



**THE FULHAM  
BOYS SCHOOL**

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## **THE FULHAM BOYS SCHOOL – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**Summary of findings of the public consultation undertaken by FBS in  
accordance with Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010**

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

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**Appendix A: list of consultees**

**Appendix B: copy of online questionnaire**

## 1. Summary

The Fulham Boys School's public consultation ran from 2nd December 2013 to 23rd January 2014. In total 234 people responded, showing strong overall support for a new Church of England secondary school for boys in Fulham.

A large majority of respondents - 71% - support the school's vision and 72% support FBS's intention to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

There is strong support for the school's proposed curriculum:

- FBS's plans for an education designed to make the most of boys' strengths and abilities are given an average importance of 4.3/5
- Significant importance is attached to the school's emphasis on a clear framework of expectations and behaviour delivering a secure learning environment - average rating of 4.3/5.
- FBS's proposed emphasis on 'sport for all' scored an average of 3.9/5
- FBS's aspiration to set new standards for social enterprise were rated an average of 3.9/5
- FBS's status as a Church of England School open to boys of all faiths and no faith scored 3.6/5.

There is clear support for FBS's proposed temporary siting on the Gibbs Green estate: 65.1% agree, 14.6% disagree and 20.3% don't know.

The school's proposed SEN policy has the support of 77.6% respondents, with 11.5% disagreeing and 10.9% don't know.

The school's proposed admissions policy has 64.8% in favour, 28.6% disagreeing with it and 6.6% don't know.

## 2. Background

The Fulham Boys School (FBS) is a Church of England Secondary Free School for boys, which proposes opening on temporary premises on the Gibbs Green Estate in North Fulham in September 2014 with 120 Year 7 boys.

FBS has been set up by a group of local parents and teachers, responding to other local parents' demands for an outstanding secondary school for local boys. From the outset, the school's aims, ethos and objectives have been developed in consultation with the local community.

FBS's application to set up as a free school was given approval to proceed to pre-opening in July 2012. The school initially intended opening in September 2013, but following problems in securing a suitable site the founding group took the decision in January 2013 to postpone opening until September 2014.

This prolonged period of pre-opening means that the local community has been actively engaged by FBS for nearly four years. Local parents, local councillors, some local churches and the local MP were first asked for their views on a new school in 2010; FBS first started talking to local primary heads in 2011; FBS' first open days in 2012 attracted 600 visitors over two days; the 2013 open days attracted over 650 parents, residents and prospective pupils.

## 3. The consultation

The consultation ran from 2 December 2013 to midnight on 23 January 2014.

The objective was two fold: first, to meet the Department for Education's requirements for public consultation, as required by Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010; and second, to give the FBS founding group greater insight into local stakeholders' views on key aspects of the school's proposed set-up.

Stakeholders were identified as including:

- parents living in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBH&F) and neighbouring boroughs
- residents living close to the school's proposed temporary site
- headteachers at local primary and secondary schools
- councillors in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and neighbouring boroughs
- local MPs

- local businesses and local organisations including local churches
- teaching unions

The consultation was conducted on-line – on the FBS website – and via hard copy questionnaires.

- 218 questionnaires were filled in on-line, of which 187 were completed
- 700 copies of the questionnaire were distributed of which 16 were returned.

## 4. Context

FBS's consultation coincided with LBH&F's consideration of proposals to merge two local primary schools, Sullivan and New Kings.

LBH&F's consultation named FBS as the potential occupant of the Sullivan site, if it became vacant as a result of the merger. This proposal was announced in July 2013, following which many local parents and residents linked Sullivan's future inextricably with that of FBS. This led to the first hostile press FBS had received and significant hostile social media commentary. Despite H&F publicly stating that the Sullivan/New Kings merger was not predicated on finding a site for FBS, the linkage remained embedded in the Sullivan campaign.

This linkage of FBS with Sullivan is clearly reflected in some responses to FBS's consultation. It is notable that there was a small influx of disproportionately negative comments and responses from 20 January, when H&F announced its decision to proceed with the closure of Sullivan and amalgamation of the school into New Kings primary.

This context is also relevant to possible 'consultation fatigue'. By the time FBS's consultation was launched in December 2013, local parents, residents and other interested parties had been asked for their views on 'local schools' on several occasions.

