



**Section 10 Public Consultation:  
From 4 January 2016 to 14 February 2016**

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# 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. New Generation Schools Trust (NGST) takes seriously the need to consult as community engagement is an extremely vital part of the strategy to build a locally-owned and needed school community, and an essential aspect of NGST ethos as an organisation committed to building and strengthening local communities. In line with requirements within Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 for appropriate consultation, we also see it as non-negotiable in order to develop the school that our families and their children need and want. We have, therefore, consulted widely on the Free School proposal for the setting up of Hope Community School (HCS) proposed to open September 2016 with the first cohort of two Reception classes.
- 1.2. In January 2016, we undertook the Section 10 (S10) Community Consultation in Southampton. Stakeholders were made aware of the consultation through extensive publicity, including a widely distributed mail campaign, as well as a concerted effort to make contact with key stakeholders and the local community.
- 1.3. We began our formal S10 Consultation on 4th January 2016, concluding on 14th February 2016, thus giving over 6 weeks outside of holiday times in order to allow ample time for people to reflect and respond.
- 1.4. We wanted to ensure that we achieved a good breadth of engagement with the community and achieved this through social media platforms, emails, phone calls, and two wide-scale mail distribution campaigns to 20,000 residential addresses in postcode S014, a press release promoting the consultation published in the Southampton Daily Echo on Saturday 23rd January – circulation of 102,821, three public meetings and consultation events. We are therefore confident that we have reached the wider community and provided its diverse constituents with an opportunity to engage in the consultation process.
- 1.5. We initiated contact with a large number of stakeholders, including parents and carers, local residents, staff in Early Years settings, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, local community groups and organisations, and local faith groups.
- 1.6. Despite publicity for the consultation reaching a wide audience, and direct contact being made with groups both before, and during, the consultation period, the response rate for the questionnaires was not as high as had been hoped for however, responses were received from a diverse range of groups, providing a helpful cross-section of the local community.
- 1.7. Our publicity and engagement activity has resulted in a total of **78** responses from a wide range of stakeholders, including:
  - Local residents and wider community in Southampton
  - Parents and carers – not only those who will send their children to HCS in September 2016, but those who may choose HCS in future years
  - Early Years settings
  - Primary Heads and staff
  - Secondary Heads and staff
  - Southampton City Council

- Local businesses and business leaders
- Local faith groups and leaders
- Local health care providers
- Local community groups
- SACRE
- Local MPs
- Local councillors
- Cabinet members
- Emergency services

The majority of responses received have been positive, with 41 (67%) either 'strongly agreeing' or 'agreeing' that 'a new primary school is needed in the area' – thus confirming the community need for HCS remains strong. This is in comparison to 14 (23%) either 'strongly disagreeing' or 'disagreeing' that a school is needed. The remaining 6 (10%) surveys expressed 'no view' in response to this question.<sup>1</sup>

We specifically asked the following question, being mindful that this was the central question emphasised in Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 and requiring a definitive answer:

***Do you think the New Generation Schools Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Hope Community School?***

***This would mean that the Department for Education would fund Hope Community School when it opens, with New Generation Schools Trust as the sponsor.***

The response was:<sup>2</sup>

<b>Yes</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>(63.8%)</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>(17.2%)</b>
<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>(19.00%)</b>

We, therefore, conclude that there is a good level of support for this project to go ahead.

We will be publishing the key findings of our consultation process through our website, as well as information on how we will remain in contact with the local community. We are keen to show that we want to be responsive to all comments made. Where individual respondents have asked questions or suggestions/comments made we will, wherever possible, make sure that we respond to them directly or indirectly, i.e. information on the HCS website, various events, meetings and publications.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 61 answered question, 17 skipped question.

<sup>2</sup> 58 answered question, 20 skipped question.

<sup>3</sup> Stakeholders who asked a specific question and provided a contact address were responded to directly.

## 2. Local Context

- 2.1. HCS is a response to the demands of parents and carers, community leaders and the wider local community for a new primary school in Southampton city centre. In 2014 NGST began to explore the demand for a new primary school, given the desire amongst parents for outstanding educational outcomes. Since then, the NGST team have had the privilege to work with many local community members, leaders and partners, and continue to work hard to foster a spirit of partnership across the whole community.
- 2.2. Our proposal was approved by the Department for Education in September 2014 to move into the pre-opening phase. HCS plans to admit 60 students per year to the Primary phase (2FE). HCS will follow the National Curriculum with a range of project and theme based learning initiatives. We will focus on the development of depth of knowledge, demonstrating a broad and balanced approach with strong emphases in English, maths and Science, and the teaching of Mandarin as a modern Foreign Language. The school will create a culture of high academic achievement and real world application. By building strong relationships, teachers will foster children's strengths, abilities and passions, whether academic, creative and practical or personal, to ensure that all children aspire to achieve, develop and grow. HCS will be enriched by local volunteer support, to meet the need for outstanding educational outcomes.

## 3. Proposal

3.1. The NGST proposal, which is listed below, was explained in detail in the S10 survey questionnaire, brochure and through the HCS Website.

### 3.2. Educational offer

New Generation Schools Trust is the sponsor of Hope Community School, Southampton. It already sponsors Hope Community School, Sidcup a Free School that opened successfully in September 2013.

As part of its formal responsibilities, the NGST is required to consult with parents and carers, as well as the local community and other key stakeholders. This consultation process is being undertaken from Monday January 4th and will end on Sunday February 14th.

NGST schools put children first, developing well-rounded, confident and thoughtful young people who care about their community and are well prepared for a life of learning. Recognising the important role that parents and carers play in their child's learning, we aim to involve families at every step along the way, in order to accelerate the child's development and enrich their family life.

We also recognise that it takes a whole community to raise a child. To this end, we look forward to engaging with and equipping local residents, leaders and groups to invest in the lives of children and families, and by doing so ensure that HCS remains at the heart of the community.

HCS plans to open in September 2016, welcoming our first group of 60 children into our two Reception classes. The school will serve families in S014 - Southampton City Centre.

Some of the key features that will characterise this new school will include:

- All learning will reflect the importance of developing the whole child.
- Teaching and Learning will be driven by high expectation.
- High academic achievement for our pupils to raise aspirations and realise their potential.
- Excellent academic outcomes by the end of key stages in English and Mathematics.
- Building on the EYFS Framework and the National Curriculum, the curriculum will be further enhanced by Project Based Learning that maximises cross-curricular links.
- The development of an active partnership with parents and carers, working together in their child's education.
- A focus on community and business engagement, entrepreneurship and learning outside of the classroom to further enhance the curriculum, as well as the maintaining of a strong focus on English, Maths and Science.
- The teaching of Mandarin as a Modern Foreign Language.
- A longer school day in addition to optional enrichment activities such as co-curricular clubs, for example reading club, sports, music and breakfast club.

- Strategic support and resources provided by HCS, Sidcup to enrich the whole educational experience of our children.
- The ethos of our school is based around developing adventure, openness, creativity, excellence and values in our children.
- A school of Christian designation, outworked by a Christian ethos, welcoming families of all faiths and none.

### 3.3. Admissions

HCS coordinated admissions procedures have been run by Southampton City Council. Within our consultation processes we were clear about our admissions numbers, process, policy and procedures. Our Admissions Policy has been publicised and made available online.

### 3.4. School ethos

NGST are committed to developing a school that provides education with a twenty-first century Christian ethos, offering a place of hospitality, generosity, kindness and learning, gathering children and families from all backgrounds and working together for the good of the whole community.

The thread of Christian values and purpose for all people will run throughout the curriculum. We want to teach pupils that they have great worth and a place in the world. This will encourage hope and aspirations to make the best of themselves and look for the best in others who are valued equally regardless of their faith or religion. Creationism, intelligent design and similar ideas will not be taught as valid scientific theories. We will ensure children of all faiths feel included and valued by being broad in our teaching of other faiths and religions.

Going hand in hand with our aspiration to support and serve the community, we are committed to children learning in practical ways the importance of being hospitable, putting others before themselves and thinking of how they can demonstrate this value in their own lives.

Respect for each individual, both adult and child alike will be paramount. Children will be taught to relate to each other and staff with respect and good manners. Social skills training will be an integral part of the curriculum. These will be modelled by the respect all staff and adults in school show to each other and to the children.

We will create space for children and the school community to explore their own personal beliefs and faith in a safe place where they can ask the big questions of life. We will make space for regular collective times of worship.

Our Christian ethos is reflected in the values of the school, not in religious symbolism, uniform requirements, dietary expectations or other externals. For us the Christian faith is best reflected in the values that shape the type of people our children grow up to be rather than what they look like. These values are:

- **Adventure**
- **Openness**
- **Creativity**
- **Excellence**
- **Values**

We have communicated clearly about our Christian ethos, taking time to reassure stakeholders that our designation as a school of religious character is an inclusive one. HCS will offer education and services with a Christian ethos to all regardless of faith, ethnicity, educational need, gender or sexual orientation. As well as clear explanation within publicity and marketing information, including on the schools website, in the questionnaire we asked the following question:

*If you would consider Hope Community School as a school for your child(ren), are the Christian values and ethos of the school a key reason for this choice?*

Out of the 59 respondents who chose to answer this question, 42, (71.2%) stated that this was a key reason, 6, (10.2%) did not know, and 11, (18.6%) stated that this was not a key reason.

### 3.5. Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Inclusion

Because of our inclusive ethos we gathered information and feedback around the SEN code of practice. Inclusion is central to our vision and ethos, underpinning educational opportunities and sponsoring success and achievement for all. We will invest in children with SEN and develop children who are especially gifted or talented in certain areas. We believe that all children are gifted and talented and it is for us to discover where these gifts and talents lie. HCS will have exemplary differentiation, including SEN provision that includes parents and carers, identifies children's needs and assesses and monitors progress.

We included the following opportunity for feedback and comment in the questionnaire:

*"The proposed Hope Community School will work to the SEN Code of Practice. Children who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities will be welcome at our school and will benefit from a range of provision, from in-class differentiation to additional support, where needed."*

Only 7 comments were received in response to the SEN statement; three of these related to early identification, staff recruitment, i.e. Speech Therapist, training i.e. EAL (English as an Additional Language) and the ongoing support of paid and volunteer staff. One enquired as to whether the temporary accommodation would be accessible and another respondent commented that SEN provision is a key priority in every school. Two further comments have been included below;

All comments included within the report have not been edited unless there were significant grammatical or language errors submitted by the respondent which was detrimental to the comment being understood or to protect a respondent's identity. Additions will be identified in ***Bold Italics***.

*Child should be integrated as much as possible and others children should be made aware of their problems and encouraged to encourage and befriend them.*

*Great that children with disabilities are actively welcomed in the school and that there are plans in place to ensure appropriate support is in place.*





## 4. Consultation scope and methods

4.1. The table in section 4.3 lists the stakeholder groups, the methods used to inform them of the consultation and the methods used to record their views.

### 4.2. Formal Public Consultation meetings:

As part of this consultation, three public consultation meetings were hosted by NGST, on January 12th (2 meetings) and 26th 2016. The meetings were advertised on the school website, widely distributed flyers, a press release and an email letter of invitation was distributed to stakeholders.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet members of the NGST team, the Chair of NGST Paul Weston, Interim Principal David Ryan and the proposed Chair of the Local Governing Body Billy Kennedy. The meeting covered the major issues addressed in the consultation and provided an opportunity for any questions to be raised and answered.

The NGST team stayed after the close of the meetings to continue discussions with attendees and provide them with the opportunity to ask any further questions.<sup>4</sup>

A summary of the questions asked is provided in section 6.2 below.

