

Appendix 5: Penn Hall School – Summary of Meeting (Penn Hall School’s School Council)

<u>Consultation – School Council Meeting Summary</u>	
Nature of Consultation:	Proposed Changes to Penn Hall School
Date:	20 June 2018
Time:	14:30
Location:	Penn Hall School
Officers in Attendance:	Tom Knott, SEND Commissioning Officer (TK) Nicola Harris, SEND Support Officer (NH)
Number of School Councillors in attendance:	12

Summary of Meeting

- TK explained the background to the proposal and provided details of the proposed capital investment.
- TK welcomed comments and queries from the School Councillors.

The following questions and comments were raised by School Councillors:

- School Councillors said there had been mixed views on the proposals from pupils throughout the school, but many felt it was a good idea as it would mean more friends and more fun.

- The School Council felt the changes would be beneficial to current students who would gain a wider understanding of disabilities.
- School councillors had concerns about resources and felt more equipment, tables, staff and transport would be required.
- A School Councillor believed that the increase in pupils would create the need for a further lift.
- A School Councillor raised concerns regarding the loss of space within the school and the need for room for equipment to be managed.
- It was generally felt that the increased funding for the school would be beneficial.
- School Councillors were worried that the school may lose its identity as a 'good school for children and young people with physical disabilities'.
- School Councillors were concerned that the increase in students and change of designation may increase pressures on school staff.
- School Council thought that existing staff would require extra training to manage the proposed changes and to look after children in a safe and controlled way.
- School Councillors shared concerns that the additional children may be distracting for the existing pupils.
- The School Councillors advised that the proposed changes would make the school better.
- A School Councillor shared the idea of using the top floor of the current residency block for classroom space as there are 3 unused rooms.
- There were concerns from School Council that the proposed changes could lead to a loss of independence for the current pupils, if they were unable to navigate the building as they can now.