The context is perhaps best illustrated by one negative and one positive comment, both volunteered in response to Question One of the consultation:

*"Firstly, I would like to confirm that I have ticked 'no' to avoid any confusion. I am against FBS simply because of the way their campaign has been about their preference for the Sullivan School site and their underhand tactics to gain support. As a Christian myself, I find it very hard to understand why they are prepared to sacrifice the education and happiness of those children to benefit 'their' boys"*

And from a different perspective:

*"There has been a very aggressive campaign against the opening of Fulham Boys School which I feel has become very political particularly with Primary School"*

*Head teachers joining the anti new secondary school fight for all the wrong reasons and passing on their views to their pupils' parents through newsletters, asking them to sign against the opening of FBS... there has also been a Social Media hate campaign against FBS which I feel is dreadful. People who have no idea, possibly have no children or their children have grown up have been directly targeted and very possibly persuaded to sign against FBS simply because of the way the information has been given and delivered.*

*"I really hope that the decision makers don't lose sight of the dignity many residents in this borough have shown by remaining silent but still supporting the council's plans. There are many of us who support the school but haven't wanted to stoop as low as the Sullivan campaigners. There is plenty of Primary school choice in H&F but this new boys secondary school is essential for parents of boys living in the borough. I as well as other parents I know would need to seriously consider moving if this new school does not go ahead. Please do not be bullied by Sullivan campaigners."*

## **5. Methodology**

Letters with a hard copy of the questionnaire and/or emails with a link to the online questionnaire were distributed to stakeholders listed at Appendix A.

Further hard copies of the questionnaire were distributed locally around the proposed temporary site at Gibbs Green.

The consultation was further publicised by:

- press release to local media. The story was covered by the Fulham Chronicle on 28 November, with the online version including a link to the consultation
- The FBS Facebook site publicised the consultation on 2 December with a reminder on 12 January
- An email was sent to all contacts on FBS's marketing distribution email list on 2 December and a reminder sent on 16 January.

As part of the consultation, meetings were requested by, and held with, Wandsworth Council, the Church of England Area Dean for Hammersmith and Fulham and representatives from the West Kensington Residents Steering Group.

The questionnaire is attached at Appendix B. It was designed to provide sufficient summary information about FBS's proposals to allow respondents to form their views before asking for specific responses on ethos, curriculum, temporary site and SEN and admissions policies. Having given their responses to these questions, respondents were asked for their views on FBS entering into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

## 6. Respondents

Not all respondents chose to identify themselves.

Of the 176 who did, the largest group identified as local residents: 116 (66%). Not all of these gave postcodes or full post codes, so it would be misleading to interrogate this data too far, but the majority of those given were SW6 (the 'Fulham' area) or W14, the adjacent postal area which includes the proposed temporary site on Gibbs Green in North Fulham.

86 of the residents (74%) also identified themselves as parents.

101 respondents (57%) identified themselves as parents/carers of a child eligible to attend the school from September 2014 onwards, of whom:

- 35% said they had already applied
- 58% said they were very interested
- 7% said they were not at all interested.

38 respondents (22%) identified as parents of a child at secondary school or older.

Other groups of respondents identified themselves as follows:

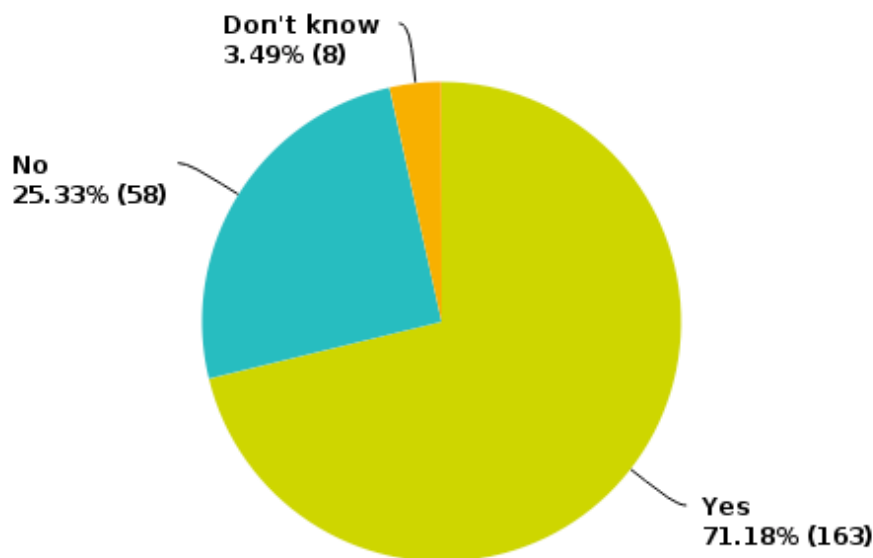
- 16 local businesses/organisations
- 19 local employees
- 7 local school governors
- 13 local school staff
- 9 representatives from a faith body or group

## 7. Findings

### 7.1 Vision and Ethos:

There is strong support for the School's vision and proposed ethos. Of the 229 who answered this question:

- **71.18% agree**
- **25.33% disagree**
- **3.49% don't know**



This question attracted 53 comments, 36 of which were positive or neutral and 17 negative.

