

# SAND

ACADEMIES TRUST

**Supporting Achievement** Nurturing Development



Section 10 Consultation Report

14<sup>th</sup> November 2022- 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022

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## Executive Summary

Sladewood Academy is a special school providing education for 60 pupils aged 4-11 years with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties. The school is in the pre-opening phase, with an intended opening date of September 2023. The school will open with an intake of 32 pupils, growing over 3 years to a full capacity of 60 pupils. The school will open in a pre-existing school site in Stroud. The school will form part of the SAND Academies Trust, a Multi Academy Trust that currently operates five schools in the Gloucestershire area.

The school is intended to meet need across this part of the county, although there is no defined catchment area on a map and no number of places set aside for children who live in a given part of the county. Placement decisions are made by the County's EHCP team and they will always seek to place children in the nearest suitable special school to home.

This report will detail stakeholder engagement alongside the formal Section 10 Consultation.

## About SAND Academies Trust

SAND Academies Trust (SAND AT) was formed in June 2019, to enable and develop partnerships working across a group of likeminded academies.

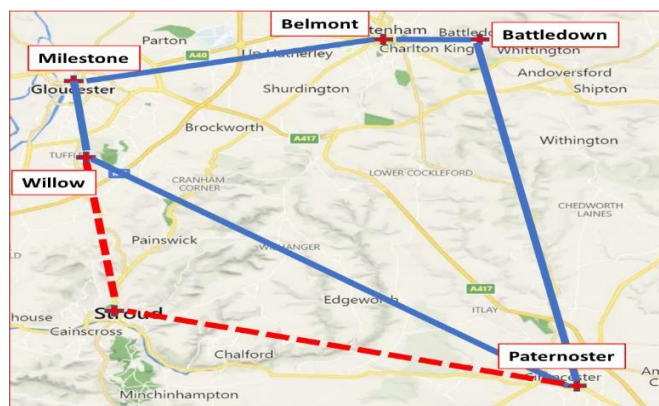
Our name, **SAND**, encompasses the core values of the Trust;

**S**upporting **A**chievement and **N**urturing **D**evelopment.

As an organisation, we exist for the benefit of all our young people, no matter their background or circumstance. We have ensured that we have a stable financial position and a sustainable future. We continue to invest wisely in the education of our children and young people, buildings, and wider infrastructure. We consider our staff as the best resource we have, and we strive to support and develop our talented and dedicated workforce. Lastly, we are striving to support a culture that promotes our common purpose clearly and where the individual character and personality of our schools is maintained within their local community.

SAND Academies Trust has five schools located in Gloucestershire, two of which are in Gloucester, two in Cheltenham and finally one situated in Cirencester.

This provides us with the unique insight into how local areas vary from one to another and how we need to adapt our approach accordingly to meet the needs of the community, the demographics and primarily the pupils.



## Initial Phase

SAND Academies Trust were informed in September 2022 of its successful bid to open the new special school.

Prior to the formal consultation, the Trust engaged with various stakeholders:

- Local primary schools
- Stroud Town Council Community Development Officer
- Stroud Town Councillors
- Local community groups
- Joint site users

## Statutory Consultation Process

As part of the pre-opening phase the Trust is legally bound to hold a public consultation (under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

The consultation commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and ran for seven weeks, concluding on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

The purpose of the consultation was to engage and inform stakeholders about the project, the Trust and allow them to share their views.

### **Stakeholders**

A wide range of stakeholders were consulted including:

- local residents
- staff and governors from local schools
- community groups
- parents
- councillors and any other interested parties

The consultation was not related to any other buildings located within the school site, which will remain under the control of the Local Authority.

The formal consultation process was promoted via different channels to a broad range of stakeholders, with information being provided in the following forms of communication.

