

BEDGROVE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Headteacher D.S.G. Fiske BSc, F.Coll.P

Bedgrove Junior School
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9th September, 2003

Mr. P. Holmes,
Head of School Organisation Section,
Buckinghamshire County Council,
County Hall,
Walton Street,
Aylesbury,
Bucks.
HP20 1UZ

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

10 SEP 2003

RECEIVED

Dear Paul,

Re: Application for Foundation Status

Further to our application and a request from the School Organisation Section, the additional information is herewith enclosed.

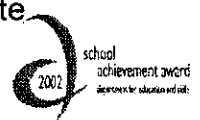
It is our opinion that standards can be improved by a change of status for the following reasons:

- Greater flexibility can be enjoyed by Foundation Status as access can be gained to wider training provision using the Foundation and Aided Schools National Association (FASNA). We have been informed that this organisation enables schools to utilise a wide range of training and consultancy contacts.
- By changing status, beaurocracy would be reduced. We would be able to manage our own admissions, administer appeals and set our own agendas for governor meetings. I estimate that secretarial staff time and Headteacher time could be reduced to the tune of 1 to 2 days per month. This time could be spent on more monitoring and evaluating of teaching by myself, and secretarial time could be spent on giving clerical support in this venture.
- Whilst recognising existing good practice in the LEA we will be able to gain access to a wider range of expertise and have additional time to concentrate upon maintaining and raising standards.
- Transfer process will be made much simpler and this will ensure continuity for the pupils rather than Year 3 dip.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Infant and Junior Schools will be working with fewer schools which will facilitate liaison.



Working in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council

- Governors and parents support the change and will work even harder to ensure standards are at least maintained and probably increased.
- With Foundation Status staff have greater ownership, greater commitment and greater responsibility to make it work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. S. G. Fiske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

D. S. G. FISKE

c.c. Sue Imbriano
Raj Poppit

TIME LINE

- 21.05.01. Headteacher of Grant Maintained/Foundation Status School spoke to Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers. Further discussion deferred.
- 16.01.02. The above Headteacher returned to speak to whole Governing Body of both schools.
- 21.01.03. Staff briefed on discussion about possible change of category to Foundation Status. Opinions sought. All positive.
- 21.01.03. Chairman of FASNA spoke to Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Chairman of Governors, representatives from Governors and School Staff.
- 28.01.03. Discussed fully at Governor's meeting. Unanimous agreement to pursue Foundation Status.
- 10.02.03. Staff fully briefed on Governor's decision and opinions sought. All in agreement.
- 10.02.03. Letter to parents, neighbouring schools, churches, community and LEA indicating proposal.
- 03.03. Discussed at Bedgrove Residents Association.
- 05.03.03. Public Meeting re Foundation Status held at school. Minutes distributed to all Governors, staff and parents.
- 02.04.03. Statutory notice in Bucks Herald and outside school.
- 20.05.03. Governors committed to pursue Foundation Status.
- 24.06.03. Meeting of School Organisation Committee.
- 03.07.03. Discussed application progress with parents at AGM With Governors.

Full discussions have occurred at staff meetings and Governors Meetings.

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9th September, 2003

Dear Parents,

Re: Application for Foundation Status

I am writing to update you on our application for Foundation Status.

The school organisation committee met on 24th June but deferred the decision until their next meeting on 24th September. I thought that it might be helpful to remind you of our reasons for this application. Foundation Status will mean that:-

- We will have greater flexibility to direct resources to suit our needs especially in terms of accessing new sources for training and development.
- As the direct employer of staff we can more effectively build loyal and effective teams.
- We will have greater freedom to take informed professional judgements and decisions.
- We can further develop our own ethos.
- We can find and make effective partnerships.
- Act as our own admission authority.

I can assure you that we have always had excellent relationships with the LEA and I have served on many committees over the years. We are determined to ensure that the very best of relationships are maintained.

I enclose a copy of a letter written to the School Organisation Section about our application for your reference. Please inform me if you have any further comments.

Yours sincerely,



D. S. G. FISKE