#### a) Positive comments volunteered related to:

i) **Need/demand** for a school delivering FBS's vision, for example:

*"As a Vicar of Fulham, I fully support the principle of a new school for boys of secondary school age, providing a Christian based education for Fulham residents"*

*"The school looks really aspirational, academic and rigorous. Chelsea Academy did a lot for young people from Chelsea. Hopefully, this school can do the same for Fulham"*

*"I wholeheartedly support the schools vision, its core values and its plans to work with the wider community. A proposed boys secondary Church of England School will offer fantastic opportunities for both local boys and those from the surrounding areas, it is long awaited."*

*"There is such a shortage of places for boys in Central and West London, despite their being many good choices for girls. We wholeheartedly support the establishment of a boys Church of England Free School"*

*"The school seems to be exactly what is lacking in the area for parents like me who want a good school with Christian values for our boys"*

*"I think the area is in serious need of a boys school, something that would compare to Lady Margaret's would be ideal"*

*"There is a lack of choice of secondary school provision in Fulham for boys and this vision will go some way to redressing that"*



*"This school is long overdue, and can't come soon enough"*

ii) **Specific aspects** of the FBS vision, eg:

*"The vision and its implementation is very crucial to develop responsible citizens and society"*

*"I particularly like the inclusion of the emphasis on enterprise within the school vision"*

*"I think it is very important for boys to play lots of sport at secondary school level as this positive use of their energy will help them focus in class"*

iii) **Recommendations:**

*"Excellence in sport and enterprise are to be welcomed, but I hope there is also room in the vision for academic excellence"*

*"I would like to add MUSIC, it's integral to school life"*

**FBS response:** FBS aspires to academic excellence. We have set challenging targets for the school – well above local authority norms – and we want FBS boys to set their sights on Russell Group universities. Music will permeate school life. It will be part of the curriculum at Key Stage 3 and will be encouraged through a variety of co-curricular activities and clubs.

**b) 17 negative comments were received, which can be categorized as follows:**

i) **anti-free school:**

*"Free schools are a system set up to destroy state education and to be run for profit. Often they are religious schools as this proposal is. This allows for selection to take place rather than a school for all boys in the area."*

ii) **anti-church school, eg:**

*"Its unfair to exclude community by having only 50 pc community places"*

*"There is no need for another C of E school in such a multi-ethnic area. What proportion of children from other faiths will be allowed?"*

*"Religious separation in education is regressive in a multi-cultural society I dislike increasing state funding of religious schools. Keep church and state separate."*

iii) **'Sullivan' related, eg:**

*"I do not believe that a school which would have no qualms about evicting a truly community school from its premises just so that it can have the premises for itself can really claim to have core values of "respect, generosity and inclusion"*

*"Not at the cost of a local primary school"*

*"Leave Sullivan school alone, and find a space somewhere else, Sullivan deserves to stay in this community well in the future"*

iv) **Local impact:**

*"As a resident the amount of traffic and teenage boys around at the same time is a huge worry for me!"*

iv) **Other:**

*"...in my view "bringing out the best" is likely to be inconsistent with the core values: it implies a rejection of "the rest", and might be confused with elitism and a certain exclusivity, even though you go on to say "in all boys".."*

**FBS response:** FBS's admissions policy and the question of 50% faith places are covered in 7.3 below. Concerns relating to local impact are covered at 7.4. In answer to iv) FBS's vision is to 'Bring out the best in all boys', and our mission is that: "Through the application of our Christian values, mutual respect, supportive pastoral care and inspirational teaching, we will help every boy to find his unique talent and realise it, for the benefit of all." We are concerned that this could in any way imply elitism and exclusivity; this hasn't been raised by anyone else to date but we will check to see if it is open to misperception.

## **7.2 Curriculum**

193 answered this question.