### **Consultation booklet and questionnaire**

This document was available in print and electronic formats, which included details of the Trust, school proposal, admission details and questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to draw opinions and feedback from the local and wider community with regard to the new school. Printed questionnaires, with free postage envelopes were available from the local community hub. The booklet also encouraged interested parties to email any queries or concerns to SAND AT. (Appendix A)

### **Meetings with the two organisations on the school site**

In person meetings were held with the local Community Hub members/volunteers, and the Tots group, who both share the school site. (Appendix B)

### **Open community Consultation Events**

Two community engagement events were held at an accessible venue within the school site. The Community Hub agreed to host the events and welcome all attendees. These events were held on different days and times to accommodate as wide a range of interested parties as possible. These events were advertised on the school website, social media, flyers, newspaper adverts, the consultation document and word of mouth through local community groups. (Appendix B)

### **Email to all local schools**

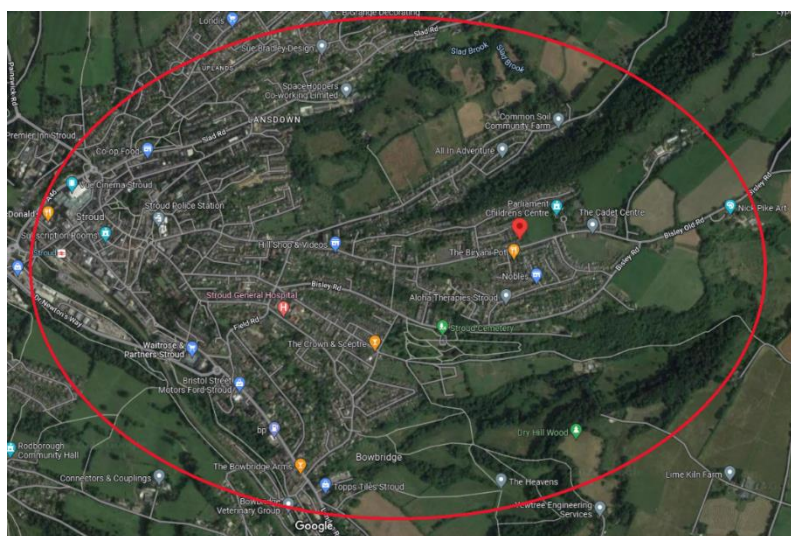
An email informing of SAND AT's consultation was sent to all local schools.

### **Email to local councillors and community groups**

An email informing of SAND AT's consultation was sent to local councillors and community groups.

### **Leaflet Drop**

A focused leafleting campaign was undertaken to all households in wide radius of the school, with 5,000 leaflets being distributed by the Royal Mail within the GL5 postcode. (Appendix C)



### **Newspaper Campaign**

The flyer promoting SAND Academies Trust consultation was published in the Stroud News and Journal and on their media website.

<b>Solution:</b>	Enhanced Digital Display + Facebook Advertising - 24/ Stroud News & Journal - 16x4 - 23/11/2022 (1 insert) Local Leap - 27/11/2022 (1 insert)
<b>Campaign Dates:</b>	23/11/2022 to 23/12/2022

### **SAND AT website**

The website provided information and links to

- Section 10 questionnaire
- Trust Vision
- Consultation Flyer
- Social Media accounts
- [New Stroud school – SAND Academies Trust \(sandmat.uk\)](http://sandmat.uk)

### **Social Media** (Appendix E)

SAND AT social media pages

- o Facebook - [\(8\) SAND Academies Trust | Gloucester | Facebook](#)
- o Instagram – [SAND Academies Trust \(@sandmatuk\)](#) • Instagram photos and videos
- o Twitter - [SAND Academies Trust \(@AcademiesSand\) / Twitter](#)

## Feedback from Section 10 Consultation

In total 14 responses were received during the consultation period; this section of the report contains a summary of all responses.

