

## **Determination of the Statutory Notice to Enlarge St Keyna Primary School**

### **Representation Responses Report**

**Total representation responses received: 6**

**From:** Parents: 5

Multi Academy Trust CEO/Headteacher of a Neighbouring School: 1

**Type of representation:** Support: 3

Object: 3

### **Representation Responses**

It has been necessary to edit some comments for the purpose of ensuring that no identifying personal information is disclosed.

#### **Support**

##### **Parent, resident in the BS31 postcode area:**

St Keyna is a lovely school, our children currently attend here, my older children used to attend here (now in senior school). I believe expanding the school will have such a positive effect and open more opportunities to how the school is run.

It would still be nice to have an area (or a proposed area) where the children can still enjoy outside Wild Wilderness activities and enjoy the nature.

##### **Parent, resident in the BS31 postcode area:**

St Keyna is a great school and has been over-subscribed for a few years so the need to expand means that more children can benefit from the community values and inclusive education.

##### **Parent, resident in the BS31 postcode area/Local Resident:**

I support this proposal, as the need for additional school places in Keynsham is clear, and it makes sense to expand what is clearly the best single intake school in Keynsham at present.

I do have some concerns about how the build will be undertaken, and the effect on traffic in the area of a new larger intake, as a local resident who has children at the school, I already see the impact of too many parents driving to school, and without significant mitigation measures, doubling the intake will have a significant negative affect on residents. As such I propose the following measures are considered:

1. During construction, all construction access to be via the currently unused

- Kelston Road access point, to keep current pupils safe from construction vehicles.
2. The Kelston Road access is opened up on completion to spread the increased footfall across both sides of the school, and mitigate significant increases on the Monmouth Road entrance.
  3. Significant improvements to walking and cycling provision are provided, to reduce the number of additional cars accessing the school. This should include infrastructure improvements such as provision of a segregated cycle route to the school from the Queens Road shops side (including providing a safe crossing point on Queens Road) and better cycle parking facilities at school, as well as "soft measures" such as regular provision of cycle training to pupils, encouragement of a "walking bus" scheme and incentives to those who walk and cycle to school regularly.
  4. Consider implementing a School Streets scheme on Monmouth Road, to close it to through traffic during school opening and closing times, creating a safe environment for pupils to walk and cycle. This should also be considered on Kelston Road if that entrance is opened as suggested, to avoid displacement of traffic to that street.
  5. Consider an extension of the current 20mph limit on Charlton Road to south of the Monmouth Road mini roundabout.

### **Object**

#### **Parent, resident in the BS31 postcode area:**

St Keyna is a lovely small close-knit community, I have children in the school and one due to start in 2024. I am very concerned at how the expansion will affect the kids that are already there!

#### **Parent, resident in the BS31 postcode area:**

Adding an additional 30 places per year to St Keyna will have a detrimental impact on the nearby school Castle Primary, who have already had their number increased to PAN 60 and have not been running at full capacity, an average of 40 per reception year in the last 3 years with places available in every year group. Castle primary is working hard to improve their standards and reputation in the community and if St Keyna are providing more places, parents are likely to choose St Keyna. BANES spent a lot of money building the additional building at Castle, surely more building works are not needed if Castle is not reaching capacity. Money could be spent ensuring Castle are also a school of choice.

St Keyna works very well with the current organisation and layout. The outdoor spaces provide enough space for all year groups to have their defined areas. Having double the number of children will reduce the space there is to play, as well as having an additional building somewhere. The forest area provides a great space for outdoor education. Parking around the school entrance is already too busy, with children being at risk from traffic. Double the amount of children will only increase the amount of traffic, slowing down Charlton Road, a major route through Keynsham.

Additional spaces should have been made available when building Somerdale School as people living on the Somerdale estate are unable to be guaranteed a place, this causes more travel across Keynsham.

#### **Multi Academy Trust CEO/Headteacher of a Neighbouring School:**

In 2017/18 B&NES expanded Castle Primary (CP) School by 7 classes increasing net capacity by 210. The rationale for this was housing developments on the Queen Charlton side of Keynsham. Ahead of expansion, in response to a 'Basic

Need' request from B&NES the school increased its PAN from 30 to 60. A PAN of 60 has been in place across the last 6 years. The average admission number across this period is 40. Expanding CP cost the LA approximately £1.4m. Despite completion and full occupancy of the housing developments, CP has 130 unfilled places and space available in all year groups. LA pupil population forecasts have consistently exceeded the reality by a large margin e.g. based on a school place forecast for Sept 2019 the LA asked the school to take a bulge class with a PAN of 90. The request was accommodated yet only 50 pupils joined CP that year. Some older CP pupils travel in from the Bath side of Keynsham due to there being insufficient school places in their locality. However, there is no shortage of school places in the CP/St Kenya (SK) area of Keynsham and the two schools are only 0.6 miles apart.

Opening additional places at SK may lead to parents choosing to transport their children from the estates closest to CP or from across town, increasing traffic and pollution and reducing active travel.

It is difficult to evaluate the impact of expanding a popular school on schools nearby. However, expanding SK is likely to further reduce the number of Reception pupils entering CP and this will have detrimental impact on the raising of standards for the following reasons: unstable cohort size and a roll notably below net capacity will impact on class structure and reduce capacity to provide high quality education; unfilled places have high negative impact on the budget; CP has the highest number of disadvantaged learners of any primary school in B&NES; this may increase if parents who have capacity to exert an active choice, choose to do so.

We question whether B&NES has reviewed Basic Need in specific areas of Keynsham rather than across the town as a whole.

The expansion of SK will not provide value for money if it is not fulfilling a local need as set out above. The cost of the expansion at Castle Primary was meant to offer value for money and this new proposal jeopardises fulfilment of this intention.