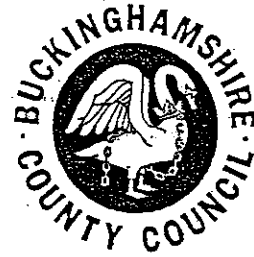




Marsh Gibbon CE School

Castle Street
Marsh Gibbon
BICESTER
Oxon
OX27 0HJ

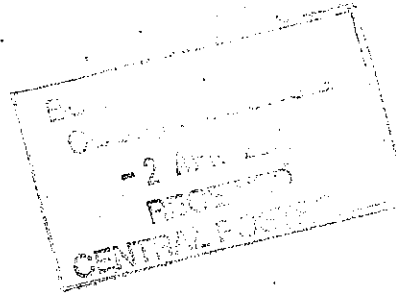
Telephone/Fax: 01869 277268



Acting Headteacher: Mrs L Metherell

28th March 2002

Mr Raj Popat
Secretary to School Organisation Committee
Legal Services Section
Buckinghamshire County Council
County Hall
Aylesbury
HP20 IUZ



Dear Mr Popat,

CHANGE OF CATEGORY FROM CONTROLLED TO AIDED STATUS

Please find enclosed a Submission of Prescribed Information concerning the above for Buckinghamshire School Organisation Committee.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Public Notice, Consultation Paper (referred to as Appendix 1 in the Prescribed Information), LEA Conditions survey (referred to as Appendix 2), a summary of Inspection under section 10 (referred to as Appendix 3), and a summary of Inspection under section 23 (referred to as appendix 4).

I trust that all the information required by the Committee is as required but please let me know if there is any additional information that the Committee should or will want.

Yours sincerely,

D B Field
Chairman of Governors

Cc Mr David Ayers, Head of School Organisation, BCC
Mr Danny Sullivan, Director of Education, Oxford Diocesan Board of Education

Change of School Category

Submission of Prescribed Information

To: Buckinghamshire School Organisation Committee

From

**The Governing Body,
Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Controlled School**

School Name:	Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Controlled School
Local Education Authority:	Buckinghamshire County Council
Diocese:	Oxford
Proposals published by:	The Governing Body of Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Controlled School
Date Proposals published:	31st March 2002
Proposed implementation date:	1st September 2002

Introduction

Marsh Gibbon Church of England School was founded around 1831 with an original trust deed dated 1848 and with the Diocese as its Trustee. Its reserved area is the ecclesiastical parish boundary. In 1944 it became a voluntary controlled school. The school has always maintained close links with St Mary's Church and is the only Church of England School within a two-mile radius of the school. A change to Voluntary Aided status would consolidate the school's strong Christian ethos, whilst allowing it to continue to work closely with Buckinghamshire Local Education Authority.

Consultation

A member of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education made a presentation to the Governing Body on 10th May 2001. At a Governing Body meeting on 17th May 2001 it was decided that a working party would investigate all the issues concerning the change of status. When the working party reported back to the Governing Body meeting on 11th October 2001 certain issues were raised which required further investigation. After discussion at its meeting on 29th November 2001 it decided to pursue the change in status and agreed to go to the consultation stage. The teaching staff were also consulted and favoured the change. Information leaflets (see Appendix 1) were sent out in January to all staff, parents, the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council, the Diocese and the Local Education Authority. Four written responses were received. The Local Education Authority required assurance from the Governing Body that it does not intend to change its reserved area and an assurance to this fact was given to them. The Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council and the Diocese were all supportive of the change. All letters are held on file by the Governing Body.

Capacity of other local schools

There are no schools within a 2-mile radius.

Cost of change

The school is generally in a good state of repair. Two permanent classrooms were added in 2000, resulting in four permanent classrooms and one temporary one. There is a school hall, a small kitchen and an office/staffroom. The school has bought into the County scheme for general maintenance. Subsequent external maintenance costs will transfer to the Governing Body. The latest LEA conditions survey is attached (Appendix 2). The school's financial position is healthy and we have run a budget surplus every year for the last 5 years, with the current surplus equivalent to 15% of our annual budget. The Governing Body recognises that it has a 10% responsibility towards building costs and that the Governing Body can meet that commitment.

Full and part time provision

The school currently provides part time places for all pupils from the beginning of the term before their fifth birthday occurs and full time places from the term in which they are five.

Current and Projected numbers

Current numbers are Year 4 – 19, Year 3 – 25, Year 2 – 26, Year 1 – 18, Year R – 9 (+ 15 next term). Projected numbers are: Reception September 2002 – 14, 2003 – 15, 2004 - 20

Inspection under section 10

The school was inspected under section 10 of the School's Inspection Act 1996 in January 2002. A summary is attached (see appendix 3).

Inspection under section 23

This was also carried out in January 2002. A summary is attached (see appendix 4).

Intervention by the LEA or Secretary of State

There have been no outside interventions in the running and management of the school.