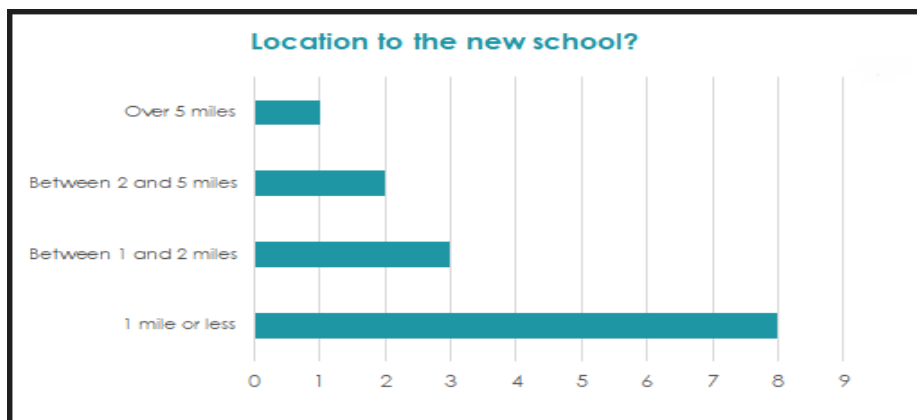
### Question 1

**Do you have any ideas what we should call the school?**

- The Top of Town School
- Hilltop
- River View
- Parliament Primary
- Summer Crescent View
- Severn View Primary School

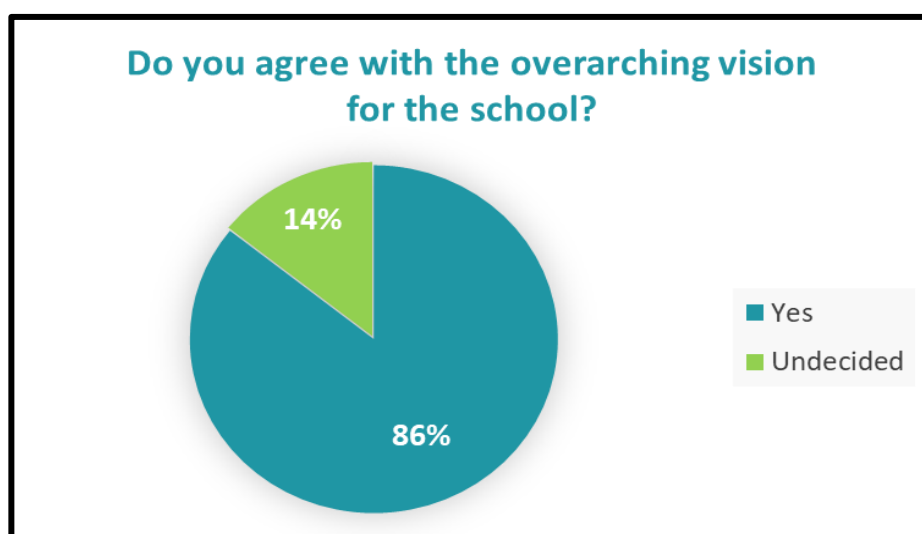
### Question 2

**Where are you based in location to the new school?**



### Question 3

**Do you agree with the overarching vision for the school?**





#### Question 4

**We aim to establish and maintain positive links with or community - What community facilities would you like to see available?**

*"Only a few local children will attend the school. The community needs to redevelop close contacts with the school by sharing its fantastic facilities. We would like share our burgeoning gardening skills, our popular outdoor schooling sessions with both local children and new local refugees. Proper sport on the field and playing in the playground would widen possibilities for occupation after school as well as mixing with other children. The school hall is perfect for dance, drama, yoga and much more for adults and children. Practitioners in Stroud will delight in a possible return to this great venue. Our Hub kitchen is tiny. The school kitchen and dining room could be perfect for community weekend bread making, Saturday Suppers and Sunday Dinners."* - **TOT Hub volunteer treasurer, gardener, cook**

*"Re-starting a children's and families centre hub"* - **Member of the Local Community**

*"Sensory room, immersive room"* - **Member of the Local Community**

*"Groups for parents of children with SEND"* - **Education Provider**

*"More use of School facilities."* - **Member of the Local Community**

*"Community cafe, fareshare, children's centre, CNN drop in, hall to hire,"* - **Member of the Local Community**

*"Opening of school to community use ie. hall hire, room to use for brownies, yoga, small groups, sharing grounds for community gardening."* - **Member of the Local Community**

*"As many as possible based on a needs analysis of the community and within the confines of your resources"*- **Member of the Local Community**

*"Wheelchair access"*- **Member of the Local Community**

*"Highlight the need for a safe speed limit outside the school. Currently traffic calming, a give away pinch point . A 20mph limit only partially in place along Bisley Old Road. Open the amazing grounds space up for community use".* - **Member of the Local Community**