Respondents were invited to show the importance attached to specific parts of the school's proposed vision and curriculum by rating their importance out of 5, where 1 is least important and 5 most important:

The average scores given were:

A Church of England school which welcomes boys of all faiths and no faith: **3.64**

A curriculum and education designed to make the most of boys' strengths and abilities: **4.26**

A school where strong discipline, self-discipline and a clear framework for behaviour and expectations will deliver a secure learning environment: **4.25**

An ethos of sport for all, with competitive rugby, football, cricket and rowing building pride in the new school and strong ties with other schools and local sporting organisations: **3.89**

A school that aspires to set new standards for community engagement through its enterprise agenda, volunteering and social enterprise initiatives: **3.89**

#### 44 comments were volunteered, which can be categorized as follows:

##### i) **General comments**, for example:

*"All of the above are extremely important and the prospect is very exciting. I think this curriculum is very sound and much needed in the Borough"*

*"Impossible to order. These are all important and superb ones to associate with this new school"*

*"I have struggled to separate the importance of each issue from the extent to which I agree or disagree with the proposition"*

*"A school where boys from a Christian background learn and engage alongside boys from other faith backgrounds, and none, is extremely important. We are quite a typical London family with mixed ethnic-religious background (Iranian and Scottish) and always lamented the fact that we didn't fit the requirements at the good church schools in Central-West London. We are very pleased that this school has a Church of England philosophy but also will welcome those from outside the faith. The strong sports ethos is extremely important for us."*

*"I went to the FBS open day in November and was blown away (as were many others) by Alun Ebenezer's speech for the new school. All the above points were made and clearly explained. They are inspirational and will form the identity of FBS"*

*"Strong discipline, behaviour and community engagement are absolutely essential for a healthy and productive and harmonious community/society"*

*"I do not believe that this school has the community at its heart. It is a school being set up by parents who do not want to or cannot afford to pay for a private education. The founding parent group are all white and appear to be affluent. This is not representative of the local area."*

*"I would be very concerned if the language of this section was used as code for commercial exploitation, closet selection or discrimination against children with disabilities or from disadvantaged background."*

**FBS response:** FBS has been set up through the entirely voluntary efforts of local parents and teachers, with the founding group drawing on the widespread support offered from across the community. Our vision relies on a comprehensive intake of pupils learning with and from each other, and our SEN policy and fair banding tests, which form part of our admissions policy, are designed to help deliver this.

**ii) Faith:**

*"I don't like that this is going to be yet another faith based school. Why can this not be a regular state school? There are enough faith based schools in the area. Parents who are NOT religious have trouble finding a school, not parents who are religious"*

**FBS response:** see 7.3 below

**iii) Languages:**

*"I really hope that, languages and not just a language will be an option or even part of the curriculum... learning at least 2 languages to a very high level should be compulsory. I would therefore like to see a variety of languages on offer."*

**FBS response:** FBS will be teaching modern foreign languages from Key Stage 3. In Year 7 this will start with an introduction to a variety of languages and their connections and at Year 8 boys will have the option to take on a second language. All boys will be expected to study one language at GCSE with a second as an option. Further languages may be offered through clubs.

**iv) Sport**

*"Allowances need to be made for those boys who may enjoy sporting activities but struggle with rugby or football for example. There need to be alternatives offered - the truth is not all boys love rugby and football."*

*"Where are these sports to be held and transport arrangements made without impacting too much on existing heavy traffic?"*

*"Would support even more time allotted to Sport - including extending the length of day. Would also support lengthening the day to accommodate sport and extra curricular activities whilst shortening term dates slightly to give ample rest in holidays"*

*"10% of curriculum for sport is far too high. Sport can be done in clubs after school hours. What about other forward thinking opportunities, like computer*

*programming or learning Mandarin? The free school needs to be distinctive and not ape local well known public schools”*

**FBS response:** FBS is proposing rowing alongside football, rugby and cricket as core sports, with boys encouraged to try out other sports within the school’s extended day. The school’s vision is that all boys will find a passion for some form of physical exercise, competitive or otherwise, and likewise that the breadth of co-curricular clubs on offer will unleash a range of other talents. The full sports programme is being finalised for the first Year 7s and will seek to minimise impact on local traffic whenever boys have to move off-site. FBS has just appointed an Assistant Head, one of whose priorities is to establish the co-curricular programme for the first Year 7s.

