

Ashley School consultation feedback summary

Do you agree or disagree to the proposal to increase the ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) provision at Ashley School in Widnes from 112 to 152 places?

Agree	8
Disagree	4
Total	12

Respondents	Number of responses
parent / carer of a pupil at Ashley School	7
parent / carer of a pupil with an ASD diagnosis and Staff member	2
parent / carer of a pupil with an ASD diagnosis	0
School Governor	0
Staff Member	0
Health Sector	0
Trade Union	0
Other (Hopeful future parent of a child at Ashley school)	1
Other (Parent of a child on ASD pathway)	1
Other (Councillor)	1
	12

With regard to the four who disagreed to the proposal, one disagreed with no reason given, the remaining three responders who disagreed provided reasons for disagreeing and their reasons, together with the Council's response, is detailed below:

Reasons for disagreement with proposal	Council Response to comments made
The reason the school works so well is because it's so small	Both the school and the LA's intention is to ensure that class sizes remain appropriate and in line with recommendations. The School are fully supportive of the proposal.
The School is fantastic and caters for all the children's needs. I think additional children and staff might make things harder to achieve the children's needs. The reason it works so well is because it's a small school.	As above.
My child is in their final year of school at Ashley, what has worked well for him and many other children who have gone there are the small class sizes, these small sizes allow the children to have their needs met and them to learn in a less chaotic environment. I appreciate that there is an absolute need for these spaces but over crowding schools is not the answers. There are now 3 specialist schools in Widnes that are for high school students, would the 64 places that	As above, both the school and the LA's intention is for class sizes to remain appropriate and in line with recommendations. With regard to reference to the RAISE Academy, this school offers different SEND provision, so would not currently be suitable for ASD pupils. In terms of early years the Council has already undertaken significant financial investment in an expansion of Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 Resource Base provision, and

<p>the raise Academy provide these additional spaces instead of adding extra pressure on to a school that has run extremely well for many years. Maybe if the council invested more in the early years our children may flourish sooner and potentially more could enter mainstream settings as they have been given the tools to succeed. As I parents who has 3 children with additional needs and 2 of which attend specialist schools, I appreciate and understand the need for these places which there is for children in our borough, maybe if the local authorities didn't allocate places for so many children out of area it would less the need. The only way this could possibly work is if the school was given a new larger site and more staff, but the potential impact that could have on the children who already attend the school could be very distressing.</p>	<p>should further capital funding become available from the Department for Education, it would be happy to explore this further. A key driver behind the proposal to expand Ashley School is to retain Halton resident pupils in local provision.</p>
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Where responders agreed with the proposal, two provided no comments and simply agreed, the remaining six responders who agreed to the proposals provided the following comments:

<p>Reasons for agreement to proposals</p>
<p>The major issue with Ashley is that currently does not offer its pupils the opportunity to reach their full potential as they do not allow pupils to carry out GCSE'S. This would need to be rectified, so that SEND Children who attend when they are able to do so can be given the opportunity. Parents are having to choose between their children getting an education or having their SEND needs met.</p>
<p>I understand that all children might not be capable of doing GCSES and in these circumstances they should be given opportunities to get alternative qualifications and/or prepare for adulthood. However there are currently children in Ashley who are academically capable of doing GCSSE but they are being denied their right to an equal education.</p>
<p>Therefore, moving forward if more places are going to be allocated at Ashley, then there has to be GCSE classes available for those who can and need these to be able to get jobs or go into further education.</p>
<p>I would like to raise these concerns for the council to look into its provision of places for children with SEND who need to be placed in SEND high schools but being able to do GCSE'S Etc.</p>
<p>Council comment: Whilst this responder agreed with the proposal to expand Ashley School, the comment regarding GCSE provision is noted. It is for the school to determine the curriculum it delivers, but this response comment will be shared with the school.</p>
<p>This school is amazing in both supporting and learning. It is very difficult for parents/carers with children who have Autism to find a school</p>

that is capable of giving children the safe space they need to learn. Increasing spaces available for children to be able to find a suitable setting will make a huge impact on SEND children who need the extra support both physically and mentally.

Ashley school can do this and has proven it.

Our community needs more schools like Ashley to come forward and put the effort in to make our children the best they can be.

Not enough provisions in Halton for children needing specialist schooling.

There are not enough places across Halton for the amount of children/young people with ASD and they are left without any adequate support. These additional numbers/classrooms are urgently needed so that more children/young people can thrive and not just survive.

I agree the proposed most desirable expansion

The area desperately needs these extra places! There are so many children that are in an educational setting that they really shouldn't be in, or are being homeschooled and some not attending any school as there is just nowhere for them to go where they can learn and grown in their own unique way!