*"Space available for community hire for exercise classes and the like".* - **Member of the Local Community**

*"Using all the land for the community E.g. the field"* - **Parent/Guardian**

*"Nature and forest activities, Getting up to speed with community links/access to the site"*- **Member of the Local Community**

*"Early Years unit, wrap around care i.e after school club"*- **Education Provider**



### Question 5

#### Any further comments you would like to make about our plans?

"Draw the community together" **TOT Hub volunteer treasurer, gardener, cook**

"Having a nursery for children with SEND" - **Member of the Local Community**

"To make sure local children are able to be included in the school if they meet the requirements". - **Member of the Local Community**

"Think it's an amazing idea. Lots of children in the area are under privileged and as such seem to have other educational issues" - **Member of the Local Community**

"There is an already growing established community hub at school site. So some understanding, sensitivity and transparency to the community the school is situated in" - **Member of the Local Community**

"I hope they live up to expectations" - **Member of the Local Community**

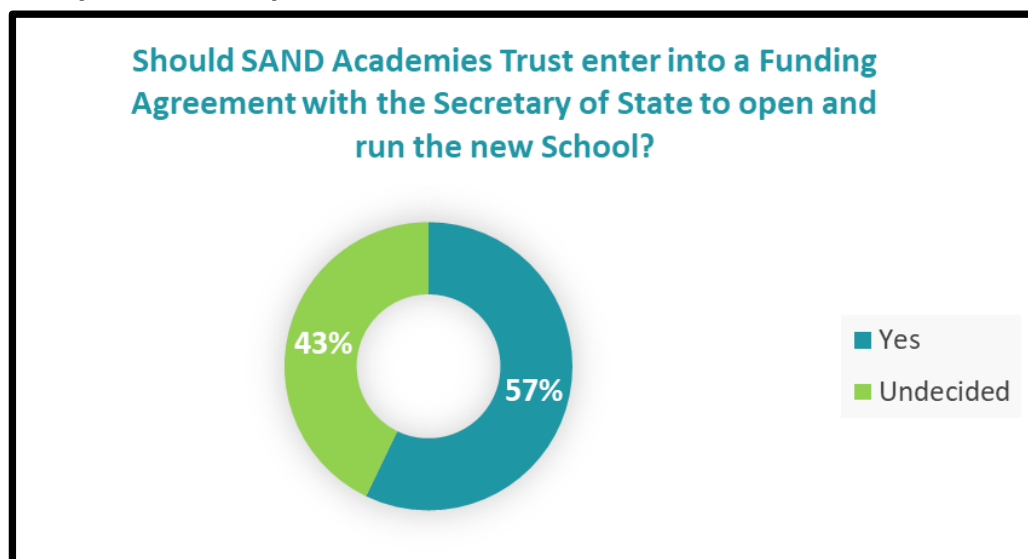
"Really pleased with the plans. SEN primary education has been historically neglected in this part of Stroud/Glos. With closures of SEN schools affecting many families" - **Member of the Local Community**

"As part of your process I think you should appeal for a 20 mph road speed limit that extends from the current end of 20 mph limit to go right past the new school to ensure school and community safety, especially with the extra traffic the school will bring" - **Parent/Guardian**

"A lot of money on rebranding is not necessary, don't dig up all the plants and trees, we run a separate school on the site will there still be access for activities"- **Member of the Local Community**

