

Princess Frederica CE Primary School Statutory Consultation

Responses Summary Prepared by Brent Council Questions, Comments and Concerns Raised

	Questions, comments, & concerns raised [disagree / no decision]
	Other Schools
1.	<p>I understand that more places are needed in the borough, but for this other plans should be made by the council - i.e. building a whole new school or use existing buildings (instead of selling those) and modify those to schools i.e. the Gwenneth Rickus Building.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The council has been creating school places since 2006. To date approximately 50% of the 61 primary schools have either expanded or taken on bulge classes since 2006.</p> <p>A new school was created in 2008 called Ark Academy. It became an all through school in 2010 when the secondary sector opened. In 2010 Preston Manor High School became an all through school when the primary sector was created. In September 2014 Wembley High Technology College will become an all through school when the primary sector opens. The school currently has two bulge primary classes on site.</p> <p>Legislation has changed in recent years, in that councils are not allowed to open new schools unless they become an Academy or a free school, which would be outside the council's control. The recently vacated Gwenneth Rickus Building is currently being renovated to provide temporary school places providing up to 15 additional classes i.e. 450 additional primary places.</p>
2.	<p>Other schools in Brent who have the space – like Malorees – have flatly said no. Why aren't they being pressurised?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>All schools which have space are being considered. The schools that have been approached in the past will be approached again in the near future.</p> <p>A list of all the schools that have been considered for expansion is described in the Executive report of August 2012 which also describes the overall strategy to primary school expansion. The Council is working with a number of schools, to become part of the expansions for phase 3, which would be due to complete for the 2015-16 academic year. The Governing Bodies are still to decide if they are willing to commence statutory consultation on expansion.</p>
3.	<p>The government needs to find a way to build more schools. Also pressure needs to be put on schools with the space, not those that obviously do not.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Brent Council has the legal duty to provide school places for all children in Brent. The Council</p>

	works with the Department for Education to secure funding to be able to meet this duty. The strategy for providing sufficient school places has been approved by the Council Executive and across primary, secondary and SEN provision includes a range of options including the establishment of new free schools and the expansion of existing schools. The council cannot simply open new schools, because new schools either have to become Academies or Free Schools.
4.	<p>Leopold is expanding, College Green Nursery School has been given a derelict site and funding for 2 x reception classes and 1 x Yr 1 class, Kensal Rise is becoming an academy and can only attract. Furness is improving and Capital City Academy is hoping to open a primary school. These schools are all in a much better place to deal with the shortages in places than Princess Frederica. They will all be in direct competition with Princess Frederica.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Although many places are being planned they may not happen and if they do they may not be delivered in time. We have children now without a school place and data and pupil projections shows that the situation will become worse if we do not plan ahead. The situation is already critical and the places are required now.</p>
5.	<p>I believe Brent is cutting corners and should build brand new schools in Harlesden from scratch.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Refer to response to question 3</p>
6.	<p>Kensal Rise school is being taken over by an outstanding Academy and Malorees is on a huge site with a popular Headmistress so who is going to want to apply to Freds which will be crowded and you need to go to church to get in. It may become a huge unpleasant white elephant struggling to fill places.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Kensal Rise is now called Ark Franklyn Primary School and is full in the lower year groups, demonstrating the growth in demand. Malorees Infant and Junior schools are already full. The projections indicate that any additional places in Princess Frederica Primary School will still be required after expansion. It is a very popular school. If the school is less oversubscribed then applicants will be admitted under the 'any other applicant' category, which will increase places allocated to local residents who may not attend church.</p>
7.	<p>Kensal Rise Primary is another example of a school that skews local data. Kensal Rise is undersubscribed by local families (due to poor Ofsted ratings/performance), however the successful Ark Academy is taking over from September, and it is reasonable to expect that performance will quickly improve, and therefore the school will become a draw for local families, further reducing local need.</p> <p>With these points, as well as other local provision in development (Malorees, Capital City, etc.) the local need for Princess Frederica to expand is debatable.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Kensal Rise is now called Ark Franklyn Primary School and is full in the lower year groups,</p>

