

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 24/2117/VRC

Address: Hampton Pre-Prep And Prep School Gloucester Road Hampton TW12 2UQ

Proposal: Variation of planning approval 13/2102/FUL - Condition Number(s): 13 (U67172) - Restriction on pupil numbers to allow to increase pupil numbers from 144 to 176.

Comments Made By

Name: Mr. Asha Rani

Address: 67A Gloucester Road Hampton TW12 2UQ

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: I am writing to formally object to the proposed increase in the number of students. This increase will have significant negative impacts on myself and other local residents for several reasons:

- 1. Traffic and Congestion:** The roads around the school are already extremely busy during drop-off and pick-up times, frequently causing gridlock and tailbacks stretching to roads off Gloucester Road. The current volume of traffic makes it difficult for residents to travel.
- 2. Inconsiderate and Illegal Parking:** Many parents park inconsiderately, blocking driveways, parking on corners, kerbs, and yellow hatched markings outside the school. They often idle in their cars, increasing air pollution, and some perform dangerous three-point turns in private driveways.
- 3. Hostile Behaviour from Parents:** Some parents have been hostile, rude, and obnoxious. Local residents have faced verbal abuse and aggressive actions when attempting to address issues caused by poor parking and driving practices, further straining relations between the school and residents.
- 4. Inadequate Parking and Facilities:** The lack of adequate parking, turning, and loading facilities on quiet residential roads would worsen with more students, leading to more illegal parking and congestion.
- 5. Noise and Pollution:** Increased traffic has already led to higher noise levels and air pollution, negatively affecting residents' quality of life. Additional idling cars would worsen this.
- 6. Safety Concerns:** There have been numerous near-miss incidents involving children due to the heavy traffic and dangerous driving behaviours in the area. More students and staff would increase the risk of potentially fatal accidents.
- 7. Impact on Community Relations:** The proposal would further strain the already tense relationship between the school and local residents. The school appears more focused on increasing revenue than addressing legitimate concerns. Despite repeated complaints, the school has done little to address these issues.
- 8. Long-Term Expansion Goals:** The school's original plans to expand were designed to accommodate more pupils, and it appears to be achieving this by submitting incremental applications, avoiding full transparency and proper consultation.
- 9. Disingenuous Projections:** The school's claim that increasing student numbers by 32 would only add 17-18 cars is highly questionable. Observations show most cars dropping off students carry only one pupil.
- 10. Monopolisation of Local Facilities:** The current number of students already monopolises local amenities, such as

Carlisle Park, which they use for sports, leaving little access for the community.

11. Broken Promises of Expansion by Stealth: The school has a history of obtaining planning permissions based on certain undertakings and subsequently failing to adhere to them, leading to a pattern of expansion by stealth.

Given these points, I urge the council to reject this proposal. The increase in student numbers will significantly impact traffic, safety, local amenities, and community relations.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that the concerns of local residents will be taken into account.