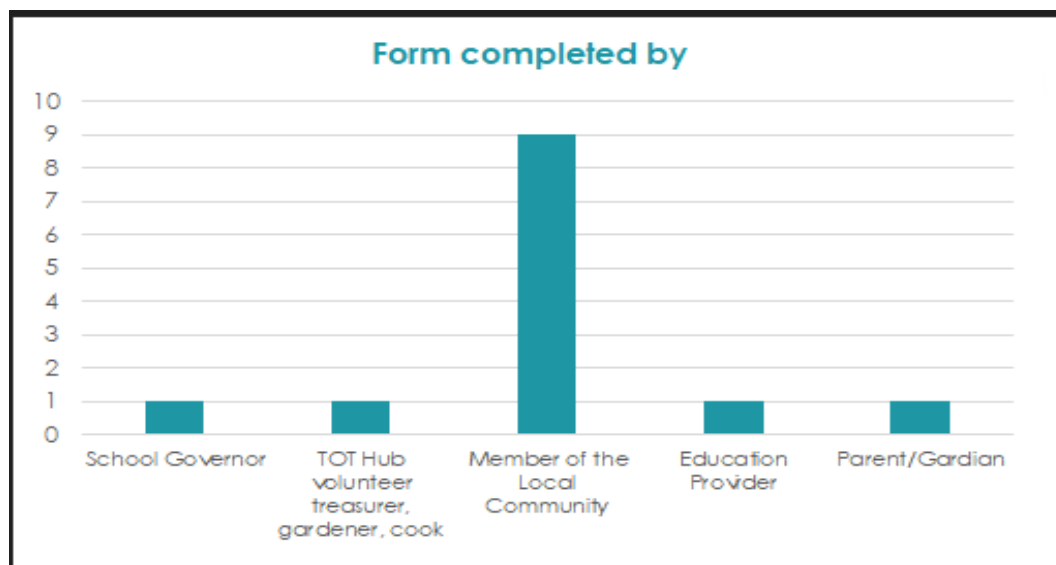
### Question 6

#### Do you think SAND Academies Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to open and run the new school?



## Question 7

### Form completed by?



## Consultation Outcomes

In conclusion there was a positive response from the local community throughout the duration of the consultation.

Approximately 60% of respondents agreed that SAND Academies Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open and run Sladewood Academy. There were no objections raised to this question. After considering, in detail, the responses received throughout this statutory consultation process, and which are recorded in the report, SAND Academies Trust will begin the process of entering into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State.

The Trust is confident that Sladewood Academy will provide extra, much needed spaces for pupils with SEND across Gloucestershire, as well as being an invaluable community asset.


We would like to thank all stakeholders who have taken the time to read and hear about our plans and provide feedback. SAND Academies Trust will continue to engage with stakeholders during the pre and post opening phase of the school to consider further feedback about the development of the school and address any concerns raised.

# Appendix A – Consultation booklet


# SAND

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## Section 10 Consultation



**Supporting Achievement & Nurturing Development**



[www.sandmat.uk](http://www.sandmat.uk)

[stroudschoolenquires@sandmat.uk](mailto:stroudschoolenquires@sandmat.uk)

Consultation Questionnaire



## SAND

ACADEMIES TRUST

**CONSULTATION ON OPENING A NEW SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

SAND Academies Trust is delighted to launch its Section 10 Consultation in relation to establishing a new special school, located on the site of Severn View Primary Academy for Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties in September 2023.

The school will take pupils in the 4 to 11 age range and will have the capacity for 60 pupils.

As part of the process of opening a new school, SAND is legally required to hold a consultation exercise (under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education.

This consultation will allow parents/carers and pupils, staff and governors from local schools, other Local Authorities, Councillors, local residents and any other interested parties to learn more about the school, SAND AT and share their views.

This is an important step in our journey towards the opening in September 2023 and we look forward to listening to your views in order to provide children and young people of Gloucestershire with the best school possible.

**IN PERSON MEETING DATES**

An opportunity to meet in person on the following dates.

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 1pm**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm**


Location: Top of Town Community Hub, Bisley Old Road, Stroud, GL5 1LZ.

These meetings will provide an opportunity to meet the team and ask any questions.

**START AND END DATES OF THE CONSULTATION**

The consultation will start on the **14<sup>th</sup> November** and run until **30<sup>th</sup> December**.

After which we will publish the results of the consultation.



## SAND




ACADEMIES TRUST




**ABOUT THE TRUST**

The name SAND encompasses the core values of the Trust – Supporting Achievement and Nurturing Development.

The Trust currently consists of five schools, Willow Primary Academy, Belmont School, Battledown Centre for Children and Families, Paternoster School and The Milestone School.

Please visit [www.sandmat.uk](http://www.sandmat.uk) for more details.







Each school maintains its own unique ethos, culture and identity that has been established over many years to ensure the needs of pupils are met.


As a partnership we believe we will achieve more together and therefore:

- Improve outcomes, opportunities and life chances for children and young people.
- Offer more / wider support for their families.
- Share and develop staff expertise.

