

4. Timing:

The Governing Body has agreed a provisional time scale for a change in status which lasts from September 2001 to September 2002. The Governing Body believes that a change of category can be achieved within the time schedule. There are no time constraints.

5. Conclusion:

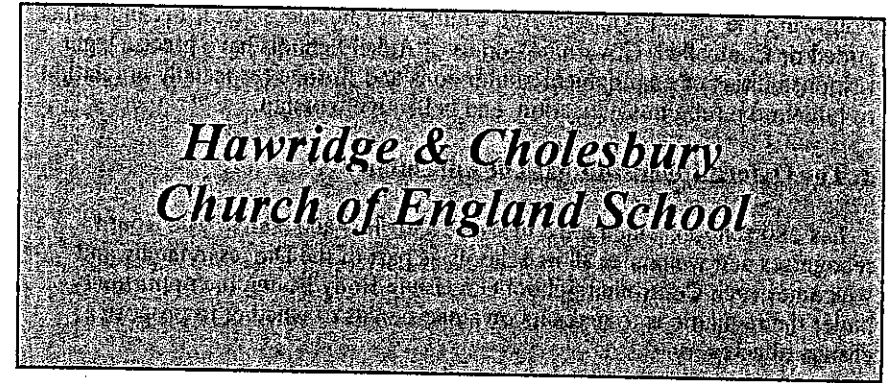
The Governing Body, in considering a change of category, welcomes the fact that it will continue to work in partnership with the LEA and the Diocesan Board of Education as part of the family of Church Schools in the Diocese of Oxford.

6. Consultation:

Staff, parents, local residents, neighbouring schools, the PCCs of the three local parishes and neighbouring parishes, the Diocese of Oxford and the Local Education Authority are invited to comment on this proposal. Comments should be addressed to:

Mr. Andrew Brown,
Chair of Governors,
Hawridge and Cholesbury CE School,
Hawridge,
Chesham,
Bucks
HP5 2UQ

and should reach him by Friday, 22nd February 2002.



Consultation Paper on the Change of Category from Controlled to Aided

This paper is being published following the decision of the Governing Body of Hawridge and Cholesbury Church of England School to consider a change in 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.

There is a Public Meeting on Monday, February 4th, 2002, in the School Hall at 7.00pm, to which all interested parties are invited, in order to discuss and to comment on the proposed change.

1. Background:

Following the 1944 Education Act, Church of England Schools became either Aided or Controlled. Governing bodies of Aided Schools have precise legal responsibilities of employment, admissions and 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 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. Generally:

- i. A majority of the Governing Body would be Foundation Governors. The Governing Body would become the employer of all staff at the school.
- ii. The Governing Body would become the Admissions Authority for the school.
- iii. The Governing Body would have specific financial responsibilities in relation to buildings, eg: repairs and capital development.
- iv. 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.

b. Explanatory Notes:

- i. Foundation Governors are appointed through the Diocesan Board of Education and the local Parochial Church Council (PCC). 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 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)

c. Specifically for Hawridge & Cholesbury CE School:

- i. The Governors believe that there are advantages to be gained by the change of category. These are primarily in the field of support and advice, where it is anticipated that the smaller-scale structure of the Diocese will provide a more responsive framework and closer contact than is possible in a larger organisation such as a Local Education Authority.
- ii. The feedback from other schools which have changed category and have shared their own experiences of the process is very positive.
- iii. Foundation Governors must be recommended by the PCC of one of the Parishes within the catchment area of the school. Foundation Governors do not necessarily have to live in the catchment area, nor do they have to be churchgoers.
- iv. Funding from the Local Education Authority would continue exactly as at present.
- v. There would be continuity of service for staff. They would be contracted to the Governing Body under the new arrangements, but all employment would be regarded as continuous.
- vi. Governors do not anticipate making any changes to the current admissions policy.
- vii. As recommended by the Diocese, governors will continue using the Bucks agreed syllabus for Religious Education.