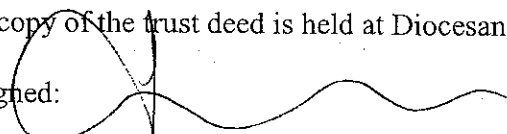
Land Tenure

The site of the school is held on trust for the school by trustee and the playing field is owned by Buckinghamshire County Council.

The Trust Deed

A copy of the trust deed is held at Diocesan House.

Signed:



Date: 28th March 2002.

Mr David B Field, Chair of Governors, Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Controlled School

**The Governing Body of
Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Controlled School,
Castle Street, Marsh Gibbon, Bicester, Oxon, OX27 0HJ.**

Proposed change of category from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided

The Public Notice

Notice is hereby given in accordance with paragraph 2 of schedule 8 to the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 that the Governing Body of Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Controlled School proposes that Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Controlled School shall change category and have made the following proposals for that purpose:

That with effect from 1st September 2002, the school will change from its present category as a voluntary controlled school to become a voluntary aided school and will from that date be known as Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Aided School.

The rationale for this proposal is to consolidate the strong links between the school and the church, whilst continuing to work closely with Buckinghamshire Local Education Authority.

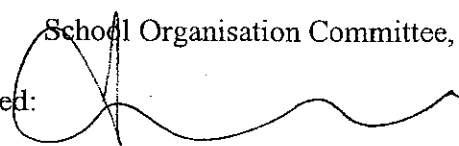
The current admission authority is Buckinghamshire Local Education Authority. After the change in category this will become the governing body of Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Aided School.

The school will continue to have a foundation established otherwise than under the Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998, namely a foundation created in 1831, the Trust Deeds of which are held at Diocesan Church House, Oxford. The Trust Deed will not be changed as a result of the change in category.

Full details of the application and supporting papers are available for inspection in the school office and also at the County Library, Aylesbury. Within two months after the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to the proposals by sending their objection to:

School Organisation Committee, County Hall, Aylesbury, HP20 1UZ.

Signed:



Mr David B Field, Chair of Governors, Marsh Gibbon Church of England Voluntary Controlled School.

31st March 2002



5. Conclusion

The Governing Body in proposing a change of category welcomes the fact that it will continue to work in partnership with the Local Education Authority and the Diocesan Board of Education as part of the family of Church Schools in the Diocese of Oxford.

6. Consultation

Staff, parents, the Parish Council, neighbouring schools, the Parochial Church Council, the Diocese of Oxford and the Local Education Authority are invited to comment on this proposal. Comments should be addressed to:

David Field, Chair of Governors, Marsh Gibbon CE School, Castle Street, Marsh Gibbon, Bicester OX27 0HJ by 1st March 2002.

Signed:
(Chair of Governors)
Dated 7th January 2002

CONSULTATION PAPER

ON

**CHANGE OF CATEGORY FROM
CONTROLLED TO AIDED**

This consultative paper is being published following the decision of the Governing Body of Marsh Gibbon Church of England School to seek a change of category from a Controlled School to an Aided School. The opportunity to propose such a change has arisen from THE EDUCATION (CHANGE OF CATEGORY OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2000, which came into force on 1st September 2000.

1. Background

Following the 1944 Education Act, Church of England Schools became either Aided or Controlled. Governing Bodies of Aided Schools had and have precise legal responsibilities in the areas of Employment, Admissions, Finance – especially in relation to buildings, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

2. The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education has 280 schools, which are a mix of Controlled and Aided. The Board recognises and welcomes all its schools as part of the Diocesan family and welcomes each Controlled School Governing Body having the opportunity under the new regulations to make its own decision as to whether to propose a change of category.

3. What would a change of category from Controlled to Aided mean?

- ❖ A majority of the Governing Body would be Foundation Governors. The Governing Body would become the employer of all staff at the school.
- ❖ The Governing Body would become the Admissions Authority for the school.
- ❖ The Governing Body would have specific financial responsibilities in relation to buildings e.g. repairs and capital development.
- ❖ The Governing Body would be responsible for deciding the school's policy on Religious Education and Collective Worship in relation to its Christian foundation and Trust Deed.

Explanatory Notes:

(i) Foundation Governors are appointed through the Diocesan Board of Education and the local Parochial Church Council. (It is envisaged that the existing Governing Body will become the Governing Body of the Aided School).

(ii) Governing Bodies of Aided Schools have clear guidance and procedures to follow in relation to all employment issues and are offered guidance and support from both the Diocesan Board of Education and the Local Education Authority.

(iii) In drawing up its Admission Policy the Governing Body of an Aided School must consult annually with all the other Admission Authorities in its area.

(iv) Governing Bodies of Aided Schools receive support, guidance and expertise from the Diocesan Board of Education's two Premises Officers.

(v) The Diocesan Board of Education recommends to Aided School Governing Bodies that their schools work with the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education with advisory material on Christianity provided by the Board. This reflects the Diocesan Board of Education's positive partnership with its Local Education Authorities in the field of Religious Education and its representation on Standing Advisory Conferences for Religious Education (SACRES).

4. Timing
The Governing Body intends that a change of category can be achieved within the next twelve months.