

## **Amalgamation King's Wood Infant and Junior Schools**

### **Introduction**

This paper forms the response by the Governors of King's Wood Infant School to the Report to the Cabinet Member for Schools Reference S33/01 and is to be read in conjunction with the previous representation submitted following publication of Report S31/01. This is attached.

### **Site issues**

The issues surrounding the choice of site have been covered in the previous representation. Suffice to say that the governors still believe the infant school site presents greater advantages over the junior school in terms of the ease of development and construction and the overall learning environment for all children regardless of their learning needs and abilities.

### **Resource implications**

This section of the report is completely biased towards the junior school and makes no mention as to the requirements needed to upgrade and remodel the infant school. How then, can an impartial and informed decision be made without the full facts being presented?

As has been mentioned in the previous representation that, without a detailed feasibility study, the true cost of developing either site cannot be determined. Although in this latest report some figures are presented in relation to unit costs for remodelling and new build, these have not been further quantified nor have the costs of other works e.g. adaptations for disabled access, car park extensions, set down/pick up points been identified. Such extensive work would have a significant bearing upon the development costs of the junior school and therefore should be presented in the report in order that a true and informed comparison of the two sites can be made. In addition to this, such information relating to the infant school should also be published.

### **Amalgamation Date**

The issues surrounding the date of amalgamation have previously been presented. An amalgamation at Easter is of major concern to the governors of the infant school and we feel that the full ramifications of such a decision have not been presented in the report nor fully thought out.

The original date of September for amalgamation made sense for a number of reasons as has been alluded to in the previous representation and was agreed by both Governing Bodies. However, we do not believe that any benefits that are gained by bringing forward the date by one term outweigh the disruption and harm to the children's education that could ensue. The impact upon a child's education at such a time has to be the deciding factor over any benefits gained in speeding along the process or the convenience of amalgamating at the beginning of a financial year.

The Easter date for amalgamation has been imposed upon the schools without any prior consultation with governing bodies nor sufficient time allowed for this to be adequately discussed. Therefore, although the Governing Body continues to support the principle of amalgamation, it would have difficulty in supporting an Easter date.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the governors of the infant school believe that the infant school provides the best choice for the new combined school and that the amalgamation date should remain as September 2002.

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