



Marsh Gibbon CE School

Castle Street

Marsh Gibbon

BICESTER

Oxon

OX27 0HJ

Telephone/Fax: 01869 277268



Acting Headteacher: Mrs L Metherell

7<sup>th</sup> January 2002

### **CHANGE OF CATEGORY FROM CONTROLLED TO AIDED**

Marsh Gibbon Church of England School was founded in 1831 and has been an integral part of the community since then.

As a Church School we wish to strengthen the links with the Diocese and the Governors have unanimously decided to explore the possibility of moving from Controlled status to Aided. The attached Consultation Paper is part of this process.

We value our distinctive character as a Church of England School but also value the partnership with the Local Education Authority. Moving from Controlled to Aided Status will strengthen the links with the Diocese whilst at the same time continuing the valuable partnership with the Local Education Authority.

The Consultation Paper is being sent to all the staff and parents of the School, members of the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council, the Local Education Authority and the Diocese of Oxford.

As you will see from the Consultation Paper comments are invited by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002 and should be addressed to me via the School.

David Field  
Chairman of Governors



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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002.

Signed: .....  
(Chair of Governors)  
Dated 7<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MARSH GIBBON**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Mr. D. Field  
Chair of Governors  
Marsh Gibbon CE School  
Castle Street  
Marsh Gibbon  
Bicester  
OX27 0HJ

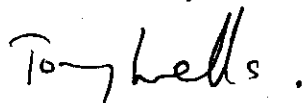
Ware Farm  
Church Street  
Marsh Gibbon  
Bicester  
OX27 0ET

8<sup>th</sup> January 2002

Dear David,

I am writing to inform you that the Parochial Church Council has agreed at its meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2002 to support the proposal that Marsh Gibbon CE School changes its category from controlled to aided.

Yours sincerely,



---

Tony Wells  
Chairman

# MARSH GIBBON PARISH COUNCIL

**Mrs Penny Evershed  
The Parish Clerk  
Pensfold  
Bicester Road  
Marsh Gibbon  
Oxon OX27 0EU**

**01869 278226**

28 February 2002

David Field  
Chairman of Governors  
Marsh Gibbon CE School  
Castle Street  
Marsh Gibbon  
Bicester  
OX27 0HJ

Dear David

**Marsh Gibbon CE School  
Change of Category from Controlled to Aided**

I write with reference to your letter of 7 January concerning the proposal to change the School's category from Controlled to Aided.

At the recent Parish Council meeting, Cllr Adrian Lambourne, one of the school's governors was able to give further details of the proposal including the fact that this has been the subject of investigation and discussion over a period of approximately two years.

I am pleased to advise you that following discussions, councillors voted to support the proposed change of status.

Yours sincerely



**Penny Evershed  
Marsh Gibbon Parish Clerk**

# THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD

Bracknell, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes,  
Oxfordshire, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire,  
Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham.



## Oxford Diocesan Board of Education

Diocesan Church House  
North Hinksey  
Oxford OX2 0NB

Telephone: 01865 208238

Fax: 01865 208285

E-mail: [schools@dch.oxford.anglican.org](mailto:schools@dch.oxford.anglican.org)

David Field  
Chairman of Governors  
Marsh Gibbon CE School  
Castle Street  
Marsh Gibbon  
BICESTER OX27 0HJ

18 January 2002

Dear David

Thank you for your letter and consultation paper on a Change of Category from Controlled to Aided Status.

The Diocese has always valued its relationship with Marsh Gibbon School. We recognise your distinctiveness as a Church School and also the open and inclusive way in which you serve the children and families who are part of your school community.

Should you become Aided we look forward to continuing our close partnership with you as one of the schools in our family of 278. Like you we also value our links with the LEA and know that they will continue should your change of category happen.

Once again thank you for consulting us and every good wish with your consultation.

