

Appendix 2a: Stage Two Consultation Feedback

Consultation response: 1

To: School Consultations Inbox, Jonathan Lewis

Date received: 8th March 2023

[Reason for redaction in full: Response relates to individual family circumstances and is specific to child's experience]

Consultation response: 2

To: School Consultations Inbox

Date received: 15th March 2023

Good Afternoon,

Our son attended Great Gidding CofE Primary School and it was the absolute making of him.

[Redacted]

Moving our son to Great Gidding meant additional travelling time and cost for us, as we lived *[redacted]* where *[redacted]* had attended happily *[redacted]*.

However the move to Great Gidding turned out to be the single most, best decision we have ever made for him to date.

He entered Gidding a broken, shell of a child always ill, as *[redacted]*. To which end I had to collect and bring him home for lunch every single day whilst there.

Great Gidding with its smaller class sizes, family type atmosphere, and staff that genuinely cared for the children brought him on, his appetite at lunchtimes returned and he started to run INTO school each morning, rather than the running AWAY he did at *[redacted]*.

He grew close to his teachers, and teaching assistants- particularly *[redacted]* who genuinely cared for him, and who brought him out of his shell and gave him confidence, to the point he actually called her 'Mum' by mistake one day! Even after *[redacted]* she continued to see him after school for additional tutoring after covid and to assist him before he made the step up to senior school at *[redacted]*

Our son entered Great Gidding school, lacking confidence and self esteem, and left there having been elected House Captain, Head Boy & School Prime Minister, by his friends and fellow students there, and we will be eternally grateful to the School for instilling that confidence in him, and the popularity that came with it.

He also more often than not returned 100% attendance each term at Gidding rather than in the low 80's at *[redacted]*.

The problem you have had with Gidding School is that it has been poorly run and managed, as there should always be a need for smaller village schools, smaller class sizes, and more personal tuition to bring on those children that need it, and I believe the school could survive with a certain level of mixed ability children attending, as it has done for many years.

I gave the [redacted] several suggestions on how to sustain the intake numbers of children attending each year at a constant level. Such as checking the local authority planning portal for any new build housing developments within a certain radius of the school, then trying to arrange meetings with the developers to request placing promotional material for the school in their brochures, on their websites and in their show homes using money from the schools budget. Also visiting the local playgroups with a view to promoting the 'family orientation ethos' of the school to parents with children of pre-school age. Sadly, none of this was followed through to my knowledge. Even my suggestion of the promotion the schools 'family' atmosphere during school events and activities free on social media platforms was rather half hearted.

The closure of this school would be a very sad day, and a huge mistake in my humble opinion.

You would only have needed to sit and watch the amount of parents like us that were prepared to spend their time and money travelling from nearby villages with their own primary schools such as Sawtry, Holme, Stilton, Folksworth and even as far as Yaxley [redacted] to understand the schools importance to the local communities. There is however one guarantee if you continue with the proposed closure of Great Gidding, is that you will 'lose' many children into the system of bigger class sizes in the future.

We all know children learn at differing levels and speeds, bigger class sizes, simply means more children not receiving the attention they may require, to help with their personal development and education, and being far less prepared for the transition to senior school.

Bigger, in the scenario of children's education, really is not better, and the fact is, that as a Primary School, Gidding really is Great!

Kind Regards
[Redacted] (Parents)

NB: Written permission was provided to publish this response.

Consultation response: 3

To: School Consultations Inbox
Date received: 21st March 2023

Dear CCC,

Further to and notwithstanding my previous consultation response (attached for your information) and following subsequent E-mail correspondence with Jonathan Lewis, I would like to re-iterate the following;

1. Transitional programme and Transport Arrangements

[redacted]

2. Transitional Support

Due to the inevitable disruption and mental stress *[redacted]*, please confirm what mental support provision will be provided *[redacted]* and what additional resources will be provided to him to ease the transition?

3. School uniform costs

It is wholly unreasonable for the council to expect us to finance additional school uniform for the new school that my son would be required to attend (likely to be £100+), especially as this is only for one academic year (30 weeks) or put him at a disadvantage by not having the required uniform. Please confirm what the council's provision for this will be?

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Consultation response: 4 (see Appendix 2b)

To: School Consultations Inbox

Date received: 31st March 2023