### 4.3. Table of Stakeholders, Methods of Publicity and Methods of Consultation

The local team have been regularly engaging local community groups on the progress of the HCS project.

Methods of Publicity	Methods of consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaflet distribution to 10,000 residential properties in SO14 with link to survey and information about the consultation meetings</li> <li>• Leaflet distribution to businesses in SO14 with link to survey and information about the consultation meetings</li> <li>• Posters displayed in SO14 with link to survey and information about the consultation meetings</li> <li>• Press Release promoting HCS and the consultation published in the Southampton Daily Echo on Saturday 23rd January – circulation of 102,821<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Online publicity (Hope Community School Website and Social Media)</li> <li>• Direct emails to HCS database</li> <li>• Direct emails to stakeholder</li> <li>• Parents' and carers weekly drop in</li> <li>• Meetings with individual parents and carers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online survey responses</li> <li>• Hard copy of survey responses</li> <li>• Three Public Consultation meetings</li> <li>• Email contributions to the consultation process</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Any questions asked after the meeting had formally closed were not recorded.

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern\\_Daily\\_Echo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Daily_Echo), accessed Monday 25 January 2016.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home visits</li> <li>• Meetings with various stakeholders</li> <li>• Estate Agent packs</li> <li>• Additional leaflet promoting HCS distributed to 10,000 residential properties in SO14</li> <li>• Distribution of flyers at Southampton Football Club on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016</li> <li>• Leaflet distribution to local preschools, nurseries, youth centres, faith centres, Doctors surgeries, leisure and soft play centres (see table below).</li> </ul>	
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Below are some of the groups that team members have talked with or presented to in the consultation period.

<b>Stakeholder group</b>	
Project Steering Group	19 members representing various stakeholder agencies and partners
Prospective parents/carers	HCS 2016 database – 100 HCS 2017 database - 89
Early Years Settings	Play Away Nursery, Sunrise Nursery, YMCA Newtown, Start Point Nursery, YMCA Woolston, Woolston Pre School, Sure Start Northam, Sure Start Clovelly
Local primary school head teachers, and governing bodies	St. Marys C of E, Bannister Park, Bevios Town, Mount Pleasant, Maytree Infants, Spring Hill Catholic, Fitrah Sips, Mansbridge, St. Johns.
Local secondary school head teachers, and governing bodies	St. Annes, Oasis Academy Mayfield, Cantell School, Southampton City College.
Southampton City Council	Jo Cassey (Director of Education), Ross Williams (Admissions Manager), David Cooper (Strategic Schools Allocations Manager)
SACRE (Standing Advisory Council Religious Education)	Cllr Edward Daunt, Cllr Satvir Kaur, Cllr Brian Parnell, Cllr Warwick Payne.
Mayor	Cllr Linda Norris
Sheriff	Cllr Cathie McEwing
Local MPs and Ward Councillors	Alan Whitehead MP, Royston Smith MP, Caroline Nokes MP Bargate: Cllr John Noon, Cllr Sarah Bogle, Cllr Matthew Tucker Bassett: Cllr Les Harris, Cllr Beryl Harris, Cllr John Hannides Bevios: Cllr Jacqui Rayment, Cllr Derek Burke, Cllr Stephen Barnes-Andrews

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	<p>Bitterne: Cllr John Jordan, Cllr Simon Letts, Cllr Mary Lloyd</p> <p>Bitterne Park: Cllr David Fuller, Cllr John Inglis, Cllr Ivan White</p> <p>Coxford: Cllr Don Thomas, Cllr Keith Morrell, Cllr Sally Spicer</p> <p>Freemantle: Cllr Brian Parnell, Cllr Jeremy Moulton, Cllr David Shields</p> <p>Harefield: Cllr Daniel Fitzhenry, Cllr Royston Smith, Cllr Edward Daunt</p> <p>Millbrook: Cllr David Furnell, Cllr Michael Denness, Cllr Steven Galton</p> <p>Peartree: Cllr Alex Houghton, Cllr Paul Lewzey, Cllr Eamonn Keogh</p> <p>Portswood: Cllr Matthew Caisse, Cllr Paul O'Neill, Cllr Linda Norris</p> <p>Redbridge: Cllr Andrew Pope, Cllr Cathie McEwing, Cllr Lee Whitbread</p> <p>Shirley: Cllr Satvir Kaur, Cllr Hannah Coombs, Cllr Mark Chaloner</p> <p>Sholing: Cllr Graham Wilkinson, Cllr Nigel Hecks, Cllr Daniel Jeffery</p> <p>Swaythling: Cllr Spiros Vassiliou, Cllr Bob Painton, Cllr Sharon Mintoff</p> <p>Woolston: Cllr Warwick Payne, Cllr Caran Chamberlain, Cllr Christopher Hammond</p>
Cabinet Members	<p>Councillor Simon Letts (leader of the Council)</p> <p>Councillor Warwick Payne Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainability</p> <p>Councillor Daniel Jeffery Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Social Care</p> <p>Councillor Mark Chaloner Cabinet Member for Finance</p> <p>Councillor Jacqui Rayment Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport</p> <p>Councillor Dave Shields Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care</p> <p>Councillor Satvir Kaur Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Leisure</p> <p>Councillor Christopher Hammond Cabinet Member for Transformation</p>
Local Healthcare providers / community & public health organisations	<p>Nicholos Town Surgery, Newtown Surgery, St. Marys Surgery, Ocean Dental Centre, AJM Khan &amp; Associates, Specsavers Opticians, Ralph Neale, Vision Express, Ashleigh Sigh Care, Leightons Opticians</p>
Emergency Services	<p>Hampshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service, Hampshire Police Service</p>
Local Community Groups, Charities and Sports Clubs	<p>Newtown Youth Centre, The Quays, St. Marys Leisure Centre, CLEAR, Kingsland Community centre, Northam Community Centre, Southampton Voluntary Services</p>

Local Faith Groups	Southampton Christian Network, Love Southampton, Southampton Council of Faiths, Muslim Council of Southampton, New Community Network, Life Church (New Frontiers), Parish Office, Riverside Family Church, James Street Church, Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Gurdwara Nanaksar
Local Business	Discover Southampton, Business South, John Lewis, Etch UK Ltd, Tesco, British Heart Foundation, Afro City, Rice up, Snips UK Ltd, Basepoint Business centres, Central Trading Estate, Stricklands Body repairs, G's Store, Royle Jackson, Burton Roofing Merchants, Central Convenience Store, Trend setters, Bella Italia, Spice world, Lloyds Pharmacy, St. Marys Carpets, St. Marys chippy, Atlantic Launderette/Dry Cleaning Services, Local Newsagents and Super markets x15, First Bus, John Cribb & Sons, Local Estate Agents

#### 4.4 Engagement activities and meetings with stakeholders

##### 4.4.1 Engaging parents and carers

In order to engage parents and carers in the wider community, NGST and the HCS team have engaged in a number of ways both prior to and during the consultation period. It was our aim to engage those parents and carers who would not only consider sending their children to HCS in September 2016, but with those who may choose HCS in future years. Our approach has been not only to work with the projects in the community but to engage parents and carers in and around pre-school groups. In addition to regular contact with Early Years settings, we held several community lunches, a weekly drop-in, weekly home visits, sent two mailshots totalling 20,000 to residential addresses in S014.

The table below provides a summary of activities carried out by HCS Family Liaison Coordinator between the period January 1st – 19th to promote the consultation.

Visited and delivered 40 consultation flyers to Woolston Preschool, x40 flyers to YMCA Woolston and x25 flyers to Play tots in WCC. Poster put up in Community Centre. 6/1/16 First drop in session at CLEAR 10am-11.30am. 6/1/16 visited and delivered x40 consultation flyers to PLAY AWAY nursery, invited staff along to public meeting. 6/1/16 Met new Manager at Sunrise Nursery, exchanged contact details and delivered x40 consultation Flyers. Delivered flyers to James Street Church. Visited Northam Sure Start. Gave flyers re: consultation x40. Put up a poster re: public meetings. Visited Start Point Nursery, gave a poster and x40 flyers to hand out to parents. 6/1/16 Visited and delivered x40 flyers to local shops in St. Marys Street. Put up posters in 6 local shops in St. Marys Street. Put up x3 posters in CLEAR office windows and reception. Delivered leaflets and posters to St. Mary's Surgery and Southampton Voluntary Services 8/1/16. Visited Tiny Treasures, spoke to families re: consultation supported parents with x3 surveys. Delivered x3 posters and x20 flyers to Central Hall. Delivered and visited YMCA Newtown with poster and x20 flyers. Visited and delivered x20 flyers and poster to Sure Start Clovelly Road. Delivered a poster and x20 flyers to Nicolas Town Surgery. Delivered and visited Unity 101 Radio and gave a poster and flyers. Delivered flyers to youth centre, x2 Sikh Temples, Mosque and St Mary's

Leisure Centre. 10/1/16 distributed consultation flyers at Central Hall. 13/1/16 Visited Manager at Northam Start Point shared about HCS and established a link for the future. Drop in session at CLEAR. Visited Tiny Treasures handed out flyers spoke to local families. Supported parents with surveys. 16/1/16 Visited St. Mary's stadium handed out leaflets. Delivered x25 flyers to St. Marys Church. Visited and delivered x20 flyers to Quays Swimming Complex, Play Shack and Jungle Jeans play areas. Spoke to several families who took x10 flyers and info leaflets to give to friends. Visited Portswood Church Parent & Toddler group, left flyers and leaflets. Visited ESOL lesson at Clovelly Road, shared and left leaflets.

As a result 26 respondents identified themselves as a 'local resident'. In addition a local resident has applied to become a member of the Local Governing Body after receiving information about HCS and meeting with members of the HCS team at one of the Public Consultation events.

#### **4.4.2 Early Years Settings**

Contact was made with local Early Years settings as detailed in the table in section 4.3, both prior to, and during, the consultation process:

- Pre-Schools
- Nurseries
- Parent and Toddler groups

Publicity and information (including copies of the HCS brochure) was distributed, and communication with all Early Years groups is continuing.

#### **4.4.3 Primary and Secondary School Heads, and governors**

Primary and secondary schools as detailed in the table in section 4.3, were emailed directly during the consultation process and invited to complete the online survey. The email gave web-links to the HCS website and the online survey.

In total, 15 respondents identified themselves as staff members or Governors at local schools (13 Primary, and 2 Secondary). Communication and contact with all schools is ongoing.<sup>6</sup>

#### **4.4.4 Southampton City Council**

NGST and HCS team members continue to build and work within positive relationships with Southampton City Council officers, and the LA has two representatives (Ross Williams, Admissions Manager, David Cooper, Strategic Schools Allocations Manager) who are on the HCS Project Steering Group. NGST have also been in regular communication with Jo Cassey, SCC Director of Education and previously with her predecessors.

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<sup>6</sup> A member of the HCS team met with a local Headteacher on February 1st and a Chair of Governors of a local school attended our community lunch on Friday February 5<sup>th</sup>.

As part of the consultation process, NGST invited a coordinated response from Southampton City Council. A formal response was sent to the DfE directly as part of the Section 9 requirements.

#### **4.4.5 Local businesses**

Emails and leaflets were sent to businesses as part of the wider mailshot campaign. As a result, 2 respondents identified themselves as 'local businesses'.

#### **4.4.6 Local MPs, and Local Councillors**

Input into the consultation was invited from all local MPs, as well as all Ward Councillors and SACRE as detailed in the table in section 4.3. As a result, 2 respondents identified themselves as 'Councillors'. Royston Smith MP (S014 Ward Councillor) sent a letter of support on 28/1/16 to The Rt.Hon. Nicky Morgan MP (Education Secretary) requesting she approve the opening of the much needed HCS for September 2016.

