's teachers daily in person which I wasn't always able to do when the school was split on two sites.
15. The school being on one site is lovely and I think it works great and is much more beneficial to the staff and pupils.
16. We would have to pay a significant amount for the bus for our daughter to be taken from Alderton to Dumbleton if the school returned to that site as we do not live in either village. Please leave the school on one site!
17. It all sounds great! Let's move on now!
18. I am happy with the current arrangement.
19. One site is better
20. Alderton Parish Council support the move to one site on the basis the school remains in the village of Alderton now and in the longer term.
21. So lovely to see all the children and staff at one site all being supported. Keep it that way!

A 22<sup>nd</sup> response was received from a parent who opted to provide more comprehensive feedback.

- The quality of teaching and learning in X class seems to be better this year. The staff seem to be more 'on it'. X's reading is being benchmarked much more frequently now than over the past two years and she's reading with an adult at school much more often, such that the books from school offer her a more appropriate challenge.
- I gather that teaching staff are now having more regular peer discussions about their pedagogy. (X mentioned at parents evening that she'd taken some of X's maths work to a staff meeting to discuss how to challenge her more. I was just glad to learn that this kind of peer dialogue about teaching, learning and assessment is happening – regardless of whether it's my child being discussed or not.)
- I did have serious reservations about the class structures when proposed, but it seems to be working well. From what X reports, this structure seems to be affording the teaching team more opportunity for differentiation and adaptations.
- X has been a godsend in terms of getting X's over the school threshold and into school each morning much more happily! With more staff around, there seems to be more of a social and emotional safety net (including X and X – I imagine it's easier to implement the Thrive approach on one site).
- The wraparound childcare provision has been very welcome. Using it has afforded me more time to develop my new career (and X really enjoys it).
- X's enjoyed being able to make friends with the older children; in her opinion, this is the best thing about all being at Alderton. Having all the children together seems to be diluting potentially negative effects of fractious relationships among some kids. If they're finding some people tricky, they now have more opportunity to look elsewhere for friendship.
- R/KS1 getting to do PE in the hall rather than having to do it in their classroom is a huge improvement.
- Having whole school assemblies rather than having to video link the two sites is also a massive improvement.
- As a parent, I now feel more of a part of the school community. Living outside of Alderton meant that I only ever regularly saw a handful of other parents and EYFS/KS1 teachers when I went to Dumbleton at drop-off/pick up. I used to sometimes feel a bit detached from what was going on at the 'main' site. I do not feel that at all anymore. This shift may also be a function of having spent a fair amount of time at school over the summer volunteering during the improvement works. From that experience I have now joined FOOHS as a committee member.
- The building at Alderton is in much better condition than the Dumbleton building (which I suspect was starting to become unfit for purpose, if it wasn't already...). I'd rather the school/LA used their budget for enhancing teaching and learning rather than bringing the Dumbleton building up to scratch.

- On to my reservations, some of these might be addressed in any face-to-face consultation meeting that I understand will happen as part of the statutory process to formalise the move to one site.
- Space – the Alderton site already seems squeezed for space. Should the school see the hoped-for uptick in pupil numbers, I can't see where they'll put everyone and everything! (Especially as the site abuts listed buildings which limits things somewhat.)
- The renovations over the summer and the new equipment are great but Rowan classroom feels a bit tight with all of the EYFS stuff. I'm curious about whether there are any plans to address this, and if so, what?
- Are there any opportunities to expand the site (say, by taking over the village hall)? Or even to relocate the school within Alderton, perhaps with the support of housing developers?
- On a related note, I suspect parking would become more of an issue for those of us who have to travel by car. Ideally people wouldn't come by car but if pupil numbers are to increase, surely this would involve drawing from areas outside the village.
- Some encouragement for families within the village to use active transport would be great (e.g., covered bike/scooter storage – which has been mooted in the FOOHS group but, again, where would you put it?)
- Access to nature/green space – So much of the outside space at Alderton is tarmacked, and X tells me that they're not allowed on the grass at the moment. It's a shame the children no longer get to benefit from direct access to the small field at Dumbleton and to Dumblewood which I know was off limits the year before the move.
- Are there any plans to make more use of the school/LA-owned field next to the playground on Beckford Road? (Being new to the Alderton site this year, I have no idea whether it's used for PE in the summer.)
- My understanding from the consultation with parents/carers last year was that there were two main drivers for the move to one site: 1) To ensure the financial viability of the school, and 2) to improve the quality of education and teaching. I don't feel that I have enough information at the moment to make an informed decision about whether the school is on track to achieve either of those aims. It's too early to tell.
- Beyond what I've gleaned from conversations with X and staff members (mentioned above), I have no sense of the impact of the move on the quality of teaching and learning. The school is yet to have an OFSTED monitoring visit and SATs won't take place until May. I appreciate OFSTED and SATs as metrics have their limitations but the researcher in me wants reasonably objective ways of measuring this outcome!
- In terms of pupil numbers, it's also too early to assess the impact of removing some of the perceived barriers for potential Oak Hill families (i.e., wraparound childcare, infants on the bus to Dumbleton). I know this stuff takes time, that we haven't lost any pupils this year and that we've gained children in R, Y2 and Y4 seems positive.
- From a financial perspective, I'd like to know more about the burden of carrying the Dumbleton site, and the anticipated benefits of handing it back to the trust.

- When occupied, how much more does it cost to run the second site? What have been the costs/savings this year while Dumbleton has been mothballed? What do these costs look like as a fraction of the school's overall budget?
- If Dumbleton is handed back to the trust, how much more would there be in the school budget, if anything? If the savings aren't all effectively soaked up by budget cuts and the increasing cost of current provision, how would any additional funds be put to good use? In the unlikely event we reverted to two sites, how much would it cost to bring Dumbleton up to scratch?
- If you've got this far, thanks for reading! I just figured it would be better to set it out here rather than waiting until any consultation meeting that might happen. I'm also keen to know about anticipated timelines for any further improvement and plans. The school, governors and LA clearly have to secure the long-term future of the school but selfishly as a parent I'm most interested in the impact over the next four years while X is at Oak Hill.