**v) Sullivan prompted**

*“Please start educating your boys on "community engagement" by not ripping away the very much loved and valued Sullivan primary school from its local community as it actually provides an excellent education for boys AND girls from ALL faiths.”*

*“All schools can aspire to such ideals. Again this is just a way to select. It is insulting to suggest that only such a school can do these things as though other schools do not. Hurlingham and Chelsea school are doing an excellent job of educating all pupils and are truly inclusive”*

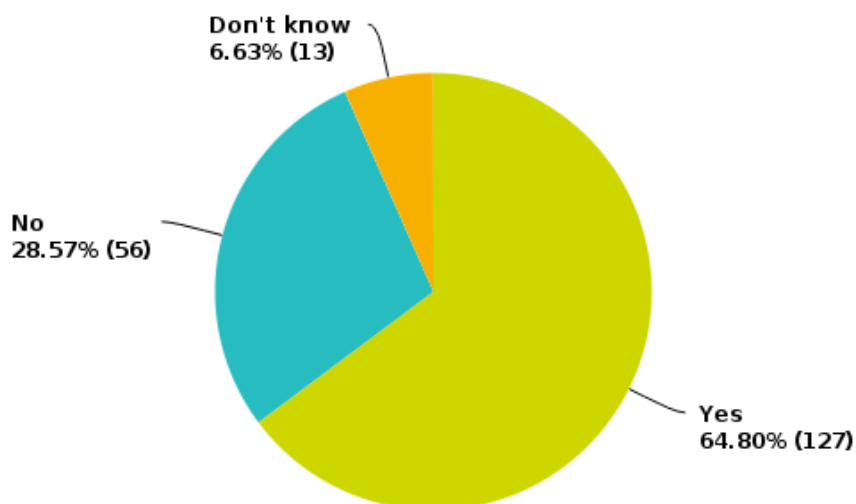
*“Not on the Sullivan Primary School Site. Though shalt not covet!!!!!!”*

**FBS response:** see response under i) above.

## **7.3 Admissions policy**

196 answered this question:

- **64.8% agree**
- **28.57% disagree**
- **6.63% don’t know**



35 comments were volunteered, which can be categorised as follows:

**i) 'Catchment'**

*"I am just outside the catchment area but very easy access and wouldn't like to miss the opportunity on the basis."*

*"no the main intake should be local children"*

*"For me the most important thing is that the Fulham Boys school should give priority to local children. I therefore consider that the School should publish and keep under review its actual admissions outcomes to ensure that its admissions policy is meeting this objective."*

**FBS response:** There is no catchment area, but if the school is oversubscribed local applicants – those within a 1.5 mile radius of Fulham Library - will have priority both for faith places and for open places. FBS is being set up to provide a local school for local children and this 1.5 mile priority zone appears the most equitable way of achieving this. We will keep this under review to ensure that the admissions policy is delivering this objective.

**ii) Faith places, eg:**

*"I feel there should be more spaces available to children from Christian families, as at present there are no Christian Faith schools in the borough for boys"*

*"It should be 100% admission for all faiths"*

*"I would prefer all places to go to children whose families worship"*

*"Having 50% pupils of no/other faiths can undermine Christian ethos"*

*"100 pc places should be open to everyone"*

*"I would like boys who have attended a C of E church school to have some kind of priority. Become a feeder school to this school?"*

*"Strongly disagree with church places. This selection method in Putney has resulted in primary schools being socially and ethnically cleansed and has encouraged countless families to worship falsely and cynically at local churches"*

*"I think it should be 60/40 Faith/Open"*

*"I understand the reason but as I am from a different faith my son couldn't help it, I wish all boys would have equal chance as long as they agree with the ethos of the School, my son may lose the chance because of my faith"*

**FBS response:** A Christian ethos is core to the school and all boys and their parents/carers will be expected to respect this. FBS had the option to offer all places as open places, but considered it important to the founders' vision of a Church of England school open to all faiths that a percentage of places should go to Christian families in the event that the school is oversubscribed. We decided on a 50:50 balance and will be using this for our first year's intake, but will reflect on the best balance in light of the comments received and the spread of applications, once we have had a chance to analyse the data. Note that FBS has drawn the definition of 'Christian' wider than many CofE schools.

### **iii) Single sex**

*"Don't like single sex schools"*

**FBS response:** There is strong demand in Fulham from those that do. For 2013 secondary transfer there were 601 applications for boys only schools (with 73 offers made) and 585 for girls only schools (with 194 offers made).