#### **4.4.7 Local Healthcare providers / community & public health organisations**

Publicity and information were distributed to these organisations as part of the wider mailshot campaign.

#### **4.4.8 Local Community Groups, Charities and Sports Clubs**

Publicity and information were emailed and leaflets were distributed to these groups as part of the wider mailshot campaign.

#### **4.4.9 Emergency services**

Representatives were invited to participate in the consultation process, made aware of the date of the public meetings, and given links to the schools website. Hampshire Police responded on the 20/1/16, explaining that information about HCS and the consultation had been passed onto the local Neighbourhood Policing team.

#### **4.4.10 Local Faith Groups**

When planning the consultation we recognised the significant role that local churches and other faith groups would have in enabling us to reach the wider community. The relationships with different congregations and groups have ensured that we have been able to spread information quickly through volunteers and helpers. A range of faith groups as detailed in the table in section 4.3 were emailed directly during the consultation process and invited to complete the online survey. The email gave web-links to the HCS website and the online survey. The Southampton Christian Network, a broad network of Christian churches and organisations in the Southampton area promoted the consultation through their website, Facebook and email newsletter. New Community Church, a partner of HCS, has shared regular information at meetings throughout the consultation period.

44 respondents identified themselves as a 'member of a local community/faith group'.

## 5. Quantitative response from questionnaires

- 5.1. NGST published detailed information on the HCS website and a printed brochure, outlining its vision for transforming education and the community through the school. This was made available at all Public Consultation meetings alongside the survey questionnaire. It should be noted that not every survey was completed in full.

The first section of the survey aimed to establish the profile of the respondents. The answers to this tranche of questions are presented in table 5.2.

### 5.2. Table showing profile of respondents

#### Part A: About You

Question 1	Possible Answers Answered 78 Skipped 0	Number & % of respondents	
What connection do you have with the proposed Hope Community School, if any?	Parent/carer of child at a nursery or Children's centre	5	6.4%
	Parent/carer of child at another local primary school	8	10.3%
	Parent/carer of child at a local secondary school	5	6.4%
	Staff/Governor at a local secondary school	2	2.6%
	Staff/Governor at a local primary school	13	16.7%
	Local business owner	2	2.6%
	Local resident	26	33.3%
	Member of a local community/faith group	44	56.4%
	Member of the Emergency Services	0	0.00%
	Other (please specify)	11	

Question 2	Possible Answers Answered 78 Skipped 0	Number & % of respondents	
Please specify your age group:	16-25 years	9	11.5%
	26-35 years	14	17.9%
	36-45 years	16	20.5%
	46-55 years	18	23.1%
	56-65 years	12	15.4%
	66+ years	9	11.5%

Question 3	Possible Answers Answered 78 Skipped 0	Number & % of respondents	
Please specify your gender:	Male	27	34.6%
	Female	51	65.4%

Question 4	Possible Answers Answered 74 Skipped 4	Number & % of respondents	
Do you live in postcode SO14?	Yes	6	8.1%
	No	68	91.9%
	Other: SO15,16,17,18,19,50,51	60	

Note: 17 respondents live in postcode SO15 and 6 live in SO16.

Question 5	Possible Answers Answered 73 Skipped 5	Number & % of respondents	
Do you have a child that you would consider sending to our school?	Yes - in 2016	4	5.5%
	Yes - in 2017 or later	10	13.7%
	No	60	82.2%

Question 6	Possible Answers Answered 71 Skipped 7	Number & % of respondents	
If you have a child that would be able to attend our school (i.e. born 1 September 2011 or later) would you consider choosing Hope Community School as the school for your child?	Yes	14	19.7%
	No	10	14.1%
	Don't know	1	1.4%
	Not applicable	46	64.8%

If respondents had answered 'No' they were asked to tell us why:

- *Only because I no longer have school age children.*
- *My children **are** all **at** secondary school*
- *I am happy with my child's education.*
- *Already live closer to a number of schools within in SO15 that have vacancies.*
- *Already happy with present school.*
- *I would want to see the school building and facilities and meet the staff, to compare them with other local schools.*
- *Wrong location.*
- *Too far away from my immediate locality.*



- *Already have a child at another primary and want them to be at the same school.*
- *You have no building, no head and therefore I have no confidence in the school.*

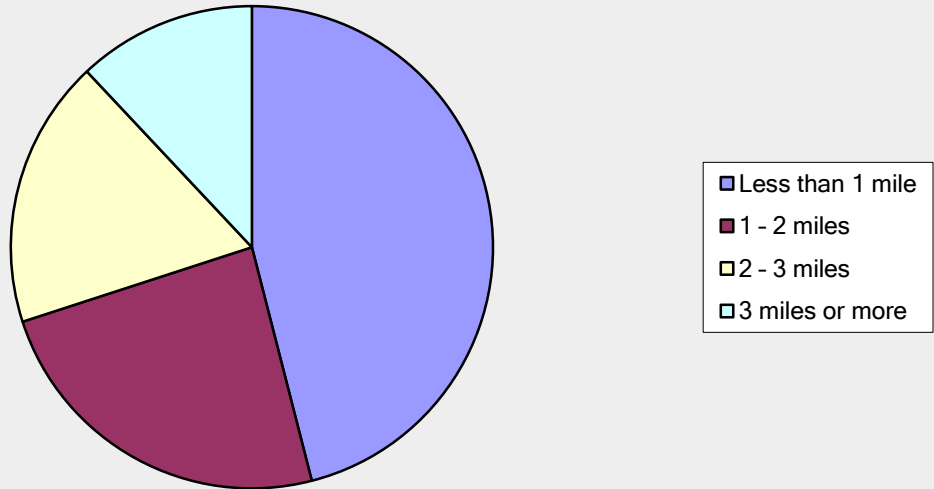
<b>Question 7</b>	Possible Answers Answered 70 Skipped 8	Number & % of respondents	
If you have answered Yes, would Hope Community School be your first choice?	Yes	9	12.9%
	No	2	2.9%
	Don't know	4	5.7%
	Not applicable	55	78.6%

If respondents had answered 'No' or 'Don't know' they were asked what order of preference would HCS have and why? There were 4 responses.

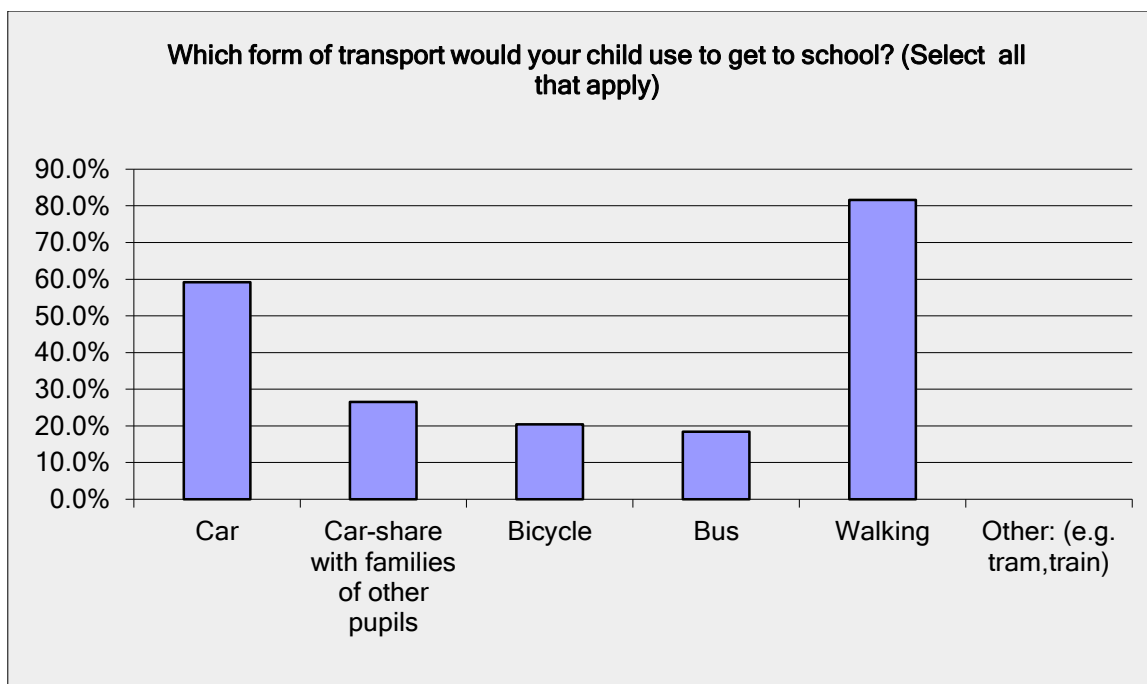
- *The King's School, Hope Community School because I grew up in the Kings School!*
- *All moved from primary school*
- *Second or third choice - ideally I would like my son to go to the same school as my daughter, who is currently in Year 1 elsewhere.*
- *Work.*

<b>Question 8</b>	Possible Answers Answered 50 Skipped 28	Number & % of respondents	
How far are you prepared for your child to travel to get to their local school?	Less than 1 mile	23	46.0%
	1-2 miles	12	24.0%
	2-3 miles	9	18.0%
	3 miles or more	6	12.0%

How far are you prepared for your child to travel to get to school?



Question 9	Possible Answers Answered 49 Skipped 29	Number & % of respondents	
Which form of transport would your child use to get to school?	Car	29	59.2%
	Car-share with families of other pupils	13	26.5%
	Bicycle	10	20.4%
	Bus	9	18.4%
	Walking	40	81.6%
	Other: (e.g. tram, train)	0	0.0%



Question 10	Possible Answers Answered 63 Skipped 15	Number & % of respondents	
Do you think it's important that travel and transport issues for children and parents/carers would be reduced by having a local school? <sup>7</sup>	Yes	52	82.5%
	No	5	7.9%
	Don't Know	6	9.5%

Respondents were invited to add any comments regarding travel issues they wanted to share. There were 5 travel-related comments submitted:

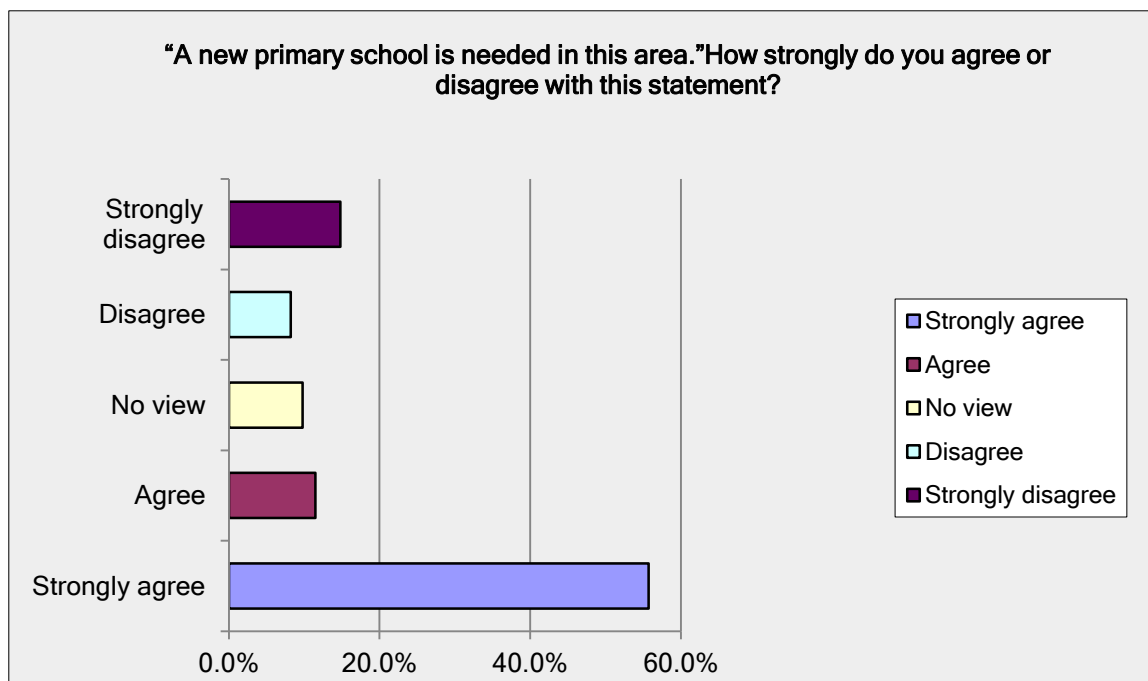
- *Travel is not an issue as there are 5 primary schools and 1 infant and junior school with a mile radius to choose from.*
- *The school run is ridiculous. All children should be able to walk or take a short bus ride to school, or cycle when old enough.*
- *It'll be geographically useful for parents in the city centre.*
- *We already have local schools and in spite of incorrect information stating we are all full...we are not!*
- *Are there children in this area that are having to travel a long way to school? There are already schools in the area.*

<sup>7</sup> Both the Bargate and Bevois Wards are characterised by very limited access to personal transport with almost 50% of households not having access to a car or van. This contrasts to the Southampton wide average of only 30% of households not having a car. These families will therefore be reliant on local transport or other provisions to make use of any available places outside of the area, therefore a new school in SO14 would provide a solution.

