

APPENDIX 1

OUTCOME OF THE INITIAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

1 The initial consultation resulted in the following comments:

Respondent	Response	Comments on response
Parent governor, vice-chair of governors and four staff, with Head and Deputy Head at drop in meeting on 29 March 2012.	Parent governor in favour of expansion; happy with move to the centre of the borough.	
	Would Cherry Garden be unified with Gloucester into one school and lose its name?	No, this proposal is for the enlargement of Cherry Garden, not its unification with Gloucester.
	Some concerns about losing access to local community of shops and local library.	Although the school will lose access to its current local community, in its new location it will be near to the upgraded Burgess Park and close to shops in Peckham and the Peckham Library.
	Whether the new entrance to the school will allow Cherry Garden to establish its presence.	It is anticipated that the entrance will allow the school to establish its presence.
	Whether external spaces will be designed to ensure that Cherry Garden pupils can have access to their own spaces, where necessary, as well as sharing with Gloucester pupils.	The design of the external spaces will ensure that the Cherry Garden children would always have access to their own separate external space for individual support, as well as to the shared space.
	Will there be car parking and bike space?	These issues will be included in the detailed design but shared car parking and bike space will be provided.
	Governors and school management very keen that building proposals are now developed as soon as possible to ensure completion by September 2014.	The development of the building proposals is in tandem with these statutory changes, with the current intention to complete in the 2014/15 school year. There will be consultation with both schools on building proposals from this summer.
	Is increase to 66 adequate?	The health data on younger children 0-5 who are born with needs that might require a school with the facilities that Cherry Garden can provide has been analysed. On the data available, all the children of statutory primary age will be able to be accommodated in the increased size school, as well as a small number of younger children with the most severe and complex needs.
	Is there sufficient money to complete the scheme and is the money for Cherry Garden separately	A budget has been established for this project that is considered to be sufficient for the necessary works to establish Cherry Garden alongside appropriate investment in Gloucester school. At the outset of the detailed design

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	safeguarded?	process a budget will be ring-fenced to each school.
Written responses		
Two parents in favour of the proposal		
One parent against the enlargement.	Because it might make the school too large and therefore too difficult to look after the children.	The building design will ensure that more school accommodation that is suitable for the larger number of pupils will be provided.
One member of staff against the proposal.	Unless there are more classrooms, because having more children in the same number of classrooms even with more staff would be hard.	The new school building will have more classrooms, which will address this concern.
One councillor in favour.	Proposals seem sensible and hopefully beneficial for all parties.	
One councillor	Expressed an interest to know why people residing close to the proposed site for the school will not be consulted.	This initial consultation process is solely concerned with the expansion of Cherry Garden special school, a prescribed alteration for the purposes of school reorganisation. The DfE has published details of all those who have to be formally consulted in such cases. As part of this consultation process the consultation letter was sent to local ward councillors (along with all councillors) and to local libraries. Parents at both schools affected were also consulted; Gloucester school parents were sent a letter from the Headteacher explaining the proposal. The co-location of Cherry Garden on the Gloucester site is not classified as a prescribed alteration, and statutory consultation is not required on this specific proposal. The neighbours will be provided with the opportunity to express their views because the building project will require planning permission and during the planning process those residing close to the Gloucester school site will be consulted on the detailed proposals and how they would be materially affected.
Local managers for paediatric occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy.	Supportive of the rebuild of the school and its co-location which will bring about opportunities for integration across the two schools. Welcome further involvement around the implications for the three therapy services of enlargement.	
The local MP, Simon Hughes.	Expressing his strong support for the school and paying tribute to its Headteacher, staff and governors. He confirms that although the local community will be sad to see this school move out of Bermondsey after such a long time, the proposal to co-locate it with Gloucester	

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	primary school seems a good one and provides the space needed for the expansion to a school of 66 pupils.	
Gloucester primary school	The school responded that because developing the proposals for the co-location of Cherry Garden with Gloucester will require a significant amount of preparation and engagement for both schools and Gloucester school needing to devote their management resources to ensuring the best educational outcomes for their children while they undergo inspection that the commencement of the design work should be deferred until the Autumn term.	As a result of this response to the consultation the programme for planning and developing, building and refurbishing the accommodation for the two schools has been revised, which means that the new Cherry Garden building will not be completed until sometime in the 2014/15 school year. It is therefore planned that Cherry Garden school will move into its new accommodation in Spring 2015. However, as the school will need time to establish themselves in their new accommodation it is considered in the best interest of a successful outcome that the formal expansion of Cherry Garden will therefore take place in September 2015.

- 2 The majority support from stakeholders and interested parties for the proposal was positive. The change to the formal expansion date from September 2014 to September 2015 was discussed with Cherry Garden who understood that it responded to reasonable concerns about the need to ensure that the complicated development process achieves the best outcomes for both schools. All consultees were informed of the change to the proposed date for the expansion of Cherry Garden from September 2014 to September 2015.
- 3 Two comments have been received as a result of being informed of this revised date. The Councillor commented that he was very pleased with this outcome which makes a lot of sense and which reflects the concerns he had previously expressed. The local therapy managers who had responded previously also commented that they were happy that the additional time will allow them more time to prepare for the transition to the new site.