### **iv) Founders' children derogation & priority for children of staff**

*"I strongly disagree with the proposed priority for Founders' children. They should be subject to the same rules as other applicants. I am also doubtful about the proposed priority given to children of teachers or staff."*

**FBS response:** The derogation for founders' children will have very little impact on admissions numbers in practice (less than 1%). The derogation was sought simply to ensure the continued contribution of as many Founders as possible, for as long as possible, to ensure the school stays true to its founding ethos. The priority for children of staff will be kept under review.

v) **‘Sullivan’ prompted**

*“Fulham does not need another ‘faith’ school, nor does it need another ‘boys only’ school. There are already two boys’ schools in Fulham, one of which is a Christian school. There is only one mixed secondary school in Fulham which is hardly giving local people much choice if they do not want to send their son or daughter to a Christian school (or perhaps, do not have the credentials to do so). I would suggest that if the borough needs another secondary school to meet population needs, that school should be sited in the north of the borough so that people living in that part of the borough have more choice if they want a ‘faith’ school. Furthermore, as I understand the success of this consultation may lead to the closure of a successful primary school in a leafy section of south Fulham as FBS would like to acquire its premises I am against this proceeding. It should be mandatory that if the school goes ahead it takes predominantly LOCAL children.*

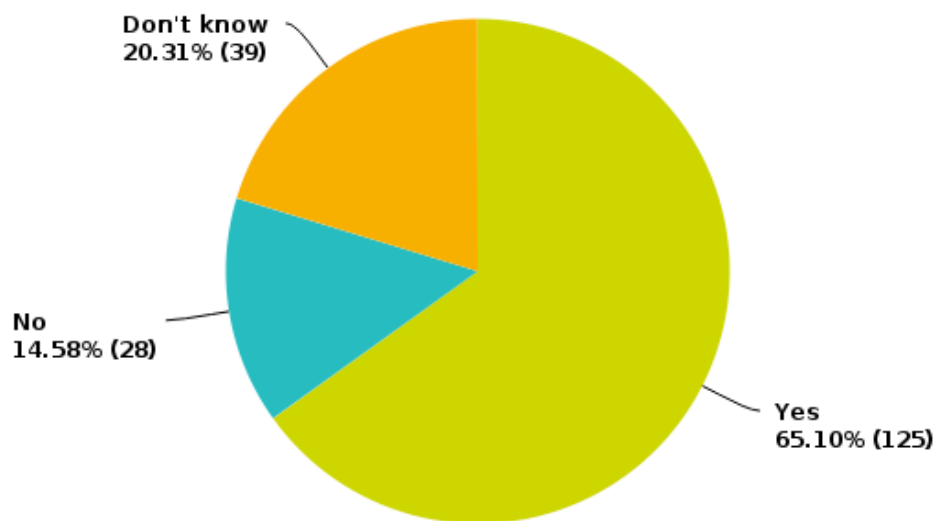
**FBS response:** There is one boys’ secondary, Fulham College Boys School, which offers an ethos and curriculum for those not wanting a ‘faith’ school. For those wanting a school with a Christian ethos, the only possibility is The London Oratory. This is a Catholic boys school admitting Catholic boys only from across London, and beyond, so offering very few places to local boys each year and none to non-Catholic local boys. Note that FBS will prioritise local boys if it is oversubscribed, in both its faith and open applications. And note that this FBS consultation has absolutely no bearing on the closure of Sullivan primary school.

## **7.4 Temporary site**

192 answered this question:

- **65.1% agree**
- **14.58% disagree**
- **20.31% don’t know**





**33 comments were volunteered, which can be categorised as follows:**

i) **Positive or neutral:** eg

*“Admittedly, we don't really have much choice if we want the school to open in Sept 2014. Not the best area but at the same time I want my child to have a broad vision, understanding, knowledge of what makes our world and since we want our children to be involved in the community, I think it is a very good start for them.”*

*“As a parent I would have reservations about applying without knowing the longer term locational plans. You provide no information about how 'Sports' element of curriculum will be fulfilled at Gibbs Green - could this be spelt out more clearly”*

*“The proposed temporary site is a well located and will ensure FBS gets off to a good start.”*

*“It should become permanent site for the school.”*

*“It is far from ideal - however, Chelsea Academy had its first two years in temporary accommodation, and has thrived nonetheless.”*

*“The siting in Gibbs Green, if the school succeeds, is a step in the right direction as it will bring a 'faith' school nearer to the children in the north of the borough, assuming of course that its catchment area would allow that?!! I'm not sure about the extra-curricular classes after school, in the darkness of the winter months, for the Year 7 children is a good idea ...”*

**FBS response:** As part of this consultation process, FBS has met with several stakeholders local to the proposed Gibbs Green site to discuss how the school and its first 120 boys can best slot into the area to the benefit of all concerned. These discussions are continuing and will cover the points raised, including minimising impact and maximising safety at the beginning and end of the school day, transport to sports etc. Parents and residents will be kept informed of the school's plans.