# SAND

ACADEMIES TRUST




### ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Our schools are based solely in Gloucestershire, giving us an understanding of the challenges in the area. The Trust already runs four special schools, two of which are outstanding and one mainstream primary school.

Being based in Gloucestershire, SAND AT has an exceptional knowledge of the local area with a track record of collaboration and partnerships with many local schools, businesses and excellent relationships within the community


We recognise, however, the unique characteristics of each of the communities we work in and how they are reflected in distinctive school cultures.



### OUR ETHOS AND VISION FOR THE SCHOOL

Community engagement will be embedded in learning experiences, both the local community of the provision and the children and young people. We will:

- Provide the best possible education for children and young people, including those with additional and complex needs, in both mainstream and special schools in Stroud and the surrounding areas.
- Achieve excellence through innovation, creativity and continuous improvement.
- Direct the maximum resources available to the Trust's academies, facilitating and servicing high standards.



# SAND

ACADEMIES TRUST



### ADMISSIONS PROCESS

We welcome visits from parents and carers who are considering the new free school as a suitable school for their child. Admissions to all Gloucestershire Special Schools come via Gloucestershire County Council. Parents and carers who feel this school could meet the needs of a young person are unable to apply directly to SAND Academies Trust.

Enquiries about securing a place at the school should be made to the Gloucestershire County Council's EHCP Casework Team by phoning by 01452 427535 or emailing [sengeneng@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sengeneng@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

As a special school, it is necessary for pupils to have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) to secure a place.

The school is intended to meet need across this part of the county, although there is no defined catchment area on a map and no number of places set aside for children who live in a given part of the county. Placement decisions are made by the County's EHCP team and they will always seek to place children in the nearest suitable special school to home.

Please note the former children's centre building and the Top of Town Tots building (the Lodge) will remain under the control of the Local Authority and do not form part of this consultation. All enquiries relating to the future of these buildings should be made directly to GCC.

### FORMAT OF THE CONSULTATION

We will be using several methods to ensure that we take all views into account from a wide range of stakeholders. We look forward to hearing from the local community in the coming weeks to help inform the Secretary of State's decision as to whether they should enter into a funding agreement with SAND Academies Trust.

You can provide feedback in the following ways:

- Clicking [here](#) to access our online questionnaire or head to our website at [www.sandmat.uk](http://www.sandmat.uk)
- Attending our in-person events and consultations at the school itself.

Follow us on social media

SAND Academies Trust

sandmatuk

@AcademiesSand

If you would like a hard copy of our questionnaire, please email [stroudschoolenquires@sandmat.uk](mailto:stroudschoolenquires@sandmat.uk) or call us on 01452 923800.

## Questionnaire



### Section 10 Consultation

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As part of the process of opening a new school, SAND is legally required to hold a consultation exercise (under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education.

This consultation will allow parents/carers and pupils, staff and governors from local schools, other Local Authorities, Councillors, local residents and any other interested parties to learn more about the School, SAND AT and share their views.

This is an important step in our journey towards the opening in September 2023 and we look forward to listening to your views in order to provide children and young people of Gloucestershire with the best school possible.

To read the full Section 10 consultation follow this link - <https://www.sandmat.uk/new-stroud-school/>

\* Required

#### WE VALUE YOUR VIEWS – QUESTIONS WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH

1. **Do you have any ideas what we should name the new school?**

...

2. **Where are you based in location to the new school?**

- 1 mile or less
- Between 1 and 2 miles
- Between 2 and 5 miles
- Over 5 miles

3. **Do you agree with the overarching vision for the school?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

4. **We aim to establish and maintain positive links with or community - What community facilities would you like to see available?**

5. **Any further comments you would like to make about our plans?**

6. **Do you think SAND Academies Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to open and run the new School? \***

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

7. **Form completed by**

- Parent/Guardian
- Councilor
- Member of the Local Community
- Education Provider
- Business Owner
- Other

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This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.

 Microsoft Forms



## Appendix B

### Record of Section 10 public consultation events and meetings with site users.

Public consultation

Dates: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November @ 1pm and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December @ 6pm

Venue: Top of Town Community Hub

Style of meeting: open meeting with information brochures and an informal format.