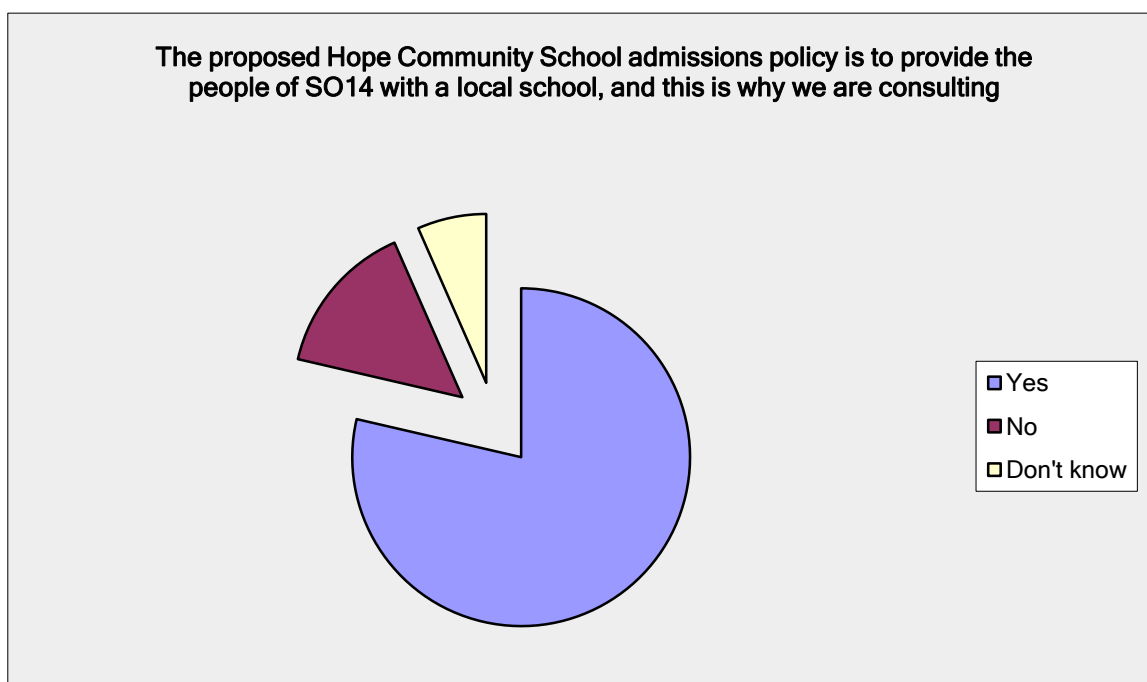
5.3. The profiling shows that 42% of respondents described themselves as a 'local resident', 'local business owner', and or a 'parent/carer of a child at a nursery or children's centre' with an interest either in their community or in their children's future. In addition, the planned opening of HCS was of particular interest to 'members of a local community/faith group' (56%), 'staff/Governor at a local primary school', (17%) and those living outside of postcode SO14 including SO15,16,17,18,19, 50 and 51. This sets the context for the second section of the survey, which asked for opinions on various aspects of the new school. The results of these questions are outlined below:

### Part B: About The Admissions Process

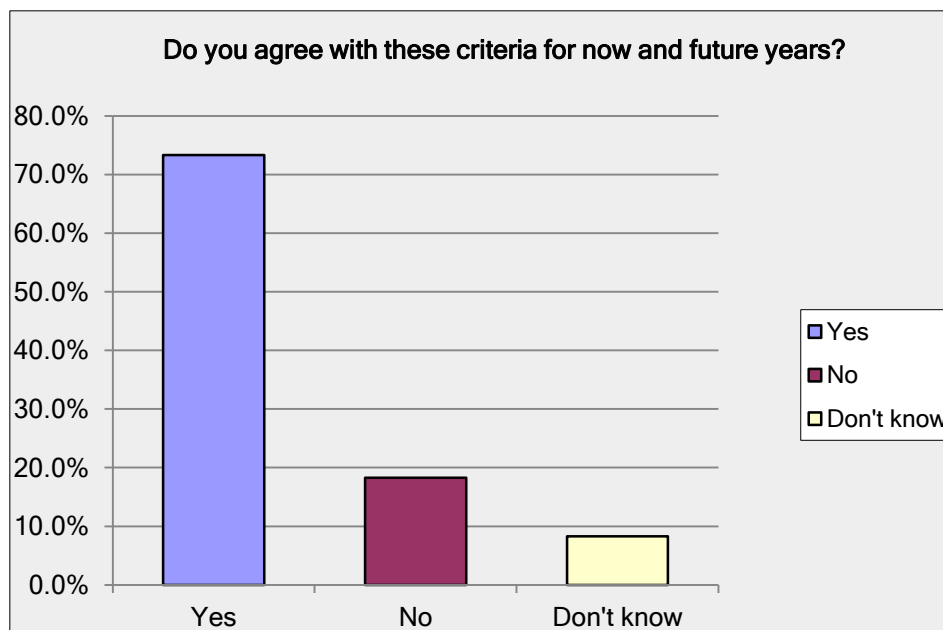
Question 11	Possible Answers Answered 61 Skipped 17	Number & % of respondents	
<p><i>"A new primary school is needed in the area."</i></p> <p>How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement?</p>	Strongly agree	34	55.7%
	Agree	7	11.5%
	No view	6	9.8%
	Disagree	5	8.2%
	Strongly disagree	9	14.8%



Question 12	Possible Answers Answered 61 Skipped 17	Number & % of respondents	
<p>The proposed Hope Community School admissions policy is to provide the people of SO14 with a local school, and this is why we are consulting.</p> <p><i>“Hope Community School will ensure that it provides places for children of all abilities, most of whom will come from the local area. We intend to attract local pupils from the immediate area surrounding the school.”</i></p> <p>Do you agree with this statement?</p>	Yes	48	78.7%
	No	9	14.8%
	Don't Know	4	6.6%



Question 13	Possible Answers Answered 60 Skipped 18	Number & % of respondents	
<p>Do you agree with these criteria for now and future years?</p> <p>For pupils starting in September 2016, Southampton City Council will administer the applications process according to our admissions policy. This means that parents are able to make an application for a place at Hope Community School, in addition to applying for other school places.</p> <p>If the school is oversubscribed, (i.e. has more applications than there are places available), after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan or statement of special educational needs naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Looked after children.</li> <li>2. Faith based places: As a school of Religious Designation, up to 20% of places will be allocated on the basis of faith according to the following: Children whose parents/carers are regular attenders of Pioneer Churches, Southampton;               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2a. who already have a sibling on roll.</li> <li>2b. with exceptional medical, social or welfare needs which means the child must, because of those needs, attend the school.</li> <li>2c. living closest (using the Council's definition of shortest walking distance)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Then, if the 20% faith based places are not filled, the remaining faith based places will be open to: Children whose parents/carers are regular attenders of a Churches Together in England and/or Evangelical Alliance Church;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2d. who already have a sibling on roll</li> <li>2e. with exceptional medical, social or welfare needs which means the child must, because of those needs, attend the school.</li> <li>2f. living closest (using the Council's definition of shortest walking distance).</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Open places:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3a. Siblings</li> <li>3b. Children with exceptional medical, social or welfare needs which means the child must, because of those needs, attend the school.</li> <li>3c. Children living closest (using the Council's definition of shortest walking distance).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>If the school is oversubscribed in any of the above categories, then priority will be given to those who live closest to the school.</p>	Yes	44	73.3%
	No	11	18.3%
	Don't know	5	8.3%



Respondents were invited to add any comments regarding the admissions criteria that they wanted to share.

**Concerns over the 'faith based' criterion:** Out of the comments submitted 7 respondents expressed displeasure at the inclusion of the faith based oversubscription criterion including;

- *A school should be open to all children no matter their belief or circumstance or needs who live closest to the school.*
- *Strongly disagree with allocating places according to faith.*
- *Any form of faith school is divisive. We need fewer of them, not more. Religion should be kept out of admissions.*
- *The 20 per cent quota for Pioneer Churches is too restrictive. Why just this organisation and not other faith backgrounds?*
- *I believe 2 to be exclusionary to local residents.*

**Preferences for other groups to be given priority:** one respondent expressed a preference for service children to be considered and expressed a view that HCS was selecting specific children rather than those that needed the school the most.

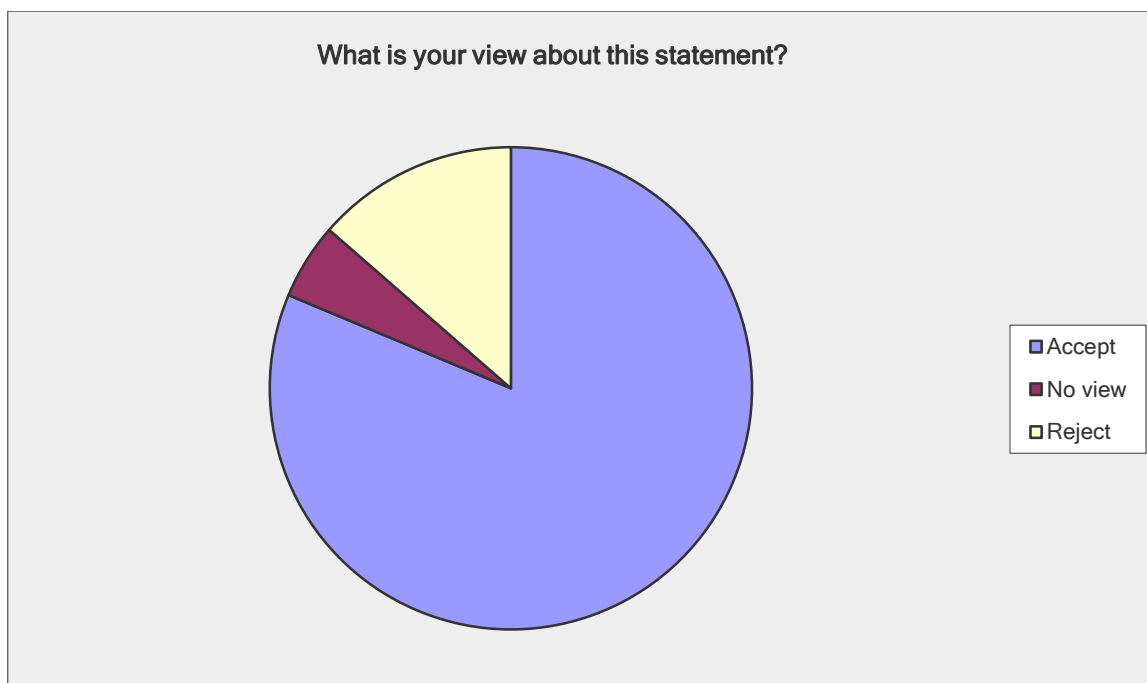
**Proximity to school:** One respondent felt that children living closest should always have priority to any school.

