Consultation Summary – Proposal to Expand the Resource Base at Manorside Academy

Overview

Manorside Academy undertook a consultation on a proposal to expand its Primary Resource Base (PRB) provision by an additional 10 places. The consultation sought views from parents, staff, governors and other stakeholders on the proposed expansion.

A total of **27 responses** were received during the consultation period. Analysis of the responses shows **strong overall support** for the proposal, with stakeholders recognising both the growing need for specialist SEND provision and the positive impact of the existing resource base.

Consultation Results

Response	Number	Percentage
Support	25	92.6%
Oppose	2	7.4%
Total Responses	27	100%

The consultation demonstrated a significant level of support, with over nine out of ten respondents supporting the proposal.

Respondent Groups

Responses were received from a range of stakeholders, including:

- Parents of pupils currently attending Manorside Academy
- Teaching and support staff at Manorside Academy
- A school governor
- Staff from another local school

- Other community stakeholders

Key Themes from Supportive Responses

Increasing Access to SEND Provision

The most common theme was the need for additional specialist places within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Respondents highlighted the shortage of SEND provision locally and welcomed the opportunity to support more children whose needs cannot be fully met within a mainstream classroom alone.

Success of the Existing Resource Base

Many respondents referred to the positive impact of the current PRB, noting that pupils already accessing the provision benefit from specialist support while remaining part of a mainstream school community. Staff highlighted the quality of teaching, specialist resources and the inclusive ethos that currently exists.

Inclusion and Mainstream Opportunities

Respondents frequently commented that the expansion would enable more children with SEND to access a mainstream school environment while receiving the targeted support they require. Stakeholders felt this would promote inclusion, independence, resilience and positive social development.

Meeting Growing Need

Several responses noted the increasing number of pupils with SEND both within the school and across the local authority. The expansion was viewed as a proactive response to this growing demand and as an opportunity to provide appropriate educational provision for more children.

Concerns and Issues Raised

Although support was overwhelmingly positive, a small number of concerns were identified.

Impact on the Wider School Community

One respondent expressed concern that existing issues relating to pupil behaviour and bullying should be addressed before increasing SEND provision. They felt that some pupils do not currently feel completely safe and that additional support for the wider school community should remain a priority.

Site Safety and Security

One supportive respondent raised a practical concern regarding pupils moving between the main school building and the proposed bungalow accommodation. Specifically, they highlighted the importance of ensuring secure arrangements for children who may become dysregulated and attempt to leave supervised areas.

General Opposition

One respondent indicated opposition to the proposal but did not provide any accompanying comments or rationale.

Conclusion

The consultation demonstrates overwhelming support for the proposed expansion of Manorside Academy's Resource Base, with 92.6% of respondents supporting the proposal. Stakeholders overwhelmingly recognised the need for additional SEND provision, the success of the existing resource base and the benefits of enabling more pupils to access specialist support within an inclusive mainstream setting.

While a small number of concerns were raised regarding pupil safety, behaviour and site security, these issues were limited in number and can be addressed through detailed implementation planning. Overall, the consultation responses indicate strong confidence in the school's ability to deliver an expanded resource base and meet the needs of a greater number of pupils with SEND.