In total 5 people attended the consultation events, a mix of local residents, land owners and Community Development Officer.

Meeting with site users

Date: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

Times: 12pm- 2.30pm

Venue: Top of Town Tots and Top of Town Community Hub

Style of meeting: informal discussions.

### Questions raised

#### **Question: How can I apply for a job at the local school?**

Answer: The Trust will be running a recruitment campaign for teaching and support staff in 2023. We encourage members of the local community to apply for these roles and work within the school.

#### **Question: Will the Trust allow access to the school for the local community and lettings?**

Answer: Yes, the Trust's ethos encapsulates utilising all its school buildings as community hubs and understands the importance of allowing local groups to access the facilities out with school hours to meet the needs of varying community groups.

#### **Question: What are the needs of the pupils in the school?**

Answer: The primary needs of the pupils will be Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties

#### **Question: Why is it opening as a special school?**

Answer: The Local Authority have identified a placement need for pupils with SEND across the county.



**Question: Will we still be able to access the site when the school is open?**

Answer: Yes, once the core school hours have been agreed, we will meet again to discuss peak times of pupil transport movements and relay the transport plan. Access will still be available after school hours, weekends and school holidays. Car parking will be reviewed as the majority of the car park will be required for school users, but discussions will be ongoing to review the needs of all users.

**Question: What are the boundaries of the school site?**

Answer: The boundaries of the school have not changed since the school was previously operational, and any land not leased to the school will not form part of the school plans. The Trust is keen to work with the local site users to utilise the grounds for shared purposes.

**Question: Can we still use the school grounds for gardening and growing vegetables?**

Answer: Yes, the Trust has always been clear that the school will be a community hub and encourage this shared usage of grounds. We will review the current facilities and structures in the school grounds and liaise with the community groups regarding outdoor areas and usage. Timing of usage will need to be agreed to maintain the safeguarding of the pupils and site users.

**Question: Will we still be able to access the biodome?**

Answer: Yes, the Trust is aware of the significance of the biodome to the local community and will work with the community to ensure they can enjoy the continued use of the facility.

## Appendix C - Consultation Flyer

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# SAND

## ACADEMIES TRUST

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**Supporting Achievement & Nurturing Development**

SAND Academies Trust is delighted to launch it's Section 10 Consultation in relation to establishing a new special school for pupils with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties. The school will be located on the site of Severn View Primary Academy opening in September 2023.

**This consultation will provide the local community with the opportunity to share their views and learn more about SAND Academies Trust's plans for the new school.**

**You can give us your feedback in a number of ways**

Visit our website

[www.sandmat.uk](http://www.sandmat.uk)

or

Follow us on social media

Scan the QR code



Attend one of our public drop in events where you can meet team and ask any questions.

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November @ 1pm / Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December @ 6pm**

At the Top of Town Community Hub, Bisley Old Road, Stroud, GL5 1LZ.



SAND Academies Trust



sandmatuk



@AcademiesSand

## Appendix D - Social Media Posts

**SAND Academies Trust**  
Published by Har Amin · 29 November 2022 · 🌐

SAND Academies Trust is delighted to have been approved as the sponsor for a new special school, located on the site of Severn View Primary Academy in Stroud for pupils with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties.

The school will take pupils in the 4 to 11 age range and will have capacity for 60 pupils.

The school will open in September 2023.

To find our more and read our full Section 10 Consultation head to <https://www.sandmat.uk/new-stroud-school/>

#SANDacadamiestrust #newschool #stroud #gloucestershire

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 SAND Academies Trust  sandmatuk  @AcademiesSand

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**SAND sandmatuk**

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#SANDacadamiestrust #newschool #stroud #gloucestershire

View insights

Be the first to like this

NOVEMBER 29, 2022

**SAND Academies Trust @AcademiesSand · Nov 29, 2022**

SAND Academies Trust is delighted to have been approved as the sponsor for a new special school, located in Stroud.

The school will open in September 2023.

To find our more and read our full Section 10 Consultation head to [sandmat.uk/new-stroud-school...](https://www.sandmat.uk/new-stroud-school/)

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