	<p>demonstrating the growth in demand. Malorees Infant and Junior schools are already full. The projections indicate that any additional places in Princess Frederica Primary School will still be required after expansion. It is a very popular school. If the school is less oversubscribed then applicants will be admitted under the 'any other applicant' category, which will increase places allocated to local residents who may not attend church.</p>
8.	<p>There has been scant mention that the previously under performing Kensal Rise Primary School will reopen as ARK Franklyn Academy, a three-form entry primary school in September 2013. ARK Schools is an education charity and one of the country's top-performing academy operators. If the reason behind the PF expansion is truly to fill the deficit of primary school places in good schools this new ARK school is a huge boon to the community and an incredibly important factor in this debate.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The fact that Ark Franklyn Academy will improve is good news. The school is full in the lower year groups which indicates growing demand for place and yes it will probably become more popular. However, the projections indicate that any additional places in Princess Frederica Primary School will still be required after expansion. It is a very popular school. If the school is less oversubscribed then applicants will be admitted under the 'any other applicant' category, which will increase places allocated to local residents who may not attend church.</p>
	<p>Keep the school small</p>
9.	<p>My wife and I chose the school for our children based partly on its size. We did not choose a three-form entry school and we don't want one now.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all children in its area.</p> <p>Due to the fact that we have more children in the borough than a decade ago we have no choice but to expand local schools.</p> <p>Two Brent schools that have recently expanded received a Good rating in their OFSTED inspections following the expansion. They are Brentfield Primary School and Newfield Primary School.</p>
10.	<p>The school may lose its small community feel. I strongly believe children are healthier and happier in a small school.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Many larger schools maintain their community feel through the way in which they are organised. There is no statistical evidence that children are healthier and happier in a small school.</p>
11.	<p>The community is our soul but a school community is our young heart. How can this school community thrive if this school can never sit together to enjoy each others performances and assemblies, nor sit together to eat, or sit together to pray, or play together, because they are</p>

	<p>simply to big to beat as one?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Governing Body of Princess Frederica has indicated that a school assembly hall which allows all pupils and staff to meet together is a key feature in the proposed plans for the Princess Frederica expansion.</p>
	<p>Admissions</p>
12.	<p>I agree kids in the immediate area should have priority. All Miss Nettey needs to do is change the admissions policy, WHY does she not do this?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Princess Frederica is a VA school and has a right to prioritise intake on faith grounds. The admissions policy is determined by a sub-group of the Governing Body and is reviewed annually. In recognition of local pressures, it was recently changed to give priority to children who live within the parishes of St Mark's and St Martin's over those who may come from further afield.</p>
13.	<p>If Princess Frederica really is concerned about not having spaces for children from the local community then the admissions policy would have been altered years ago. While I understand the ethical dilemma of not having space for everybody, the governing body has encouraged children from further afield to come to the school taking priority over children from the local community for many years. This is a separate admissions issue.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Refer to question 12</p>
14.	<p>Presently Mr Wilson and Mrs Nettey are able to 'know/recognise' all of the children in the school making the pastoral care exceptional. Increasing the number of children will mean the Mr Wilson and Mrs Nettey will not recognise a third of the children in the school making the quality of pastoral care poor.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Many larger schools achieve excellent pastoral care irrespective of the number of pupils. As schools grow, their leadership and management functions also grow and there will always be senior staff who know the children well. Pastoral care is the responsibility of all staff in a school, not just the Headteacher.</p>
15.	<p>I do think the criteria for enrolment in the school should be changed.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Princess Frederica is a VA school and has a right to prioritise intake on faith grounds. The admissions policy is determined by a sub-group of the Governing Body and is reviewed annually.</p>
	<p>Lack of Indoor Space</p>