2 more general comments were submitted;

- *We have schools that are not full already.*
- *The area would benefit from HCS.*

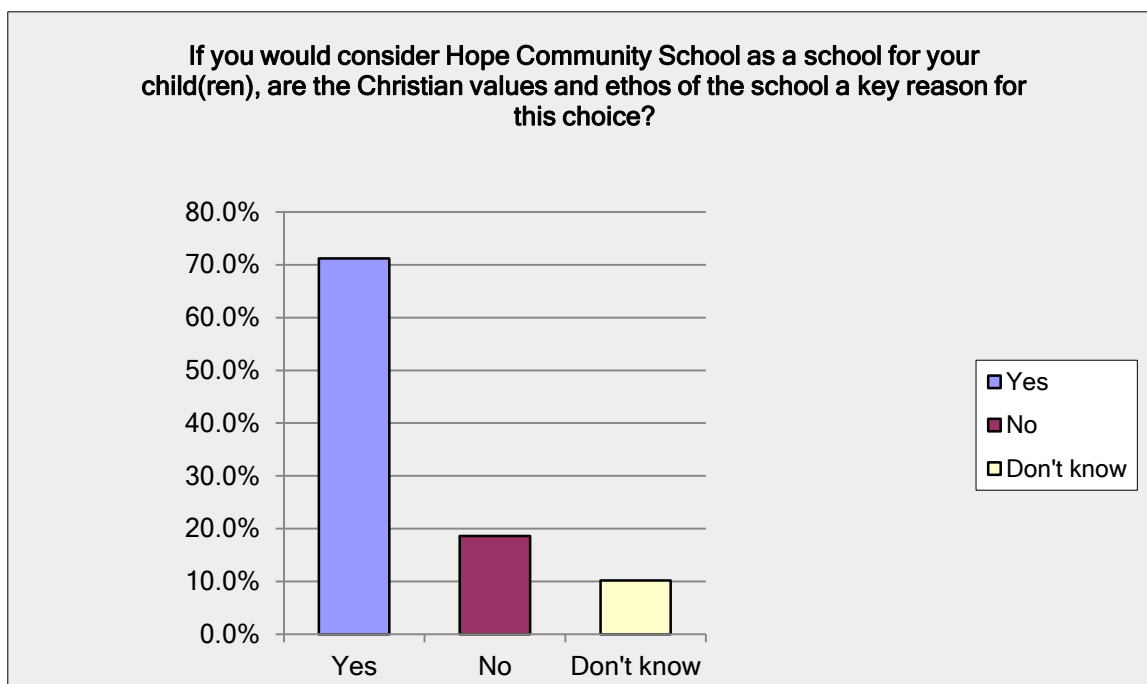
An email was received from a Councillor on 11/1/16 requesting a copy of HCS Admissions Policy. (Information was sent on 11/1/16)

Question 14	Possible Answers Answered 59 Skipped 19	Number & % of respondents	
<p><i>“Informed by our Christian values the proposed Hope Community School will have a clear inclusive Christian ethos. The school will offer holistic learning that develops children in body, mind and soul providing religious education and collective worship for students. The school will provide a place and a community that welcomes children and families of all faiths and no faith and enables people from across the community to work together for the good of the whole community”. Do you accept this statement?</i></p> <p>What is your view about this statement?</p>	Accept	48	81.4%
	No view	3	5.1%
	Reject	8	13.6%





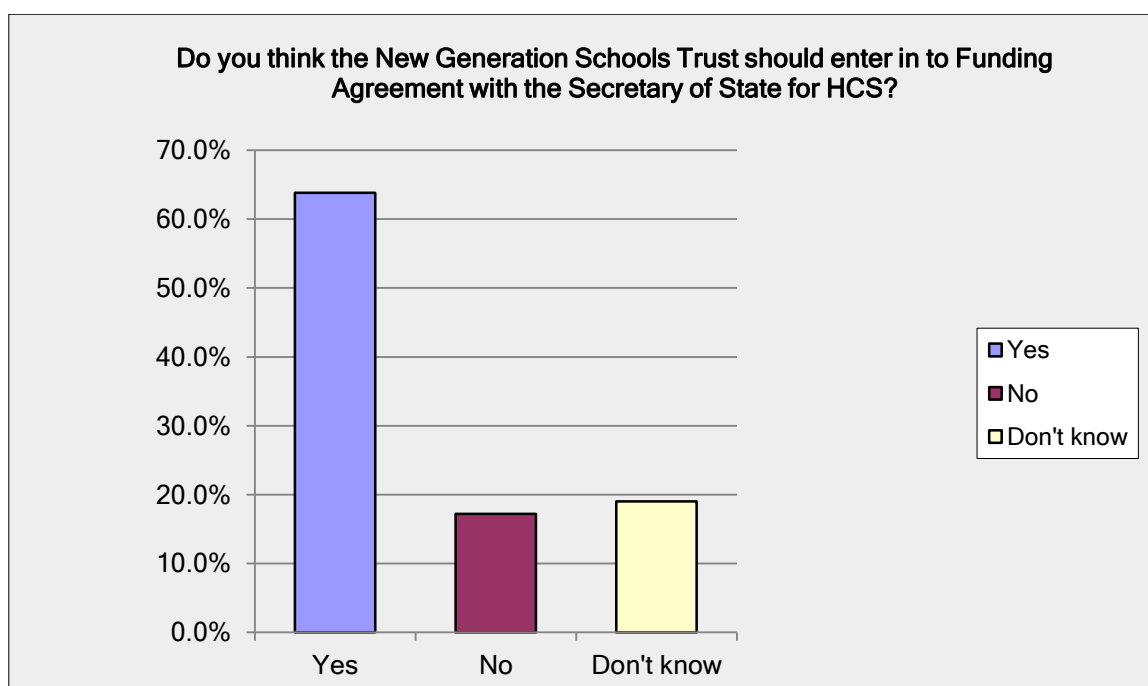
Question 15	Possible Answers Answered 59 Skipped 19	Number & % of respondents	
If you would consider Hope Community School as a school for your child (ren), are the Christian values and ethos of the school a key reason for this choice?	Yes	42	71.2%
	No	11	18.6%
	Don't Know	6	10.2%



Question 16	Possible Answers Answered 59 Skipped 19	Number & % of respondents	
Do you agree with the proposal that Hope Community School will admit 60 pupils into the Reception year from September 2016 and 60 per year thereafter?	Yes	42	71.2%
	No	11	18.6%
	Don't Know	6	10.2%

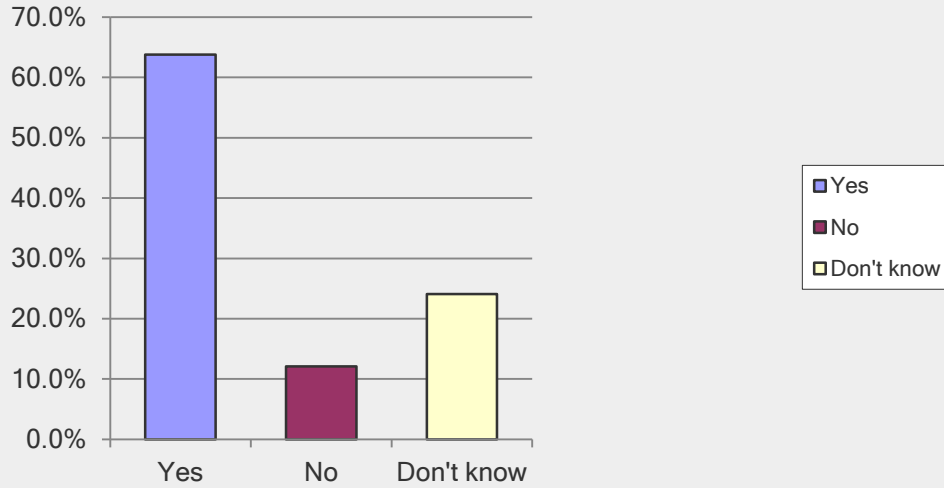
## Part C: About the School

Question 17	Possible Answers Answered 58 Skipped 20	Number & % of respondents	
Do you think the NGST should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Hope Community School? This would mean that the Department for Education would fund Hope Community School when it opens, with NGST as the sponsor. Do you support this proposal?	Yes	37	63.8%
	No	10	17.2%
	Don't know	11	19.0%



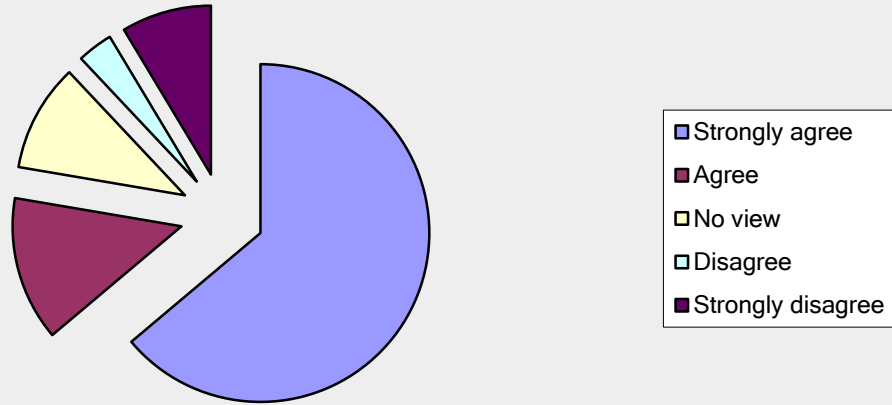
Question 18	Possible Answers Answered 58 Skipped 20	Number & % of respondents	
In opening a second school, the NGST will be moving from a Single Academy Trust (SAT) to a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). A MAT is established to improve and maintain high educational standards across more than one school. A group of schools form a MAT which has overarching responsibility for their governance. Do you agree that the NGST should become a MAT?	Yes	37	63.8%
	No	7	12.1%
	Don't know	14	24.1%

In opening a second school, the New Generation Schools Trust will be moving from a Single Academy Trust (SAT) to a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).



Question 19	Possible Answers Answered 58 Skipped 20	Number & % of respondents	
The aim of New Generation Schools Trust is to locate the proposed Hope Community School in the city centre. Do you agree that we should locate the school within a 1 mile radius of SO14 1NF for both the permanent and temporary location? Initially the school will operate in a fully equipped temporary accommodation. The plan will be for a purpose built school to accommodate the growing Hope Community School.	Strongly agree	37	63.8%
	Agree	8	13.8%
	No view	6	10.3%
	Disagree	2	3.4%
	Strongly disagree	5	8.6%

The aim of New Generation Schools Trust is to locate the proposed Hope Community School in the city centre. Do you agree that we should locate the school within a 1 mile radius of SO14 1NF?