**ii) Relating to Sullivan as a possible permanent site**

*"I entirely support the move to the Sullivan Primary site. A thriving free school with the ethos and values outlined in previous questions is necessary and very welcome in the heart of Fulham. The merger of the Sullivan school with New King's is entirely reasonable and appropriate."*

*"The temporary location would be better as the permanent location. Sullivan school's tiny green site would be desecrated"*

*"It is a travesty that you propose to put your school into a building already occupied by Sullivan school and close that school down. How can any group who can support such a move be really interested in all children receiving an education. Is this the enterprise you will teach - trample on others and think about yourself to get what you want"*

*"Temporary location is fine. However, taking over Sullivan School's premises most definitely is NOT"*

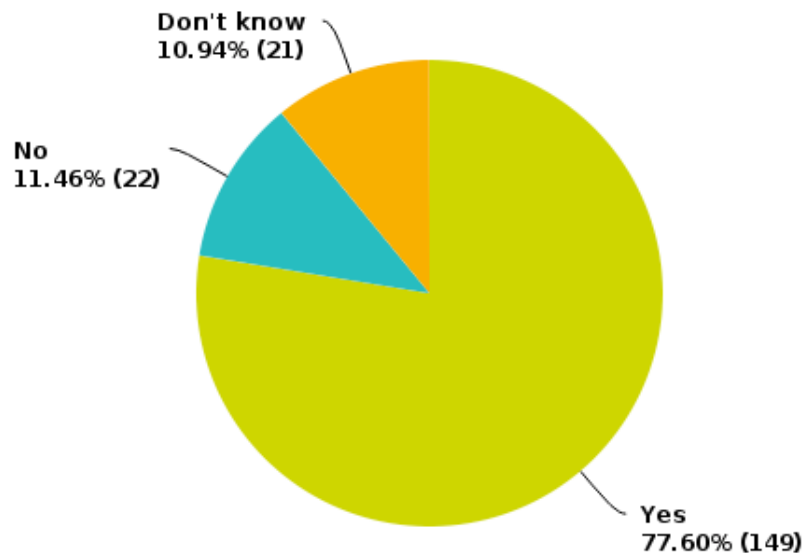
*"I do not agree with the proposed location. This is currently occupied by a successful school. This is an immoral landgrab which goes directly against the ethos of the FBS proposal."*

**FBS response:** FBS will not be displacing any school by moving into the proposed temporary premises on Gibbs Green, as the school currently sited there is moving to purpose built new premises. The FBS priority catchment area in the event of oversubscription will remain centred on Fulham library. Regarding the permanent site, FBS will consult again on this subject when permanent premises are confirmed by the EFA. FBS played no part in the formation of the council's proposals for merging Sullivan and New Kings primary schools.

## 7.5 SEN policy

192 answered this question:

- **77.6% agree**
- **11.46% disagree**
- **10.94% don't know**



**12 comments were volunteered, all general, and mostly reflecting respondents' pro or anti FBS sentiment from earlier questions eg:**

*"Absolutely!"*

*"I am unconvinced"*

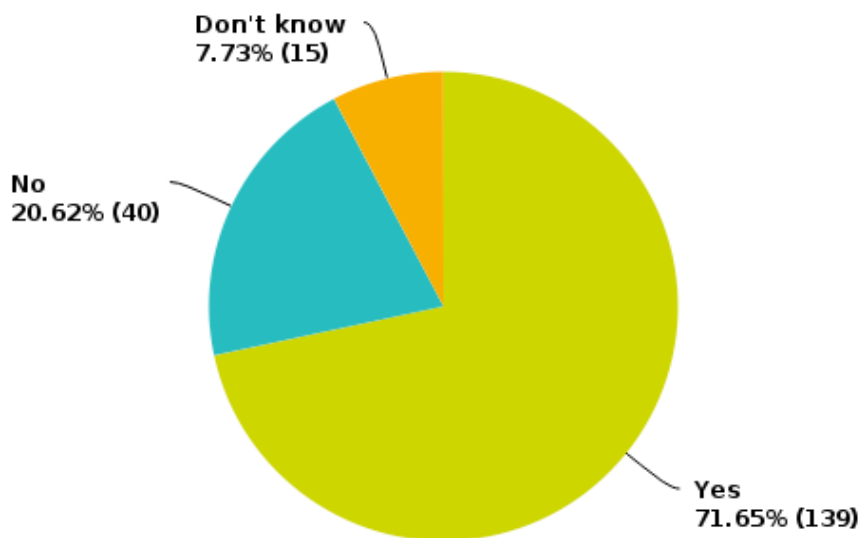
*"The SEN policy is very important and seems to have been carefully thought out"*

