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Buckinghamshire County Council

Head of School Organisation David Ayres

County Hall • Aylesbury • Buckinghamshire • HP20 1UZ

www.buckscc.gov.uk

Mr I Snudden
Acting Chairman of Governors
King's Wood Infant School
302 Totteridge Road
High Wycombe
Bucks
HP13 7LW

Contact David Ayres
Direct line 01296 383527
Ref DA-PH
Fax 01296 382670
E-mail dayres@buckscc.gov.uk
Date 23 November 2001

Dear Mr Snudden

KING'S WOOD INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL AMALGAMATION

Thank you for your letter of 20 November 2001 in which you set out a number of key issues as far as the governors of the Infant School are concerned. I will address them in turn.

Key Issue 1

The Council's brief to the architects who will be carrying out the full feasibility study includes as a fundamental requirement that movement of disabled pupils on the Junior School site should not be hindered as is currently the case because of existing changes in level. Early indications both from the Council's Property Maintenance architects and from our consulting architects is that this should be possible, although we do not have the detail at this stage

Key Issue 2

Again, the need for accessibility to young children has also been included as part of the brief and because this sort of provision has been successfully included elsewhere, I have no particular concerns that this aspect of the design should be problematic. The architects are using the County Council's standard briefs with respect to nursery provision and combined school provision and will be very familiar with what is required. It should be noted, however, that within the briefing while there is provision for nursery/early years facilities, there will not be a specific requirement for accommodation to be used by PAFT. The use of the facilities provided will be the responsibility of the governing body and the headteacher.

Key Issue 3

There will be an increase in the amount of car parking provision available which is generally provided on the basis of one car parking space for every full-time equivalent of staff. The point about the separation of vehicular traffic and pedestrians is well made and is taken. I confirm that this is already part of the brief.

Key Issue 4

The Safer Routes to School Team will be working with staff, governors, parents and pupils in order to bring together a School Travel Plan which is a necessary condition for planning approval. While this is largely to do with the means by which pupils arrive and depart at school, along with curricular implications arising from this area, there will also be a detailed consideration of vehicle and passenger movements and how pick-up and drop-off facilities can be made safe and convenient.



Key Issue 5

The security of the new combined school site is part of the brief which is given to the architects. I am not aware of any particular difficulties to do with safety and security at the junior school site. Consideration will be given to this and it may be that additional measures are required for the younger children. You will also note that there are proposals for the re-siting of the infant school gates and possibly this could be an element in helping the new combined school site to become more secure.

Key Issue 6

There will be some loss of external space due to increasing the building volume but, all the indications are at this stage that this will be kept to a minimum and will be confined largely to the footprint of the built area of the school. Accordingly, there should be no more than a very small loss of playing field space, if any at all. Until the detail of the feasibility studies have been carried out, it is not possible to answer this question in any more detail.

Key Issue 7

As in previous amalgamations of primary schools, the governing bodies of both schools will be kept informed and will be involved in the design process.

Key Issue 8

The Statutory Notices failed to mention the provision of parents as first teachers because this relates to a use of the school which will have to be negotiated between PFT and the governing body. There is no specific mention of nursery because the LEA does not propose to establish a nursery class, simply to provide the physical space and facilities so that there is an opportunity for the school to develop such provision, possibly in partnership with an outside provider. There is no reference to a Language Department for the new school because, as I understand it, recent negotiations involving the Pupil Support Section resulted in the decision that there will not be a specialist department located at the school in future.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely



DAVID AYRES

Cc David Sparks, Chairman of Governors of King's Wood Junior School
Barbara Fletcher, Acting Headteacher, King's Wood Infant School
Olsen Davis, Headteacher, King's Wood Junior School
Mike Harrison, SAO, Wycombe