Question 20	Possible Answers Answered 58 Skipped 20	Number & % of respondents	
<p><i>"A careful balance of core English and maths skills with project-based learning related to 'real-life' is a good learning experience for students".</i></p> <p>How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement?</p>	Strongly agree	33	56.9%
	Agree	19	32.8%
	No view	5	8.6%
	Disagree	1	1.7%
	Strongly disagree	0	0.0%

Question 21	Possible Answers Answered 58 Skipped 20	Number & % of respondents	
<p>The proposed Hope Community School will promote an ethos of adventure, openness, creativity and excellence. Do you agree with these concepts?</p>	Strongly agree	42	72.4%
	Agree	13	22.4%
	No view	3	5.2%
	Disagree	0	0.0%
	Strongly disagree	0	0.0%

<b>Question 22</b>	Possible Answers Answered 58 Skipped 20	Number & % of respondents	
"Pupils should be encouraged to play an active part in their community and see their learning integrated into the real world". How strongly do you agree or disagree with this statement?	Strongly agree	38	64.5%
	Agree	19	32.8%
	No view	1	1.7%
	Disagree	0	0.0%
	Strongly disagree	0	0.0%

<b>Question 23</b>	Possible Answers Answered 58 Skipped 20	Number & % of respondents	
"Pupils should be encouraged to understand environmental issues and develop relevant skills for looking after their school and community ". Do you agree with the above statement?	Yes	57	98.3%
	No	0	0.0%
	Don't know	1	1.7%

<b>Question 24</b>	Possible Answers Answered 58 Skipped 20	Number & % of respondents	
Hope Community School will have a focus on community and business engagement, entrepreneurship and learning outside of the classroom to further enhance the curriculum. Do you agree with these distinct features?	Yes	47	81.0%
	No	0	0.0%
	Don't know	11	19.0%

<b>Question 25</b> Answered 7 Skipped 71
The proposed Hope Community School will work to the SEN Code of Practice. Children who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities will be welcome at our school and will benefit from a range of provision, from in-class differentiation to additional support, where needed. If you would like to comment regarding Special Educational Needs or Disabilities provision, please do so below.

Respondents were invited to share any comments they wished in response to the above statement. Please see section 3.5 above for results.

**Question 26**

Answered 12

Skipped 66

Are there any other aspects about the curriculum or general running of the school that you think we need to add to our offer?

Respondents were invited to comment on any other aspects about the curriculum or general running of the school that they thought should be added to the offer.

**Requests for additional provision:** respondents took the opportunity to request areas for special focus in the school, including:

- A focus on sport, football at the stadium, exercise, PE Lessons.
- Breakfast and After-School clubs.
- Pre-School.
- EAL (English as an Additional Language) provision.

The following response was submitted from an individual from CLEAR<sup>8</sup>, who are a partner organisation for HCS. *'From my work in SO14 I know there are a large number of children who do not have English as their first language and I think provision should be made for these children'*.

- Engage a Speech Therapist.
- Religious studies to learn about and respect different faiths.
- Engaging with and valuing diversity in the local community.
- Creative learning environment, i.e. don't sit children around tables – it distracts them from learning.
- Use of computers.

In some cases, respondents used this opportunity to comment on the application in general;

- *'Cut the "Christian" emphasis - use "Christian".'*
- *'Think you're ideas are innovative and excellent'.*
- *'It's all theoretical. How far can you deliver on any of this?'*
- *'Will you be using unqualified teachers? Will you allow union recognition for staff at all levels?'*
- *'Will your curriculum include sexual relationship education? Will your Christian ethos, and your admissions criteria favouring attendees of your evangelical churches, be to the detriment of a multi-faith, multicultural area'*
- *'Please ensure that you deal wisely and peacefully with other education providers in the City. You will need your friends in the future'.*

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<sup>8</sup> The CLEAR project was set up in 2001 by City Life Church in response to the Government's dispersal policy on asylum seekers and refugees, which led to high numbers arriving in Southampton. Many of those who were dispersed here chose to make Southampton their home and our services have developed around the needs of this client group. Our beneficiaries are asylum seekers and refugees in Southampton. Due to a lack of English language and literacy skills and unfamiliarity with the UK system, they need help to deal with the complexity of the UK system in order to integrate into society.

**Question 27**

Answered 8

Skipped 78

If you have disagreed with any of the statements in Part C, we would be grateful if you would explain why:

7 responses were submitted.

- *Disagree mandarin is important at this age - those who need it will learn it later. not keen on too much project learning. Less pushy and less bright children do not learn well by this method.*
- *Most of your statements with an 'Agree or disagree' option are basic fundamentals of any school and also part of the National Curriculum. To include them in this form is ridiculous as you have to agree. Therefore it isn't consultation!*
- *Has a feasibility study been carried out to understand how the opening of this school will affect existing schools in the area? (reply sent by NGST on 28/01/16)*
- *The whole idea of a new school taking potential away from existing schools in the area is fundamentally wrong*
- *Your ambitions and approach are all but identical with those of the other local schools that I know - and there are already 3 within SO14, plus another 3 close by. Apart from the Christian emphasis, there is nothing special in your proposition. The real question is: Do we need another school in SO14?*
- *I don't like the idea of developing entrepreneurship as a core principle in running a school. It feels divisive rather than co-operative, and we should be encouraging co-operation above all else.*
- *I am not convinced that there is a need for another primary school in the SO14 area. The Local Authority have spent a lot of money in recent years expanding local primary school places and I am concerned that a new primary school in the city centre will have a negative impact on the existing schools.*

## Part D: Your Comments

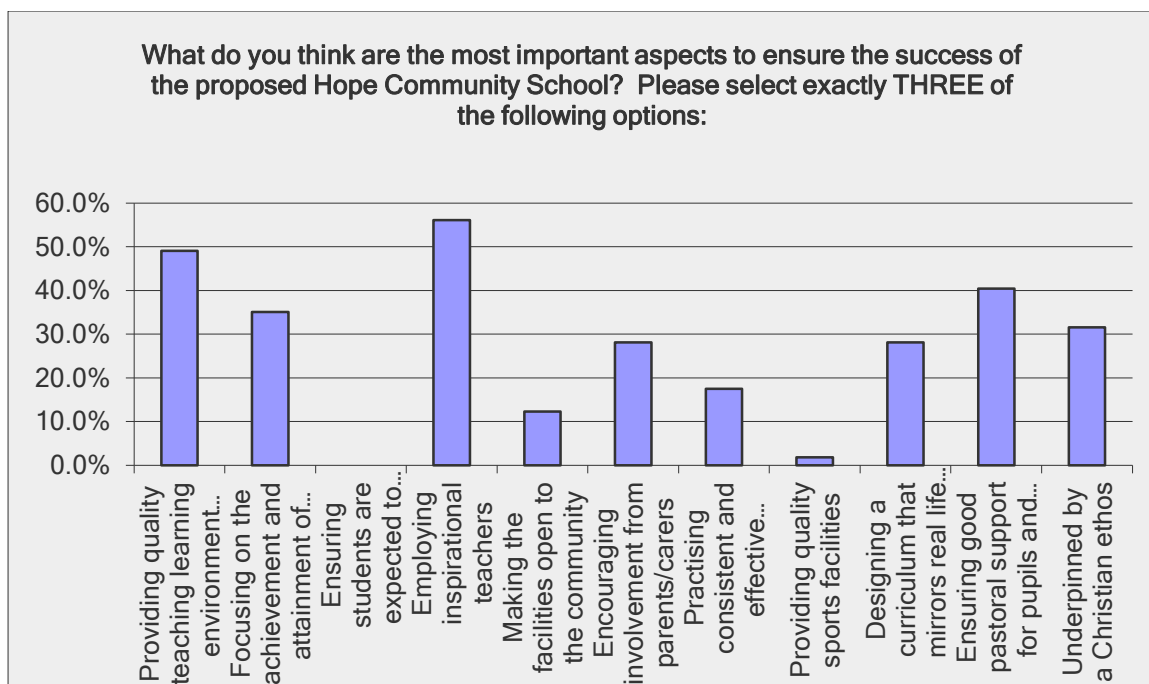
Question 28	Possible Answers Answered 57 Skipped 21	Number & % of respondents	
The proposed Hope Community School would have strong links with the wider community in the local area and share its resources. Which of the following facilities would you most be interested in using if they were to be offered at the Hope Community School site? Please select exactly THREE of the following options:	Community Learning	33	57.9%
	Room Hire	21	36.8%
	Healthcare	15	26.3%
	Childcare	17	29.8%
	Youth clubs	34	59.6%
	Internet Hub	8	14.0%
	Library	10	17.5%
	Out-of-school-hours clubs	28	49.1%
	Other (please specify)	5	8.8%

Five comments were submitted within the 'other' category.

- *I don't agree with any of above but cannot answer question otherwise and comment...that is biased research and very poor ethical research practice! I don't agree that we need an additional school and the slur on other local schools outlined in the pack as well as approaching local Principals and Vice Principals to work as Principal is immoral and not how we all work collectively'.*
- *If you look around, you will find that all of these facilities are currently on offer in and close to SO14.*
- *Provision of free debt and benefit advice.*
- *None of the above – but this wasn't an option!*
- *Pre-school*



<b>Question 29</b>	Possible Answers Answered 57 Skipped 21	Number & % of respondents	
What do you think are the most important aspects to ensure the success of the proposed Hope Community School? Please select exactly THREE of the following options.	Providing quality teaching learning environment resources	28	49.1%
	Focusing on the achievement and attainment of pupils	20	35.1%
	Ensuring students are expected to wear smart uniform	0	0.00%
	Employing inspirational teachers	32	56.1%
	Making the facilities open to the community	7	12.3%
	Encouraging involvement from parents/carers	16	28.1%
	Practising consistent and effective discipline	10	17.5%
	Providing quality sports facilities	1	1.8%
	Designing a curriculum that mirrors real life situations	16	28.1%
	Ensuring good pastoral support for pupils and their families	23	40.4%
	Underpinned by a Christian ethos	18	31.6%



**Question 30:** A number of comments were made on the consultation surveys returned, covering the following main topics:

**School facilities:** One respondent stated that *'Good sports and performing arts facilities are vital to any school, as are provision of out-of-school clubs etc. Your options included a library with internet access, borrowing facilities for books, music, films etc. Again, this should be a given, not just an option'*.

**Concerns about the school:** Three respondents expressed strong concerns about whether there is a need for another Primary School in Southampton as *the following statements convey. 'Two or three years ago there was a real shortage of primary places in Southampton, and a new community school might have filled the gap. Today there are sufficient places which means that an additional 60 places would create falling rolls elsewhere in the area'. Another school taking pupils away from our current schools is unnecessary and unwelcome'*.

One respondent expressed concern over the vagueness of the curriculum and questions remain unanswered as *'to specific subjects being taught and how some controversial issues that may clash with Christian ethos will be tackled'*. One respondent made it clear that they did not agree with how HCS is being set up and held concerns regarding the *'ethics and morals of the Academy Trust and the way that parents are being canvassed and questions asked are completely unethical. A number of parents have expressed huge concerns about the canvassing they are receiving and the pressure they feel under to answer questions when they are quite happy with the school their children attend'*.

Another respondent commented that it was *'very difficult to select exactly three most important points in last two questions as a number are equally important. I take it as a given that teachers should be inspirational. As well as concerned for pastoral care, the whole person and the wider family/community! Thank you for your attention'*.

**Support for school:** four respondents expressed their desire for HCS to open in September 2016 and that a new Primary School is needed due to the growing population in the city centre that will take place in the near future with a number of new housing developments planned.<sup>9</sup> Local families have made it known that a local school is needed in S014 where they can feel involved and part of the school community.

