



Buckinghamshire County Council

Head of School Organisation David Ayres

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Mrs L Smit
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Dear Mrs Smit

GREAT KINGSHILL CE COMBINED SCHOOL PROPOSED CHANGE OF STATUS FROM VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED TO VOLUNTARY AIDED

I am in receipt of the documentation relating to the proposed change of status for Great Kingshill CE Combined School from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided. I notify you of the objection of the Buckinghamshire LEA to this proposal.

While the Buckinghamshire LEA acknowledges the right of the Governing Body to seek such a change, it is not evident from the documentation provided why this change should be pursued.

In particular, we would not be prepared to support such a proposal unless it was clearer that there will be educational benefits arising for the pupils of the school as a direct result of the change in status and that such a change will contribute to the Authority's core aim of improving school effectiveness and raising pupil achievement.

There are other more technical matters too upon which the Authority would wish to have further information. They are as follows:

The ownership of assets and land tenure: The Authority needs to be satisfied that the nature and stipulations of the trust relating to the ownership of assets and land tenure is such that in the event of any proposed disposals of such assets which have been provided, as it were, from the public purse, that they revert to the public purse ie the LEA or the DfES, whichever is appropriate.

Contractual position and conditions of service of staff: The LEA would wish to be satisfied that there is no diminution or other adverse effect as far as the staff conditions of service or their contractual position is concerned and that there should be no significant changes relating to the criteria for selection of staff and the nature of the duties that they might be required to undertake as the employees of the Governing Body of an Aided School.

Admissions and priority for local children: The Authority needs to be formally reassured that, as far as admissions are concerned, priority for local children will continue and that the over-subscription criteria will not be changed in future so as to have significant effect on the probability of such children gaining admission.

Composition of the Governing Body: With the change in status and with the majority of the Governing Body being Foundation Governors nominated either by the Diocese or PCC, there are issues to do with the representative nature, accessibility and accountability of the Governing Body into the longer term future on which the Authority would seek assurance.



I would be grateful if you would let me have whatever comments you feel are appropriate on the matters raised in order that they can be considered by the Authority and, as necessary, be discussed at the next meeting of the School Organisation Committee on 17 April.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

DAVID AYRES