*"Again fine words, but hard to take seriously"*

## 7.6 Funding agreement

194 answered this question:

- **71.65% agree**
- **20.62% disagree**
- **7.73% don't knows**



14 comments were volunteered, mostly reflecting earlier remarks:

**i) against free schools/faith schools or FBS;**

*"It is just privatisation of education"*

*"No state funding for Faith Schools"*

*"As long as all children will be welcomed yes. If funding received and only Church of England boys accepted, no!"*

*"I have explained in my other comments why I do not support another all boys' school in Fulham, nor another 'faith' school in Fulham when there is already one specifically for Christian boys. I do not support the closure of Sullivan to enable FBS to open in their premises in 2 years' time. It is a predatory action to usurp the estate of another school to serve your own purposes but the founders of this school must look to their consciences on that. I would like for all children to be able to go to their local primary school followed by being able to attend their local secondary school, retaining their friends and being part of their local community. But - that is virtually impossible in our metropolis and I doubt whether FBS's intake will comprise a majority of local children."*

*"I am not in favour of FBS at the expense of loosing an excellent good with out standing primary school."*

*"Free schools are anything but 'Free' and I disagree in principle"*

**ii) In favour:**

*"Please can you do so as soon as possible to satisfy the proven and pressing need for such a school in Fulham"*

## **7.7 Other comments**

The questionnaire invited any other comments at the end. 50 were received. The large majority of these were positive and supportive, reflecting comments or sentiments expressed earlier in the questionnaire. 16 were mixed or negative, again reflecting sentiments and comments already expressed.

### **i) Sample positive comments:**

*"I think there are very compelling arguments for this boys' only secondary school within the Borough. It seems to me there is a very real need for this type of school."*

*"The very best of luck with this venture - please don't let the appalling opposition to this scheme put you off."*

*"Fulham is in desperate need of an excellent boys secondary school that is open to all boys, not just a select few. Fulham already boasts one of the best state girls' secondary schools in the country, it's about time boys have the same"*

*"This school seems like a good thing for the community. Starting boys on the right path in an enthusiastic learning environment will lead to a better future for them and their peers."*

*"I think this is the one thing the Fulham is missing, many of the boys have to travel outside of their locality for school. I am also pleased to see the central role that sport plays in the curriculum as in my 15 years of teaching boys this is undeniably a key factor in school discipline and self pride."*

*"We've been supporting and believing in the opening of your school from the very beginning of your plans. We hope that it's really happening now and that our son will be on the list of your first pupils. It will be a success because you are working so hard to achieve it! Thanks for letting us be part of it!"*

*"I really support the ethos of the school as I think it is important for boys to have access to a single sex school education at secondary level. I am very committed to sending both my boys to the school and as I have put this school as my first choice. I am very much reliant on the school being successful in it's application."*

### **ii) Sample mixed or negative comments:**

*"I am in support of a Fulham boys school having had two sons who have now passed through school in the private sector - I would have sent them to a local boys state school had there been one . I think it is a shame that the proposed permanent school site is at the expense of a happy primary school in the borough"*

*“No problem with the free school, but a fantastic community primary school should not have to close to make way for this school. Those children have already had 6 months of disruption. Please find an alternative site.”*

*“What you are doing is immoral. Sullivan Primary School is a great school, the teachers are wonderful. Probably the only school in Fulham with green features. I do not want 800 boys around the corner from my residence. Your attitude and approach is at least Christian as it is possible to be.”*

*“I am extremely saddened and disappointed that you have chosen to view the Sullivan School location as a viable option for your school. It totally contradicts the moral and ethical issues that you have discussed in your proposal. You say it is a Church of England school but there is nothing Christian about your plans to take over a successful and effective school. I think you should be ashamed of yourselves.”*

*“This is a totally wrong idea...we have plenty of schools and already plenty of traffic to deal with!”*

*“I am concerned at the effect on the project's reputation by the binary Sullivan/FBS choice being pursued by the Borough. It will really not help the school if it secures its permanent site in an atmosphere of bitterness and animosity stirred up by the proposal to move Sullivan from its present site. I would rather the Borough thought more imaginatively about where a new school could be situated.”*