<p>16.</p>	<p>The school is already offering 50% less than the recommended space to pupils.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Princess Frederica's currently meets the DfE recommendation for a 2FE school on a confined site In developing the design to a 3FE, Brent Council and the school have developed a design which makes the best use of available indoor and outdoor space to meet the challenges of the future. .</p> <p>Though the proposed plans do not meet current recommendations for a new 3FE school, the new proposal will improve the school's external play area flexibility and usage on its existing confined site. There are many highly effective schools in London sited on even more confined sites than Princess Frederica.</p>
<p>17.</p>	<p>Not being able to fit everyone into the school hall for Assembly or into church at one time I think would be a huge loss to the community feel to the school and should not be underestimated how extremely sad that would be not to be able to get the whole school together at certain key times.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Governing Body of Princess Frederica has indicated that a school assembly hall which allows all pupils and staff to meet together is a key feature in the proposed plans for the Princess Frederica expansion.</p>
<p>18.</p>	<p>Discounting all the other perfectly valid reasons to oppose the expansion the crux of the matter is that there simply is not enough space for the current number of children let alone more. No amount of dubious calculations will take that away. I hope that legal representation will be able to close this matter down so it can stop here without any more distress for all concerned.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Princess Frederica's scheme will be based on the current spatial guidance recommended by the DfE for all Primary School Expansion Programme.</p> <p>The internal areas will be based EFA (Education Funding Agency) Baseline Guidance; and for all external areas, Building Bulletin 99 will be used as there has been no revision to external area guidelines.</p> <p>The expansion project would allow for a reworking of the existing space, with new facilities which has the potential to significantly improve the quality of the learning and play environments for pupils.</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p>There simply isn't the space. I believe the building disruption would be too great and there will be too little space per pupil however brilliant the design is. The footprint is just too small. There is already very little outside space for the children.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>See answer to question 16</p>

<p>20.</p>	<p>I feel the school is not fit space-wise to accommodate the number of children proposed.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>See answer to question 18</p>
<p>21.</p>	<p>I cannot see how the school can possibly accommodate more children comfortably, or deal with increased parent traffic.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>At present 83% of parent/pupils regularly walk, cycle, or use scooters and 12.3% parents/pupils use car/taxi and park and walk to get to Princess Frederica.</p> <p>With the expansion of Princess Frederica it is anticipated that this popular mode of travel will show a similar 83% trend and an increased demand for vehicle parking spaces. The Governing Body has indicated that this increased demand is an important consideration in its decision-making to expand.</p> <p>Early implementation of staggering start and finish times, and expansion of morning and after school clubs activities will also assist to spread the arrival and departure times of pupils over the peak period, as it will positively influence new pupil and parent behaviour as the Princess Frederica Primary School is occupied incrementally over the next seven year period.</p>
<p>22.</p>	<p>I understand that places are needed in Brent primary schools, which makes sense. But I also think of all the disruption and work going on over several years. I also find it hard to agree whether having Year 6 and nursery in one block separated from the rest of the school is not a good idea.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The proposed construction period for the works will be completed within a relatively short period. Noisy work such as demolition works will be a very small proportion of the main works programme of which the contractor when selected must provide method statements of how these works will be planned and carried out. Any contractor on Princess Frederica's site will have to meet HSE regulations and monitored by the council's noise pollution team. We do not expect construction work and disruption will last for 'several years' at Princess Frederica.</p> <p>The separation of year 6 classes and nursery in one block came out of the school's idea, given the school's site constraints and the school's ethos that the separation of year 6 classes will prepare the students to move smoothly onto the next big step to secondary school as well as allowing the younger school students to aspire to move into year6 school wing.</p> <p>The nursery design and layout was driven by the requirement of locating all reception and year1 classes together to provide the natural free flow required between these two phases while still offering a self contained nursery with its dedicated nursery play area.</p>
<p>23.</p>	<p>School fair/assembly/ school shows. There's already not enough space in the main hall, where would you put all the other parents?</p>

