

## **Appendix 1 – Feedback from the consultation on the proposal to close the residential unit at Fountaindale Special School**

The on-line consultation was held between the 22 September and 3 November 2020. The consultation is available via the below link:

(<https://consult.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schools/consultation-on-proposal-to-close-of-the-residenti>)

A total of 75 responses were received in response to the consultation. The breakdown of feedback submitted to the following question is shown below in table 1:

**Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close the residential unit at Fountaindale Special School, Nottingham Road, Harlow Wood, Mansfield NG18 5BA?**

**Table 1 – (74 responses)**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Agree</b>	4	4.9%
<b>Disagree</b>	75	92.6%
<b>Don't Know</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Not Answered</b>	2	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	81	100.0%

The breakdown of responders to the consultation is shown in table 2 below:

**Table 2 – (please note that several respondents have placed themselves in more than one of the categories)**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Parent / Carer</b>	34	40.9%
<b>Governor</b>	1	1.2%
<b>Member of Staff</b>	16	19.3%
<b>Pupil</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Other</b>	32	38.6%
<b>Total</b>	83	100.0%

72 of the respondents provided further feedback comments to support their answer to the question: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close of the residential unit at Fountaindale Special School?

There were several key themes in the responses that were submitted. These are summarised below including some quotes from the responses.

### **Promoting self-help and independence**

Many respondents felt that the unit provided a very good opportunity to develop the skills of self-help and greater independence for the students attending Fountaindale Special School. **(23 responses)**

*"Excellent opportunity for our children to transition before leaving Fountaindale and to promote self-help and independence".*

### **Respite care for families**

Several families acknowledged the benefit of the unit providing respite care for their families. **(16 responses)**

*"Gives so many families a chance for some much-needed rest and to recharge with siblings".*

### **Opportunity to spend time with school peers**

Some respondents highlighted the opportunity to spend time with friends. **(11 responses)**

*"Facility gives children the opportunity to experience things like sleep overs and time spent with friends".*

### **Lack of opportunities for young people with disabilities**

Respondents raised concerns/ or the issue that young people with complex educational needs have limited opportunities. **(19 responses)**

*"Please don't take yet another thing away from children with additional needs".*

### **Value for money of the residential unit**

A couple of respondents queried the value for money of the residential unit. **(3 responses)**

*"Costs involved running the unit out weigh the benefit of the unit to the families, which can be done at home or elsewhere".*



**Feedback from the public meeting held on 13 October 2020**

The meeting was attended by ten people. comprised of; three parents, one Governor and six school staff.

There were also several questions raised by attendees at the public meeting. These covered the following key areas:

- What are the criteria being used by the County Council to close the residential unit?
- Will alternative places on short breaks be funded?
- Could parents / carers use their short breaks funding to pay for the residential unit?
- The facility is unique to Fountaindale Special School
- Ease with transitions in the future.