

The Governing Body of Weston Turville CE School, Weston Turville,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Proposed change of category from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary
Aided.

Change of School Category

Submission of Prescribed Information to
Buckinghamshire School Organisation Committee

From

The Governing Body, Weston Turville CE VC School

December 2001

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Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Proposed change of category from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary
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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 Weston Turville CE School proposes that Weston Turville CE 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 to become a voluntary aided school and will from that date be known as Weston Turville Church of England Voluntary Aided School.

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

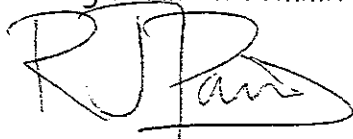
The current admission authority is Buckinghamshire Local Education Authority. After the change of category this will become the Governing Body of Weston Turville CE Voluntary Aided School.

The school will continue to have a foundation established otherwise than under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, namely a foundation created in 1873, 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 of category.

Full details of the application and supporting papers are available for inspection in the school office and also at Wendover Library. 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



12th December 2001

R Pain, Chair of Governors, Weston Turville CE School,

Change of School Category

Submission of Prescribed Information to
Buckinghamshire School Organisation Committee

From

The Governing Body, Weston Turville CE VC School

School name: Weston Turville CE School

Local Educ. Authority: Buckinghamshire County Council

Diocese: Oxford

Proposals Published by: The Governing body of Weston
Turville CE VC School

Date Proposals Published: 12th December 2001

Proposed Implementation Date: 1st September 2002

Introduction

Weston Turville CE School was founded in 1821 with the rector and churchwardens of St Mary the Virgin, Weston Turville, as trustees of the school. The school was founded for the purpose of educating the poor of the parish in the principles of the established church. The school moved to its present site in 1970. Its reserved area is the village and parish of Weston Turville. In 1944 it became a voluntary controlled school. The school has well established links with St Mary's Church and is the only Church of England School within a 4 km radius. A change to Voluntary Aided Status would consolidate the schools' strongly Christian ethos, whilst allowing it to continue working with Buckinghamshire Local Education Authority and our Liaison group of schools.

Consultation

The issues were discussed at the full governors meeting on 13th March 01 at which it was decided to set up a working party to meet with Danny Sullivan (Diocesan Director of Education) and gain further information. The working party met with Danny Sullivan on 3rd May 01 and reported back to the full governing body meeting on 19th June 01.

The Governors decided to move to the stage of formal consultation with the wider community without any recommendation for, or against. The consultation was launched with a meeting on the 24th September 01 attended by parents, staff, governors and Danny Sullivan where a presentation was made by the Headteacher with opportunities for questions to be asked. It was stressed that the school was already most like an Aided school in character and ethos, and that there were no plans to change admissions policy or the style of the school. Information leaflets were sent out to all parents, staff, governors, Parish Council, Church Council, Local Education Authority, Diocesan Board, and local schools in our reserved areas and any others who border our reserved area (Appendix 1). The results of the consultation were presented at the full governors meeting on 22nd November 01 (Appendix 2). The unanimous decision was to proceed to Aided status.

Capacity of other local schools

A map is attached (Appendix 3) showing the location of other Primary schools in this area of Buckinghamshire. There are 8 Primary schools. Their capacities and numbers on roll are shown in Appendix 3.

Cost of Change

There are 8 classrooms available, although since the change in age of transfer only 7 are needed, the spare being used by our Early Years Department. The school accommodation is generally good with a refurbished library, and recently established computer room and music room. The interior is in a good state of decorative order, and the exterior is due to be repaired and redecorated in spring 02 at the expense of the Local Education Authority as the school has bought into the scheme. (SEE P. C. J

APPENDIX 6)

The Governors recognise the need to fund 15% of future capital repairs, but notes that this is likely to reduce to 10% from April 02. The schools' financial position is healthy, following a sustained period of investment in interior refurbishment and additional educational resources, with its predicted carry out being exceeded each year. The current surplus is £25K (7%), well in excess of the average 4% for Combined schools across the county.

Full and Part-time provision

The school provides part-time places for all Reception class children from September of the academic year in which they become 5. All children are full time by Easter. This is a substantial increase over the standard Buckinghamshire admissions of Rising Fives.