	<p>Response</p> <p>See answer to question 17</p>
24.	<p>I don't want my children to take their studies on a building site.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The school site will be separated with clear distinct boundaries segregating the building works section from the occupied school section.</p> <p>The contractor must provide very detailed marked up drawings, management procedures, method statements identifying the distinct separation of its work site, access routes, as well as how they plan on maintaining a safe building site. These site proposals must meet the approvals of the national health and safety authority, the HSE, Brent council's health and safety manager or CDM Co-ordinator for the works, schools' Health and safety manager and the school senior leadership team. The school will also revise their fire access plans to ensure the school is safe during the construction works.</p> <p>There will be residual building work noise which we will work closely with the school and the contractor, Brent's environmental control team in monitoring and ensuring acceptable noise levels.</p>
	<p>Lack of Outdoor Space</p>
25.	<p>Princess Frederica primary school is perfect as it is. The plans would most importantly limit the outdoor space the children have to an absolute minimum. More importantly the children will be herded around and with not enough space to run freely at playtime.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>See answer to question 16</p>
26.	<p>The playground is currently too small and will get even smaller –even though the embankment is being changed (this land belongs to Network Rail and not the school).</p> <p>Response</p> <p>See answer to question 16.</p> <p>In relation to the land adjacent to the school. This is used by the school on agreement of Network Rail. This arrangement has worked effectively for many years.</p>
27.	<p>As a child I went to a C of E school and had to use a playground on the roof. A playground on a roof is not a playground, they are restricted and anti-play. They are certainly not what I would want for children today.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Princess Frederica's school site is classified as a school in a confined site landlocked within residential accommodation. The challenge faced by today's designers is to efficiently create these modern day playgrounds within the given spaces to be more than just a playground but as an extension of the learning environment. At Princess Frederica, the elevated play area will</p>

	be a multi-use games area, and will also be used as an aid to teaching and for delivering the sports curriculum.
	Traffic and Parking
	Noise / Behaviour
28.	<p>As a busy, inner-city school on a very small site in the midst of a residential area St Frederica is necessarily quite noisy. After-school activities and weekend events mean that residents are used to noise from dawn to dusk, five or six days a week. Extensive building works and 210 extra pupils, extra parents and extra activities will bring even more noise and disruption with, as far as the residents can see, no provision to try to minimize the increased volume.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The school is an inner city school occupying a confined site and there will always be some noise disturbance in an active school site. The increase in proposed pupil numbers will not necessarily increase the level of noise by the same factor. Experience from similar projects would suggest the opposite, as staggered break times are often employed and quiet play areas, clearly defined within the playground to encourage quieter activities to support the primary school's play curriculum.</p> <p>The proposed building works will be subject to the usual planning restrictions as far as work times are concerned and our procurement process for the works will ensure that disturbance to the local community is kept to a minimum. Deliveries to and from the site will be closely planned to avoid busy times where possible.</p>
29.	<p>Increasing pupil numbers by nearly half would bring this noise and disruption up to unacceptable levels.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The school is an inner city school occupying a confined site and there will always be some noise disturbance in an active school site. The increase in proposed pupil numbers will not necessarily increase the level of noise by the same factor. Experience from similar projects would suggest the opposite, as staggered break times are often employed and quiet play areas, clearly defined within the playground to encourage quieter activities to support the primary school's play curriculum.</p> <p>The proposed building works will be subject to the usual planning restrictions as far as work times are concerned and our procurement process for the works will ensure that disturbance to the local community is kept to a minimum. Deliveries to and from the site will be closely planned to avoid busy times where possible.</p>
	Funding
30.	<p>Can you confirm your funding groups and how much they provide as well as any planned finance opportunities you may be pursuing?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The capital funding for the proposed expansion project at Princess Frederica is secured and is taken from the Basic Need capital allocated to the Council by central Government. A total</p>