- *Exciting to see this develop in our city.*
- *Looking forward to seeing the new school opened!*

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<sup>9</sup> 59 new homes opening March 2016 behind Central Hall.  
500 new homes currently being built on the old 'fruit & veg market'. 0.5 miles from Central Hall.  
380 homes approved for building on Itchen Riverside. 0.7 miles from Central Hall.

## 6. Qualitative response from stakeholder meetings

- 6.1. As described above, in addition to the questionnaires, feedback and comments have been received from targeted stakeholder meetings.

The public consultation meetings listed in Section 4.2 were transcribed and a representation of the questions and answers is presented in the following table. (Please see Appendix 1 for Minutes)

- 6.2. **Table of questions and responses representative of those given at public consultation meetings**

Questions raised at Consultation events	Responses given to questions
When does the school day start and finish and will children be given homework?	<p><i>Response by David Ryan (Interim Principal)</i></p> <p><i>The school will operate a soft start and finish. Children can be dropped off between 8.30 – 9.00am and collected between 3.40 – 4.00pm. Children in Reception are collected between 3.00 – 3.30pm. Parents are encouraged to use these times if needed to meet with classroom teachers and other members of staff. Homework is called ‘Home Learning’ which is linked to classroom learning which helps to solidify what the child is learning and also to prepare them for what they will be learning.</i></p>
Will the building of the school have any impact on the children’s learning?	<p><i>Response by Paul Weston (Chair of the New Generation Schools Trust)</i></p> <p><i>The Education Funding Agency (EFA) have secured a temporary site to house HCS until the permanent site has been developed. The temporary site has excellent facilities and will provide the children with an excellent learning environment. The EFA are in advanced stages of securing the permanent site and as a Trust we are consistently reminding them that this is a serious area of concern for parents who are considering HCS for their child. PW assured everyone that as soon as we are able to communicate publicly about the site we will. The development of the permanent site will have no impact on the children’s learning or wellbeing. Being part of a school that is being built is an opportunity for learning</i></p>

	<p>and for example in Sidcup, construction was one of the initial learning themes. David Ryan explained that the permanent site will be a purpose built 2 FE state-of-the-art school.</p>
<p>What plans are in place to provide more outdoor space at the temporary and permanent sites?</p>	<p><i>Response by Paul Weston</i></p> <p>The Education Funding Agency (EFA) adheres to strict guidelines when opening a school in both the temporary and permanent sites which includes providing adequate outdoor spaces for learning.</p>
<p>Are there any plans to develop HCS into an all-through due to the lack of city centre secondary provision?</p>	<p><i>Response by Paul Weston, Billy Kennedy (Chair of Local Governing Body) and Mary Rouse (Project Director)</i></p> <p>There are no plans at present to develop HCS into an all-through school however if there is a real need then this could be considered and discussed with SCC and the DfE.</p>
<p>Do we teach a faith?</p>	<p><i>Response by Paul Weston, David Ryan and Mary Rouse</i></p> <p>HCS will be registered as a school of religious designation within the Christian faith. Underpinned by a Christian ethos, Hope Community School will build a community that will be built on the following principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote Christian values through class teaching, a daily collective act of worship and reflective spaces</li> <li>• an inclusive culture built on love and respect for all</li> <li>• place spiritual development at the core of all we do, believing it to be fundamental to other areas of learning</li> <li>• offer pastoral support through chaplaincy</li> <li>• have local church partnerships and links in the area with other faiths through SACRE and local multi-faith forums</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>include learning themes which are linked with Christian festivals</i></li> <li>• <i>offer opportunities for prayer; for the children to pray during Collective worship, before eating lunch, at other appropriate moments for reflection and for families to pray at regular prayer meetings</i></li> <li>• <i>Use the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>David Ryan explained that as a school with religious designation 20% of school places will be allocated to children from faith backgrounds if we are oversubscribed.</i></p>
<p>A lengthy discussion was held around the subject of faith and how HCS which promotes a Christian ethos would respect the different beliefs and practices of children who might attend HCS. Feedback was shared that this is a concern of some parents whose children attend other faith based schools particularly during times of Collective Worship. The point was made that the majority of faiths would agree and be supportive of the Christian values promoted by HCS and would work together to build on the commonalities and shared expression of faith. Would HCS make alternative provision for children of other faiths during times of Collective Worship, e.g. could an Islamic Imam be invited to lead an act of Collective worship at HCS?</p>	<p><i>Response by David Ryan</i></p> <p><i>David Ryan explained that Children can opt out of Collect Worship. HCS, Sidcup have children of all faiths and none and we respect their faith, practises and beliefs. As well as celebrating the major Christian festivals we also celebrate other religious festivals as part of the school life.</i></p> <p><i>Response by Paul Weston</i></p> <p><i>Part of the Free Schools mandate is to provide parents with a greater choice of schools for their children; this includes schools of religious designation, including Christian, Islamic, Jewish etc. HCS will be registered as a school of Religious Designation within the Christian faith and we have a responsibility to the Department for Education and to families to provide a school that is underpinned by a Christian ethos including acts of worship and reflective spaces (prayer room), offer opportunities for prayer; for the children to pray during collective worship, before eating lunch, at other appropriate moments for reflection.</i></p> <p><i>Response by Mary Rouse</i></p> <p><i>Running HCS, Sidcup has taught us a number of lessons with how to run a Christian ethos school which is inclusive of all faiths and none, e.g. use of language. The DfE (and we) want our schools to</i></p>

	<p><i>meet the spiritual needs of children not just provide an opportunity for children to 'opt out'.</i></p> <p><i>Response by Paul Woodman (local member of the Project Steering Group)</i></p> <p><i>HCS will be multi-faith school and we are working with other partners like CLEAR (whose aim is to improve the quality of life for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Southampton) and other partners to ensure that HCS reflects the local community in SO14. As a member of the Local Governing Body Paul Woodman highlighted that we are looking for a broad spectrum of governors to provide the school with independent challenge.</i></p> <p><i>It was noted that a stakeholder suggested that the word respect should be added to the schools values.</i></p>
<p>Where will HCS be built?</p>	<p><i>Response by Mary Rouse</i></p> <p><i>The Education Funding Agency (EFA) have secured a temporary site to house HCS until the permanent site has been developed. The temporary site has excellent facilities and will provide the children with an excellent learning environment for the first 2-3 years. The EFA are in advanced stages of securing the permanent site and as a Trust we are consistently reminding them that this is a serious area of concern for parents who are considering HCS for their child. Mary assured everyone that as soon as we are able to communicate publicly about the site we will. The development of the permanent site will have no impact on the children's learning or wellbeing. We would plan for there to be one move from the temporary to the permanent site and ideally this would happen at the end of a term, to ensure minimal disruption to the children.</i></p> <p><i>Response by Paul Weston</i></p> <p><i>When we started planning HCS Sidcup we had no building, previous Ofsted data or a</i></p>

	<p><i>Principal and so we were asking parents to take a risk by applying to HCS. Something special happened when the first cohort started. They were the Pioneers and adventurers who shared in the experience of shaping a new school. They were the first to start and the first to experience the new building, to use the equipment, classrooms etc. This has created a sense of real ownership of their school.</i></p> <p><i>Response by David Ryan</i></p> <p><i>HCS, Sidcup has been judged by Ofsted as good, with outstanding Behaviour and Safety. Year 1 Phonics results are already above the Local Authority and National average and so we are building up a positive picture of data.</i></p>
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- 6.3.** Meetings with stakeholders gave people the opportunity to explore the proposal in more detail, and ask questions to address any concerns they may have. Generally, the reaction from stakeholders in the local area is positive, although some concerns from the wider community were noted and should be mentioned:
- As SCC have increased the level of provision in existing schools is there a need for HCS.
  - Some concerns exist about the way the school has been marketed to local parents and carers.
  - Some concerns exist around the Principal recruitment and marketing campaign.
  - Some concerns existed around the Christian nature of the School, although great care was taken to explain the inclusive nature of HCS.



## 7. Conclusions

- 7.1. The results of the survey, taken together with the positive tone of the consultation meetings held with a diverse range of stakeholders have informed the view that whilst there are a small number of people with specific oppositions to the HCS proposal, generally people are in favour of the proposals and the vision of education and community that NGST have outlined.

However, in the spirit of genuine engagement and enquiry, NGST wishes to listen to those voices that expressed opposition, and where possible reduce this resistance by providing further information and responding to the requests for clarification or further information. Where opposition continues we remain resolute to our commitment to provide regular and open communication with all stakeholders.

Respondents showed that they are very much in favour of Hope Community School's following aims: to provide for children of all abilities, all faiths, and no faith; to be an establishment for the benefit of local families and children; employing inspirational teachers; focusing on the achievement and attainment of pupils; and providing a wide range of curricular and co-curricular activities.

The fundamental objective of the consultation process was to ascertain the level of support for the New Generation Schools Trust to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education to run the proposed Hope Community School. Although the number of responses received has been lower than anticipated the majority of these responses have been positive and are indicative of the enthusiasm in the community for the proposals. The 78 questionnaires returned has clearly demonstrated that 64% of respondents have confirmed that they support the proposal.

The consultation process has been invaluable in facilitating engagement with the community as a whole and with the wide array of stakeholders. We have also taken the opportunity to recognise and respond to some local opinions and concerns. The outcomes of engaging with the widest possible range of people will prove invaluable in future months and years when the Hope Community School team can build upon the relationships formed during this consultation phase.

## 8. Further Work

8.1 Moving forward, NGST is committed to the following:-

- 8.1.1 Evaluating and researching new ways to increase engagement in the S10 Consultation process, in order to elicit more responses and input into the process in future consultations.
- 8.1.2 Developing clear lines of communication with relevant stakeholders and keeping them informed of progress i.e. updating the website provided for all the community, setting up Participation Groups for parents/carers; meeting with local school leaders and community representatives; as well as conducting ongoing consultation – as we will always want to engage with our local community as the School opens and develops.
- 8.1.3 Researching and reviewing the key issues raised by the consultation, such as: including respect as a value of HCS, marketing of HCS, Principal recruitment, developments and news on permanent and temporary site arrangements for the school; responding to concerns over any faith-related issues; and the operation of the oversubscription criteria and possible inclusion of Service children into the school's Admissions Policy.

We are continuing to work with SCC & the DfE to ensure there is a need for the proposed HCS to open in September 2016.

- 8.1.4 Continuing to develop relationships with key local agencies, both statutory and voluntary.
- 8.1.5 Developing relationships with local schools and communicating the vision of the School to prospective parents and carers.
- 8.1.6 Developing links with local businesses,<sup>10</sup> charities and partners that may enrich the educational provision at HCS.

**Signed on behalf of New Generation Schools Trust Community Schools Trust**



**Paul Weston, Chair, New Generation Schools Trust  
February 2016**

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<sup>10</sup> A national Department Store chain has agreed a partnership with HCS and has a local representative on the schools Local Governing Body.

