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High Wycombe
Bucks
HP13 7LW

20 November 2001

Mr D Ayres
Head of School Organisation
Education Department
Buckinghamshire County Council
4th Floor
County Hall
AYLESBURY
HP20 1UZ

Dear Mr Ayres

King's Wood Infant and Junior School Amalgamation

Further to the recent publication of the Statutory Notices concerning the amalgamation of the two schools, the Governors of the infant school welcome the revised date for the amalgamation. Not only will this provide greater staff stability for the whole academic year, it will also provide continuity of teaching for the children and allow for a smoother transition to the new combined school.

As you will be aware, the Governors have major reservations as to the choice of site and still feel that the infant school provides an overall better site for the new school. We want to be assured that if the new school is to be on the junior school site, then our concerns are addressed and that the educational needs of the children are not compromised.

To reaffirm the key issues:

- The architect's report stated that 'there would be significant difficulties in designing the additional accommodation and making the site more accessible for the disabled'. The design of the new school must be such that not only is it accessible to the physically disabled, but that it provides a site that is easily navigated by those with learning difficulties. We have stressed that the site must be of a simple layout and without changes in level so that children with difficulties relating to motor planning, processing

and memory can move around the school as independently as possible and achieve their full potential. **Please outline how this will be achieved.**

- Not only must the school be accessible for the disabled, it must also be freely accessible to those with young children and babies. In particular, the provision for 'Parents as First Teachers' (PAFT) and for the nursery and Foundation stages must so sited as to allow easy access which does not conflict with either vehicular traffic or involve significant changes in level. **Please outline how this will be achieved.**
- The architects identified that the current car parking provision was 'inadequate and would require remodelling'. Any increase in car parking provision and its accesses must not conflict with pedestrian routes both within the school grounds and at the entrances. With the provision of a nursery and PAFT, pedestrians will be moving around the entrances of the school at various times throughout the day. Currently at the junior school, vehicles have to cross through groups of parents waiting to collect or drop off their children at the school gates creating a significant risk of an accident occurring.
- Hollis Road is a particularly busy stretch of road frequently used as a short cut through to Hicks Farm Rise. It is a bus route and has limited width, particularly when cars are parked on either side of the road. As this is the main entrance into the school, the risk of an accident is significant. **Therefore, please detail how the road is to be made safer for pedestrians, how vehicular access into and around the school is to be designed to prevent conflict with pedestrians, what car parking will be provided and what provision will be made for a safe 'haven' for parents to wait whilst dropping off and picking up children. The governors would welcome early sight and input into the School Travel Plan.**
- The architects recognised that the infant school was the more secure site. **Please outline how the junior school will be made more secure.**
- **Please confirm that as a consequence of any 'new build' or remodelling, including car park provision, there will be no significant loss of playing field space.**
- The Governors would need to have early sight of draft plans for the new school to be assured that these concerns will be satisfactorily addressed.

Statutory Notices

The published statutory notices failed to mention either the provision for 'Parents as First Teachers', Nursery and Language Department. **Please confirm that these will be provided as part of the new combined school.**

Please would you provide this information within two weeks of this letter in order that the governors will have sufficient time to consider your response and to decide on their next course of action.

On behalf of the Governing Body,

Yours Sincerely,

Ian Snudden
Acting Chair of Governors
King's Wood Infant School

Cc. David Sparks, Chair of King's Wood Junior School
Mike Harrison