	capital project allocation of £4.8 million has been reserved for Princess Frederica. There are no other planned finance opportunities.
31.	<p>I don't trust the funding will be there. Come a change in government in two years and it might all be thrown out. Look what happened to Queens Park Community School. Promised the world – then nothing. Look at what happened to the library.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The funding stream for this project is secured and should the project proceed will be committed and spent within the next financial year and before the next planned general election. It was reported to the Executive in August 2012 that a total Basic Need allocation of £79.7m had been secured. This project is funded from that allocation. The Council has a legal duty to spend funding received and to seek additional funding if necessary in order to provide sufficient school places. The question refers to the Building Schools for the Future Programme which was primarily focussed on renewing the secondary school estate and not on providing additional school places.</p>
32.	<p>I worry that in sufficient funds will be allocated to allow the proposal to be completed, so compromises will be made along the line to come into budget.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>An allocation of capital funding has been made to the project based on the feasibility information available at that time; it is believed to be sufficient. That funding must provide the fundamental requirements to enable the school to expand. The Council is funded by Government at the level they expect it to cost to build schools. It is the Council's responsibility to both spend that funding wisely in order to be accountable to Government for it and to ensure that the project delivers what is necessary for expansion. Inevitably some compromises may have to be made but the school have been engaged with the council in designing the proposed expansion and any decisions that may seem to be compromises have been discussed and agreed. No compromises will be made to the fundamental requirements of the expansion in line with Government guidelines.</p>
	Decision making
33.	<p>We parents have never been asked if we were happy for the governors to make such an important decision on our behalf, with or without a consultation process.</p> <p>It isn't acceptable that a decision that will detrimentally affect <u>our</u> two children's school experience could be taken by <u>others</u> and without our views being properly represented.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>It is the role of the Governing Body, which includes representatives for x, y, z to act as the decision-makers for the school. There are xx parent governors and many of the governors who represent other stakeholders are also parents at the school (can you say what proportion?) The Governing Body can and does consult with the wider community but will not be opening decision-making out to a wider vote.</p> <p>Parents and residents are properly represented as their comments have been and will continue to be discussed by the full governing body before the decision whether to expand takes place.</p>

	<p>If the decision to expand is made the views will also be included in the executive report before the Brent Executive make the final decision whether to allow the school to expand.</p>
	<p>Lack of information</p>
34.	<p>I have not seen a comprehensive argument re the educational benefits of expansion, all that has been determined is that in volume terms more children could attend, but with diminished facilities what will the quality of learning be like.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>There is no doubt that as a school expands, processes and systems have to change. But at the heart of any primary school is the quality of education provided in each classroom and for each child. The focus on this will not change regardless of the size of the school. A larger school will provide economies of scale, for example giving the school flexibility in how to use its resources and there will be a larger staff group, allowing greater variety of expertise and experience, staff development and career progression which will support the retention of good staff.</p>
35.	<p>Looking through the consultation document I am very surprised that the school's neighbours, residential and commercial, have not been included in the list of consultees. To the best of my knowledge I have not received any information through my door. Changes to school size will have an impact on us all, affecting traffic and increasing congestion on the narrow pavements which, with young children, must raise the risk of accidents involving children and traffic. It would be good to be part of the flow of information.</p> <p>Please can we be included and have the opportunity to be involved. I do hope you agree this is important.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>1100 copies of the consultation document were printed. 600 went to the school to distribute amongst the pupils to give to their parents and the school staff. The remaining 500 were distributed to local residents in the vicinity of the school. We cannot confirm whether any local business received a copy but this point will be taken into consideration in future school consultations.</p> <p>In addition the document was pinned to the school gates and mentioned on the school and Brent websites.</p> <p>Approximately 400 copies were emailed to all Brent Councillors, all Brent schools, neighbouring authorities and local nurseries amongst others</p> <p>The majority of the responses were received from local residents, staff and parents of children at the school.</p>
36.	<p>We understand the consultation period for the expansion has been running for quite some time yet we (residents) were only informed at the beginning of this month, being July 2013.</p> <p>We have talked to our neighbours on the street and it seems that little if any information has been given to them about the new planning proposals. We are all concerned about the large scale of the development and the effect this will have on us, the street we live on and our surrounding community not to mention the light we will lose from our garden which we will</p>