# Appendix 1

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING – MINUTES

**Date:** Tuesday 12 January 2016, 14.00 – 15.00pm

**Venue:** Orchard Lane Church, Orchard Lane, Southampton SO14 3BN

	Item	Summary
1.	<b>Welcome</b>	<p>Billy Kennedy, Chair of Local Governing Body, provided a warm welcome and explained the purpose of the meeting. NGST Leader Paul Weston and Interim Principal David Ryan were introduced.</p> <p>11 Adults and 6 Children were in attendance.</p>
2.	<b>NGST Vision &amp; Ethos</b>	<p>Paul Weston gave a short presentation explaining the vision and ethos of the trust and the distinct features of Hope Community School including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adventure</li> <li>• Openness</li> <li>• Christian spirituality and values</li> <li>• Creativity</li> <li>• Excellence</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Teaching &amp; Learning</b>	<p>David Ryan provided an outline summary of Hope Community School's educational vision and core priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Values led curriculum</li> <li>• Community school</li> <li>• Creative project based approach</li> <li>• It's all about the children</li> <li>• All children to progress and achieve</li> <li>• Promotion of leadership skills and entrepreneurial spirit</li> <li>• Qualified teachers</li> <li>• High expectations</li> <li>• Focus on classroom practice</li> <li>• Continuing professional development</li> <li>• Coaching</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	<p>Billy Kennedy thanked people for attending and invited people to share their opinions and to ask any questions related to HCS to the panel. (David Ryan, Paul Weston, Mary Rouse (Project Director).</p> <p>There were several positive comments made about the planned HCS.</p>

**Q: When does the school day start and finish and will children be given homework?**

*Response by David Ryan*

A: The school will operate a soft start and finish. Children can be dropped off between 8.30 – 9.00am and collected between 3.40 – 4.00pm. Children in Reception are collected between 3.00 – 3.30pm. Parents are encouraged to use these times if needed to meet with classroom teachers and other members of staff. Homework is called 'Home Learning' which is linked to classroom learning which helps to solidify what the child is learning and also to prepare them for what they will be learning.

**Q: Will the building of the school have any impact on the children's learning?**

*Response by Paul Weston*

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) have secured a temporary site to house HCS until the permanent site has been developed. The temporary site has excellent facilities and will provide the children with an excellent learning environment. The EFA are in advanced stages of securing the permanent site and as a Trust we are consistently reminding them that this is a serious area of concern for parents who are considering HCS for their child. PW assured everyone that as soon as we are able to communicate publicly about the site we will. The development of the permanent site will have no impact on the children's learning or wellbeing. Being part of a school that is being built is an opportunity for learning and for example in Sidcup, construction was one of the initial learning themes. David Ryan explained that the permanent site will be a purpose built 2 FE state-of-the-art school.

**Q: What plans are in place to provide more outdoor space at the temporary and permanent sites?**

*Response by Paul Weston*

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) adheres to strict guidelines when opening a school in both temporary and permanent sites which includes providing adequate outdoor spaces for learning.

**Q: Are there any plans to develop HCS into an all-through due to the lack of city centre secondary provision?**

*Response by Paul Weston, Billy Kennedy and Mary Rouse*

There are no plans at present to develop HCS into an all-through school however if there is a real need then this could be

		<p>considered and discussed with SCC and the DfE.</p> <p><b>Q: Do we teach a faith?</b></p> <p><i>Response by Paul Weston, David Ryan and Mary Rouse</i></p> <p>HCS will be registered as a school of religious designation within the Christian faith. Underpinned by a Christian ethos, Hope Community School will build a community that will be built on the following principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote Christian values through class teaching, a daily collective act of worship and reflective spaces</li> <li>• an inclusive culture built on love and respect for all</li> <li>• place spiritual development at the core of all we do, believing it to be fundamental to other areas of learning</li> <li>• offer pastoral support through chaplaincy</li> <li>• have local church partnerships and links in the area with other faiths through SACRE and local multi-faith forums</li> <li>• include learning themes which are linked with Christian festivals</li> <li>• offer opportunities for prayer; for the children to pray during Collective worship, before eating lunch, at other appropriate moments for reflection and for families to pray at regular prayer meetings</li> <li>• use the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.</li> </ul> <p>David Ryan explained that as a school with religious designation 20% of school places will be allocated to children from faith backgrounds if we are oversubscribed.</p>
5.	<b>Close</b>	<p>Billy Kennedy formally closed the meeting and encouraged people to complete the questionnaire and ask any further questions of staff present.</p>

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING – MINUTES

**Date:** Tuesday 26 January 2016, 19.00 – 20.00pm

**Venue:** Orchard Lane Church, Orchard Lane, Southampton SO14 3BN

	Item	Summary
1.	<b>Welcome</b>	<p>Paul Woodman, local member of the Project Steering Group, provided a warm welcome. Apologies were offered to Billy Kennedy Chair of Local Governing Body who was unable to attend. Mary Rouse, Project Director explained the purpose and context of the meeting. NGST Leader Paul Weston and Interim Principal David Ryan were introduced.</p> <p>7 Adults and 2 Children were in attendance.</p>
2.	<b>NGST Vision &amp; Ethos</b>	<p>Paul Weston gave a short presentation explaining the vision and ethos of the Trust and the distinct features of Hope Community School including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adventure</li> <li>• Openness</li> <li>• Christian spirituality and values</li> <li>• Creativity</li> <li>• Excellence</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Teaching &amp; Learning</b>	<p>David Ryan provided an outline summary of Hope Community School's educational vision and core priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Values led curriculum</li> <li>• Community school</li> <li>• Creative project based approach</li> <li>• It's all about the children</li> <li>• All children to progress and achieve</li> <li>• Promotion of leadership skills and entrepreneurial spirit</li> <li>• Qualified teachers</li> <li>• Teaching the National Curriculum</li> <li>• High expectations</li> <li>• Focus on classroom practice</li> <li>• Continuing professional development</li> <li>• Coaching</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	<p>Paul Woodman invited people to share their opinions and to ask any questions related to HCS to the panel. (David Ryan, Paul Weston, Mary Rouse)</p> <p><i>David Ryan provided further information about the school day.</i></p> <p>The school will operate a soft start and finish. Children can be dropped off between 8.30 – 9.00am and collected between 3.30 – 4.00pm. Children in reception are collected between 3.00 – 3.30pm. Parents are encouraged to use these times if needed to</p>

		<p>meet with classroom teachers and other members of staff.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion was held around the subject of faith and how HCS which promotes a Christian ethos would respect the different beliefs and practices of children who might attend HCS. Feedback was shared that this is a concern of some parents whose children attend other faith based schools particularly during times of Collective Worship. The point was made that the majority of faiths would agree and be supportive of the Christian values promoted by HCS and would work together to build on the commonalities and shared expression of faith. Would HCS make alternative provision for children of other faiths during times of Collective Worship, e.g. could an Islamic Imam be invited to lead an act of Collective worship at HCS?</p> <p><i>Response by David Ryan</i></p> <p>David Ryan explained that Children can opt out of Collect Worship. HCS, Sidcup have children of all faiths and none and we respect their faith, practises and beliefs. As well as celebrating the major Christian festivals we also celebrate other religious festivals as part of the school life.</p> <p><i>Response by Paul Weston</i></p> <p>Part of the Free Schools mandate is to provide parents with a greater choice of schools for their children; this includes schools of religious designation, including Christian, Islamic, Jewish etc. HCS will be registered as a school of religious designation within the Christian faith and we have a responsibility to the Department for Education and to families to provide a school that is underpinned by a Christian ethos including acts of worship and reflective spaces (prayer room), offer opportunities for prayer; for the children to pray during Collective worship, before eating lunch, at other appropriate moments for reflection.</p> <p><i>Response by Mary Rouse</i></p> <p>Running HCS, Sidcup has taught us a number of lessons with how to run a Christian ethos school which is inclusive of all faiths and none, e.g. use of language. The DfE (and we) want our schools to meet the spiritual needs of children not just provide an opportunity for children to 'opt out'.</p> <p><i>Response by Paul Woodman</i></p> <p>HCS will be multi-faith school and we are working with other partners like CLEAR (whose aim is to improve the quality of life for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Southampton) and other partners to ensure that HCS reflects the local community in SO14. As a member of the Local Governing Body Paul highlighted that we are looking for a broad spectrum of governors to provide the school with independent challenge.</p>
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		<p>It was noted that a stakeholder suggested that the word respect should be added to the schools values.</p> <p><b>Q: Where will HCS be built?</b></p> <p><i>Response by Mary Rouse</i></p> <p>The Education Funding Agency (EFA) have secured a temporary site to house HCS until the permanent site has been developed. The temporary site has excellent facilities and will provide the children with an excellent learning environment for the first 2-3 years. The EFA are in advanced stages of securing the permanent site and as a Trust we are consistently reminding them that this is a serious area of concern for parents who are considering HCS for their child. Mary assured everyone that as soon as we are able to communicate publicly about the site we will. The development of the permanent site will have no impact on the children’s learning or wellbeing.</p> <p><i>Response by Paul Weston</i></p> <p>When we started planning HCS Sidcup we had no building, previous Ofsted data or a Principal and so we were asking parents to take a risk by applying to HCS. Something special happened when the first cohort started. They were the Pioneers and adventurers who shared in the experience of shaping a new school. They were the first to start and the first to experience the new building, to use the equipment, classrooms etc. This has created a sense of real ownership of their school.</p> <p><i>Response by David Ryan</i></p> <p>HCS, Sidcup has been judged by Ofsted as good, with outstanding Behaviour and Safety. Year 1 Phonics results are already above the Local Authority and National average and so we are building up a positive picture of data.</p>
5.	Close	Paul Woodman formally closed the meeting and encouraged people to complete the online or hard copy questionnaire and to stay behind and ask any further questions of staff present.



## Appendix 2

### Survey Introduction

New Generation Schools Trust is the sponsor of **Hope Community School, Southampton**. It already sponsors Hope Community School, Sidcup a Free School that opened successfully in September 2013.

As part of its formal responsibilities, the New Generation Schools Trust is required to consult with parents and carers, as well as the local community and other key stakeholders. This consultation process is being undertaken from Monday **January 4th** and will end on Sunday **February 14th**.

New Generation Schools Trust schools put children first, developing well-rounded, confident and thoughtful young people who care about their community and are well prepared for a life of learning. Recognising the important role that parents and carers play in their child's learning, we aim to involve families at every step along the way, in order to accelerate the child's development and enrich their family life.

We also recognise that it takes a whole community to raise a child. To this end, we look forward to engaging with and equipping local residents, leaders and groups to invest in the lives of children and families, and by doing so ensure that Hope Community School remains at the heart of the community.

The proposed Hope Community School will open in September 2016, welcoming our first group of 60 children into our two Reception classes. The school will serve families in S014 - Southampton City centre.

Some of the key features that will characterise this new school will include:

- *All learning will reflect the importance of developing the whole child*
- *Teaching and Learning will be driven by high expectation.*
- *High academic achievement for our pupils to raise aspirations and realise their potential.*
- *Excellent academic outcomes by the end of key stages in English and Mathematics.*
- *Building on the EYFS Framework and the National Curriculum, the curriculum will be further enhanced by Project Based Learning that maximises cross-curricular links.*
- *The development of an active partnership with parents and carers, working together in their child's education.*
- *A focus on community and business engagement, entrepreneurship and learning outside of the classroom to further enhance the curriculum, as well as the maintaining of a strong focus on English, Maths and Science.*
- *The teaching of Mandarin as a Modern Foreign Language.*
- *A longer school day in addition to optional enrichment activities such as co-curricular clubs, such as reading club, and sport and music clubs and breakfast club.*
- *Strategic support and resources provided by Hope Community School, Sidcup to enrich the whole educational experience of our children.*
- *The ethos of our school is based around developing adventure, openness, creativity, excellence and values in our children.*
- *A school of Christian designation, outworked by a Christian ethos, welcoming families of all faiths and none.*

In our bid to develop a child-centred, family focused and community-minded school, we are pleased to have this opportunity to consult widely with local residents and groups and, in so doing, begin the work of engaging the wider community in exciting conversations about the future of Hope Community School.

The following questionnaire aims to gather views on plans for Hope Community School. We would love to know what you think about our proposals and are consulting with all potential parents and carers as well as the wider community.

Your view is important to us and we welcome your response. Please help us by answering the following questions as appropriate and do feel free to add additional comments in the space provided. Alternatively, you can email your comments to **consultation@hopecommunityschool**.