Very best wishes

Danny Sullivan  
Director of Education



# Buckinghamshire County Council

Head of School Organisation David Ayres

County Hall • Aylesbury • Buckinghamshire • HP20 1UZ

[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

Mr D Field  
Chairman of Governors  
Marsh Gibbon CE School  
Castle Street  
Marsh Gibbon  
Bicester  
Oxon  
OX27 0HJ

<b>Contact</b>	David Ayres
<b>Direct line</b>	01296 383527
<b>Ref</b>	DA-PH
<b>Fax</b>	01296 382670
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:dayres@buckscc.gov.uk">dayres@buckscc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Date</b>	21 January 2002

Dear Mr Field

## **CHANGE OF CATEGORY FROM CONTROLLED TO AIDED**

I am writing to thank you for your letter of 7 January 2002 concerning the proposed change of status from Controlled to Aided for Marsh Gibbon CE School.

At this stage, I have the following comments to make on behalf of the Buckinghamshire Local Education Authority.

1. If the Governing Body decide to proceed to formal consultation on the publication of Statutory Notices etc, I would be grateful if you would ensure that information on relevant developments is passed to me at the appropriate time.
2. The Authority would wish to be reassured that in drawing up admission arrangements, the School will continue to serve its reserved area and that the admission criteria will not be changed so that children who previously could expect to secure admission to the school, will not be displaced as a result of the changes.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

DAVID AYRES





Marsh Gibbon CE School

Castle Street  
Marsh Gibbon  
BICESTER  
Oxon  
OX27 0HJ

Telephone/Fax: 01869 277268



Acting Headteacher: Mrs L Metherell

Mr D Ayres  
Head of School Organisation  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
County Hall  
Aylesbury  
HP20 1UZ

14<sup>th</sup> February 2002

Dear Mr Ayres,

**CHANGE FO CATEGORY FROM CONTROLLED TO AIDED**

Thank you for your letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 2002.

I can assure you that I will let you know about decisions the Governing Body make in respect of the change of category and that all the required notices and information are passed onto yourself. Obviously there is some information that has to be included in these documents which is needed from the Local Education Authority and I assume that I would request this information via yourself.

As regards the admission arrangements the Governing Body does not intend to alter the current admission criteria or the reserved area. Therefore children who previously could expect to secure admission to the School will not be affected by the change in category.

Yours sincerely,

David Field  
Chairman of Governors





# Buckinghamshire County Council

Head of School Organisation David Ayres

County Hall • Aylesbury • Buckinghamshire • HP20 1UZ

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Mr D Field  
Chairman of Governors  
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<b>Contact</b>	David Ayres
<b>Direct line</b>	01296 383527
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<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:dayres@buckscc.gov.uk">dayres@buckscc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Date</b>	25 February 2002

Dear Mr Field

## **CHANGE OF CATEGORY FROM CONTROLLED TO AIDED STATUS**

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 2002. I am grateful for your confirmation that there are no proposals to change the current admission criteria or the catchment area for the school if a change in category from Controlled to Aided status is agreed.

As far as the required notices and information are concerned, you will need to send these to Mr Raj Popat, Secretary to School Organisation Committee, Legal Services Section.

Yours sincerely

DAVID AYRES





# Buckinghamshire County Council

Head of School Organisation David Ayres

County Hall • Aylesbury • Buckinghamshire • HP20 1UZ

[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)

D B Field  
Chairman of Governors  
c/o Marsh Gibbon CE School  
Castle Street  
Marsh Gibbon  
Bicester  
Oxfordshire  
OX27 OHJ

<b>Contact</b>	David Ayres
<b>Direct line</b>	01296 383527
<b>Ref</b>	DA-RG
<b>Fax</b>	01296 382670
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:dayres@buckscc.gov.uk">dayres@buckscc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Date</b>	27 May 2002

Dear Mr Field

## **MARSH GIBBON CE 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 Marsh Gibbon CE 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.

