

APPENDIX A

Written Responses in the Consultation Period on the future of the boarding provision at The St Francis Special School

Point of View	Other comments/Notes
Parent/Carer	My child has benefitted hugely from residential. Learnt independent skills; undressing, holding a mirror/brush. Can now express feelings and can communicate when hungry, needs medication and toys. Happiest I've seen her when back from residential. Please keep it open.
Parent/Carer	Deeply concerned if removed completely. Offers an experience and excitement level that children with disabilities don't get compared to able children. A massive activity. Short breaks may be useful if it is not family based. Rare these children spend extra curricular time together, residential allows for a more conventional childhood.
Parent/Carer	Dismayed residential is at risk, tantamount to my child's development. Would lose the chance to develop confidence in living independently and learning self-care. Most pupils are extremely vulnerable living sheltered lives. Residential opens up their world, they're able to sleep away from home in a safe, fun environment with peers (like any normal child). Residential was one reason we chose this school. There is a waiting list, opening it to others would mean our St Francis pupils would have less chance of using the provision. Closing during Covid has had a detrimental effect on pupils (especially senior), important it is opened asap. The facility is a fundamental need and incredibly important for development. This is not the way to cut costs. Depriving vulnerable children will create further problems.
Parent/Carer	Residential is a vital, key reason I chose school. Priority should be for St Francis pupils. Chance to spend time away home in a familiar environment, gives independence, prepares for adulthood, improves quality of life and development. Children are vulnerable and only this specialist provision can provide what they need. Whilst closed it is a waste of valuable resource.
Teacher/School Staff	Facility is a tremendous asset, Ofsted rated outstanding for many years. Students excel, gain confidence, resilience, independence and social skills with support of staff who consider themselves the residential family. It is the heart of St Francis and makes it unique. Families use facility at times of desperation. Please reconsider, don't make St Francis just another school, don't take the heart away.
Parent/Carer	Amazing school, enabled my son to achieve his potential. Dedicated staff who show passion and love. Concerned and upset about proposal. Wonderful opportunity to learn independent skills and spend time with peers. Importance is immeasurable. Not all students meet criteria to attend other settings (Strut House style), including students from disadvantaged backgrounds. For residential staff their jobs are a vocation, with many years dedicated making it where students look forward to attending. Activities give pupils opportunities that most able bodied students take for granted. Residential is empty due to lockdown, not because there isn't a need. Worrying and upsetting to suggest money could be better placed or to offer more students from other areas when there's a waiting list. My son has been on the waiting list for many years and this new 'adventure' was very exciting for him. Unless decision makers are in parents' shoes no matter what people say, it will ever truly express how this feels or how important this is. The staff have been in tears and beyond upset. Residential is crucial and wonderful.
Parent/Carer	Consultation letter was misleading suggesting residential provision is suspended and the number of pupils affected is nil. Could give impression the facility closed due to lack of demand. There is a waiting list and closure is due to Covid-19, there is no reason demand for the facility would not return. When boarding our son made huge progress in socialisation and independence skills. When children attend school far away they become isolated at home. Boarding redresses isolation. Lack of residential on a long term basis will be detrimental to our child. There is continuity as the boarding facility is staffed on a rota basis from the main school. Short breaks provision implies it would benefit parents whereas the existing boarding facility is based on educational principles to benefit the child (providing parents a break is a by-product). We hope Covid-19 improves, it is unrealistic to suppose that it will be eliminated in the near future. If boarding reopens it would be prudent to draw users from the school rather than outside, minimising the possibility of the virus spread.
Other School	Fully support the proposal, knowing the need for alternative short breaks provision for young people with additional needs.
Other	No objections to this proposal to explore the long term future of the boarding provision for St Francis Special School.