	<p>address on a separate letter as we are taking planning and legal advice regarding this We feel surprised and disappointed at the lack of communication and information that has been provided to residents living in such close proximity to what has the potential to cause such major disruption to our lives.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>All meetings prior to July 2013 were part of an informal consultation process by the school to inform the Governing Body decision on whether to proceed to a statutory consultation. This formal statutory consultation process on the proposed expansion of Princess Frederica began on 2 July 2013. .</p> <p>In addition, a consultation process in relation to the proposed building works will commence formally when any planning application is submitted. A pre-planning submission session will be held for local residents, parents and staff to see the proposed designs and talk to the architects. Comments in relation to the proposed building are best addressed through the planning process.</p>
<p>37.</p>	<p>If the statistics are correct that there are only 11 local children without school places, we need to think again very carefully about expansion. If the new places will go to children outside of the local area, this will potentially increase traffic in the area and not serve the local community. I would like to see Brent's statistics on needs of LOCAL children. I would also like assurance that the new places will be open primarily to local children.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Governing Body of Princess Frederica has indicated to Brent Council that understanding the immediate local need and not just that in the Borough will be part of its final decision to expand.</p>
<p>38.</p>	<p>The consultation process has not been allowed to be anonymous. I think this is a mistake, particularly for teachers who may feel compromised by expressing their views. It is too late to change this now, but needs considering when looking at the consultation feedback.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>If the school were a maintained school the responses would have come to the local authority but as Princess Frederica is a voluntary aided school the results go directly to the school. Email responses do identify the sender however the paper responses do not have to be signed therefore preserving the respondees anonymity.</p> <p>This is something that can be reconsidered in the future.</p>

39.

More detail is needed about works proposed and guarantees that Brent Council would allow the school/Governing Body significant control over chosen contractors/architects.

- Guarantees that there was sufficient funding to improve the entire school site, and not just build new classrooms.
- Further information to demonstrate that the quality of teaching provision need not be impacted by the size of a school
- Further information about how the issue of traffic/site congestion will be dealt with.

Response

The Council is responsible and accountable for the funding received from Government for school expansions and has therefore agreed with the school Governing Body and London Diocesan Board for Schools that the Council will manage the project, appoint the architects and sign the contract for the building work. There will be a legal document outlining the Governing Body and London Diocesan Board for Schools' rights and responsibilities along with the Council's in relation to the works. To date the Council and its appointed architects have worked closely with the school and LDBS to design the proposed scheme.

The funding allocated to the project will cover some necessary improvements to the external play areas, entrances to the site and some work on the public footpaths outside the site boundaries. There will also be some improvements within the existing school where remodelling is required.

At the heart of any primary school is the quality of education provided in each classroom and for each child. The focus on this will not change regardless of the size of the school. A larger school will provide economies of scale, for example giving the school will have flexibility in how to use its resources and there will be a larger staff group, allowing greater variety of expertise and experience.

Traffic and pedestrian congestion have been noted as key concerns for the project.

<p>40.</p>	<p>I would like an assurance that the expansion of primary schools is not being carried out on an ad-hoc basis but is part of an integrated and planned borough-wide approach. And that that is not only driven by the need to provide additional places but; among other factors, has identified where those places are needed, and is part of a wider drive to improve educational standards across the borough etc...There is mention of a Brent wide education strategy in the consultation; is this publically available?</p> <p>I am assuming demographic data must be available - supporting the case that increased birth rates are a long-term issue and will not be a short (or relatively) short-term issue which were it the case might have different policy implications for school place provision.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The strategy for expansion of primary, secondary and SEN schools across Brent was approved by the Council Executive committee in August 2012. The strategy is underpinned by demographic data. The report is available on line at:</p> <p>http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/documents/s9262/cf%20schools-portfolio.pdf</p>
<p>41.</p>	<p>I still don't understand why the former Kensal Rise Library is not an option. It would be ideal. I am still not clear why Brent couldn't get behind this idea and make it work. Let's give it a good use and put some classes there.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The former Kensal Rise Library was never owned by Brent Council but a leased building from All Souls College. It has now been sold.</p>