Inspection under section 10

The school was inspected under section 10 of the School's Inspection Act 1996 in June 1998. A summary is attached (Appendix 4). The main recommendations had all been addressed by 2000. The school has continued to develop since then.

Inspection under section 23

This was also carried out in June 1998 and highlighted the positive and happy ethos, the development of a clear, relevant policy for collective worship leading to very good experiences for the children, the very good relationships in the school and the very good communications between school and home. (Appendix 5)

Intervention by the Local Education Authority or the Secretary of State

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

Land Tenure

The trustees own the site of the school and the premises. The Local Education Authority owns the playing fields.

The Trust Deed

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

Signed



December 2001

R Pain, Chair of Governors, Weston Turville CE School,

Weston Turville CE School

Aided Status Consultation - Autumn 2001

This is a brief summary of the meeting held on 25th September

What is the difference between a Controlled and an Aided School?

The majority of Church schools were started in the 19th Century by churches who raised money to "educate the poor of the parish." In 1944 these schools could choose to stay as they were (Aided) and find 50% of costs - or change (to Controlled) and the LEA would pay for 100% of costs.

Since September 2000 Controlled schools can change to Aided with no financial penalty. The vast majority of funding would continue to come from the LEA, although the school would need to find 15% (10% from April 02) for Capital work. This is for new buildings or major alterations to existing ones. While the idea of finding 15% can seem scary - for a cost of £1500 we would be able to get £10000 of work done - that seems good value for money. Plus we do not need new buildings or to make significant changes to existing ones. However when we set up the new Library and computer suite we had to find the £5000 costs. As an Aided school we would only have paid £750 (15%) to have the work done!

What difference will it make?

To pupils and parents there will be no recognisable changes. The children will continue to be taught the same subjects in the same way by the same staff. This is because the school character and ethos are already more like a typical Aided school than a Controlled school.

Staff are currently appointed by the Governors and employed by the LEA. If we become Aided they will be appointed and employed by the Governors. However they will retain their current posts and all their existing employment rights. The Governors will follow the same employment laws and legislation as the LEA does.

What about the Governors?

There would be a change in the Governing Body with more Governors appointed by the Diocese than at present. However there would continue to be at least as many parent Governors as at present. Further than that it is difficult to be too precise since the Government is currently consulting about changes to all Governing Bodies.

So why look at changing?

Changing to Aided status would reflect more accurately the character, style and ethos of the school. We are already more typical of an Aided school than a Controlled school. It would also reflect more closely the relationships that currently exist between the school the LEA and the Diocese.

Graham Norris, Headteacher

5. Conclusion

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

6. Consultation

Staff, Parents, local resident, neighbouring schools, the PCC, the Diocese of Oxford and the Local Education Authority are invited to comment on this issue. Comments should be addressed to:

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Mr R Pain
Chairman of Governors
Weston Turville CE School
Weston Turville
Aylesbury
Bucks
HP22 5RW

To reach him by Monday 5th November 2001

Weston Turville Church of England School

Consultation Paper On Change of Category from Controlled to Aided

This consultative paper is being published following the decision of the Governing Body of Weston Turville Church of England School to seek the views of interested parties concerning a change of category from a Controlled School to an Aided School. The opportunity to consider 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 still have precise legal responsibilities in the areas of Employment, Admissions, Finance - especially in relation to buildings, Religious Education and Collective Worship

2. 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 form 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 schools' policy on Religious Education and Collective Worship in relation to its Christian foundation and trust deed.

4. Timing The Governing Body is consulting over a six week period. They will then consider the responses. If they decide to move to Aided status this is likely to take effect from September 2002.

Explanatory Notes:

- I. Foundation Governors are appointed through the Diocesan Board of Education and the local PCC (It is envisaged that the existing Governing Body would become the Governing Body of the Aided School).
- II. Governing Bodies of Aided Schools have clear guidance and procedures to follow in relation to employment issues and are offered guidance and support from both the Diocesan Board and the LEA.
- 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'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's positive partnership with its LEAs in the field of Religious Education and its representation on Standing Advisory Conferences for Religious Education (SACREs)

Consultation Response

In response to the consultation on a change of category from Controlled to Aided, I would like to make the following comments:

Signed.....

Name (printed).....

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