Other	Understand the reason and how short break provision can be provided. Concern about capacity and if other provisions could support the additional requests. Pupils need to be open to social care to enable them to access overnight short breaks, some families would not want this. A lot board due to the travel and mileage, has additional LCC transportation costs been taken into consideration?
Parent/Carer	My child has used residential for many years and loves the time with friends and staff. It is a vital time for them to independently go out for tea/shopping, most don't get this opportunity at home. It's a break for parents or to spend time with other children. I also see how it would benefit other families to have that respite.
Parent/Carer	Valuable service. After boarding my child was moved to post 16 from main school as she enjoyed the company of her peers. They can be so different in other surroundings. If she had not experienced residential she wouldn't have moved to post 16. Many other young people may slip through. Staff are caring & professional. Easy to trust them and to allow them to care for my daughter - not sure I would feel like that about every organisation. This is a cost cutting exercise, not about people and real lives. Rethink how important this service is to our young people, it gives them an opportunity to move forward but instead it seems you have made up your minds playing with peoples lives. I would pay towards having this service and level of staff that was available. Benefits you cannot put a price on.
Parent/Carer	Great shame to withdraw provision. My daughter and I were looking forward to her staying, it was one of the main reasons we chose the school. It is a great opportunity for independence and a chance at social outings.
Other	Support the closure as part of the on-going developments to Special school education in Lincolnshire.
Teacher/School Staff	Governing Body have made a serious decision in one meeting without consultation with residential staff, senior management team, school staff and importantly the business manager/finance. Have not been given a say on at least expanding the provision further to incorporate social care provision over a 50 week period. High number of boarders access Strut House, if St Francis offered social care element it would free up Strut House to incorporate a wider client base. Why is the closure not in the five year plan? Staff are open to change as we evolve yearly.
Teacher/School Staff	Closure of residential would be wrong and so sad. Letter states that independence is covered in the curriculum. Where can young people access the independent living, choosing outings/meals, cooking and sharing this with peers? Whilst St Francis pupils are using this facility they are not using the other resources, freeing spaces for others. Surely these facilities can be run along side each other. You state the other school didn't have residential. Let St Francis be different and stand out.
Pupil	I am very confused and sad. Residential is like one big family to me.
Pupil	It was really good and the staff kind and helpful. It would not be right if it turns into anything else. It would feel weird not being able to stay there.
Pupil	Residential makes me happy.
Pupil	More students in it and new students to start.
Pupil	Residential makes me happy. I miss seeing my friends and staff in residential.
Pupil	Makes me sad that residential might not open again. I am excited when I am in residential.
Pupil	I am happy in residential. I enjoyed spending time there.
Pupil	I like night times in residential and I like the staff. It would be very bad if it turned into something else. I would very much miss my time that I spend in residential with my friends and the staff, it would make me sad.
Pupil	Residential is good. (Thumbs up).
Pupil	I don't want residential to close. I like spending time with other people, because I already know them.
Pupil	I would be angry and annoyed if I couldn't go to residential again.
Pupil	It'll be sad if new kids come and can't board, because boarding helps their independence grow ready for living on your own. I'd be happy if it reopened. You'll be able to make new friends.
Pupil	I wish I could go to residential because I think it could be helpful for me.
Pupil	I was looking forward to boarding. I don't like change but this was something I wanted to do, so when I get a house of my own it would be really good practice. It sounded perfect for me and now I can't go.
Pupil	I was looking forward to sleeping here. I am disappointed I can't do that at the minute.
Pupil	It's a massive shame that people won't be able to go and do their residential again. It would be a big shame for all the people that wanted to board and won't experience it now.

Pupil	I wanted to go to residential. Residential is good.
Pupil	I would be upset about it. I was looking forward to spending time with my friends there.
Pupil	When I'm 18 I am starting the process of moving out, but I am missing out on this opportunity of learning how to live by myself if I can't go to residential. I don't like change and would feel more comfortable to do it at school.
Pupil	I am upset that I can't board. I wanted to go with my friends.
Pupil	Some people would miss it and some people would like to do it. I know most people that do it have a smile and it would be sad if people didn't experience residential.
Pupil	I would've liked the chance to board to build up my independence skills.
Other	Seen first hand how much the pupils improve in many ways in residential. Pupils gain confidence & spend time with their peers socially. Families see the independence of their children grow. Parents and children get the break they need both mentally and physically. Many families only get a break through residential. Never heard a bad thing said about residential. Staff work hard to ensure pupils become independent and flourish. Staff are dedicated and strive to give the pupils the best. Closing residential will impact on many families and staff.
Teacher/School Staff	Residential is vitally important to St Francis. Students are involved in the thinking process of international nights and what they would like for their tea. All part of their independent learning/living, they experience new cuisine that they may not have outside school. A good cooked meal and breakfast is important to their overall well being. Not only that but they get to participate in outdoor visits, sports and games etc. It greatly stimulates their senses and provides joy.
Teacher/School Staff	Great shame to lose provision. Students enjoyed attending, while growing and learning as individuals. Being part of the school enables students to get to know the residential area and staff before attending which is invaluable. Attending with other students they already know is something that is not available in other provisions. Boarding gives students a home from home experience with the support to build independence skills ready for the next stage of their life, not just a respite/short break experience. These fundamental opportunities would be lost.
Teacher/School Staff	Upset by the proposal, it is an essential amenity and jobs will be lost. Residential gives much needed respite and opportunities that the children may not otherwise get. I believe that the closure of this service will cause a negative impact on lives.
Teacher/School Staff	This school and its ethos have given me a passion for SEN. Residential is a 'golden nugget', offers educational benefits and pupils gain confidence socially. An opportunity to gain independence in a safe and familiar environment. Would be a massive loss to current and future students. Teamwork between school and residential staff allows students to thrive. Why get rid of something that is of such a benefit to the young people we all care and want the best for?
Teacher/School Staff	Some pupils have a shorter life expectancy, may be their only chance to experience independent living. Many students grow confidence at residential and develop friendships which grow in school time. Students are familiar with the surroundings and staff due to the link between school and residential. Don't take these opportunities away to then use it for something else that you think is better option. So many parents and families have had a happier life from having residential. With careful consideration to the layout you can surely up the numbers at residential.
Teacher/School Staff	Closing residential would have a negative impact on students. Students access the provision and the progress they make during their is phenomenal. They learn the independence skills required to live away from home and how to socialise which builds confidence. The highlight are their days when they are staying at residential. One pupil who is anxious about meeting new people and experiencing new environments really blossom during his first rotation last year.
Teacher/School Staff	I have seen how much residential brings to the students. Many children count down until they are able to stay and talk about it in the lead up. Concerned that some of these children may not be eligible for a place in another short stay break facility. Or that the new place will not allow them to have the same experiences or independence. Is there a plan in place to allow for these children who at times see residential as a lifeline to be given the same amount of time in another suitable facility?