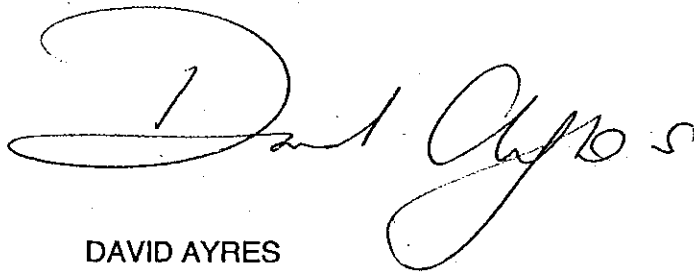
**Contractual position and conditions of service of staff:** The LEA would wish to be satisfied that there is no diminution or other adverse effect as far as the staff conditions of service or their contractual position is concerned and that there should be no significant changes relating to the criteria 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ayres', written in a cursive style.

DAVID AYRES



Marsh Gibbon CE School  
Castle Street  
Marsh Gibbon  
BICESTER  
OXON  
OX27 OHJ



Telephone No. 01869 277268

E mail: [office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk)

Head teacher Mrs Louise Metherell

17<sup>th</sup> June 2002

Mr David Ayres  
Head of School Organisation  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
County Hall  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP20 1UZ

Dear Mr Ayres,

#### PROPOSED CHANGE OF STATUS FROM VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED TO VOLUNTARY AIDED

Thank you for your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2002, which I did not received until 10<sup>th</sup> June due to the school's half term holiday. I note that your objection about our proposal to change category is based on your concerns about school effectiveness and raising pupil achievement.

In response I would refer you once again to the summary of the school's strengths as outlined by our recent Ofsted report. These were:

- Standards in English, mathematics and science are above average
- The teaching is good overall
- The pupils have very good attitudes to school: they work and behave very well
- The Foundation Stage (Reception) gives children a good start
- Music makes an outstanding contribution to the life of the school
- The school and parents work very closely together to support children's education

I would also refer you to the positive comments about the leadership and management of the school in relation to the Headteacher and governing body.

Ofsted concluded we were a successful school. This Government has made clear that it wishes successful schools to take as much responsibility for their own development as they think fit. Our desire for a change of category which again the Government has made

possible reflects our confidence in our ability to take on more responsibility for our school.

I note that your other points are not objections but requests for further information on technical matters.

#### **Ownership of assets and land tenure.**

The trustees of Church schools - Controlled or Aided - own the site and premises (if they have been properly conveyed) and the LEA normally owns the playing field. The trust deed of the school will indicate if there is a reverter clause should the school close and be sold. The statutory notice branch at the DfES has confirmed that there is no change in this legal situation should a Church school change category.

#### **Contractual position and conditions of service of staff.**

All staff at the school are fully supportive of the proposal to change category and thereby the implication that the governing body would be the employer. If the governing body were to become employer it would have to follow existing procedures and guidelines as do the governing bodies of existing Aided schools and indeed Foundation schools.

#### **Admissions and priority for local children.**

The governing body has already made clear that it has no intention of altering its existing admissions policy. However the statutory notice branch at the DfES has confirmed that whilst members of a SOC may raise a question about admissions, that decisions relating to issues about admissions are outwith its provenance. The statutory notice branch at the DfES confirmed that admissions issues are subject to separate process and procedures.

#### **Composition of the governing body.**

With the two schools in Bucks which have already changed category the Diocesan Board of Education has facilitated the change of instrument in such a way that all governors who wish to can continue although some have obviously changed category. This has been a smooth and good spirited process as it has been I understand with other schools which have changed category from other LEAs. Governors of aided schools are just as accountable as governors of other schools, more so given their additional legal responsibilities.

I trust these responses are helpful to you. The governing body in seeking its change of category, which has received no other objections, remains committed to working in partnership with the LEA and the Diocese as existing Aided schools do.

Yours sincerely,

David Field  
Chairman of Governors