

## Popat, Raj

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**From:** Ashmead Combined  
**Sent:** 11 September 2003 11:25  
**To:** Popat, Raj  
**Subject:** Bedgrove Infants & Junior Schools

**Importance:** High



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Bedgrove scho...

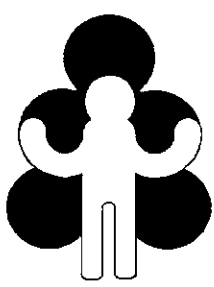
Dear Mr Popat

Thank you for your letter dated 2nd September.

I wrote to you last term (copy attached) and my views remain unchanged therefore please stake this as mine and my governors' response to the proposal.

Yours sincerely  
Jane Loder  
Head Teacher

Ashmead Combined School  
Tele: 01296 484434  
Fax@ 01296 393425



Ashmead Combined School  
Cole Road  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP21 8SU

e-mail: office@ashmead.bucks.sch.uk

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20<sup>th</sup> June 2003

Mr Raj Popat  
Legal Department  
County Hall  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire

Dear Mr Popat

**Re Foundation Status: Bedgrove Infant and Junior schools**

I understand that the two above schools have registered to apply for Foundation Status and that they require the support of neighbouring schools.

Many town school have, over the years, been greatly effected by the drain of children of the more articulate and mobile parents who perceived the education offered at Bedgrove to be better than that offered by their local reserved area school. The LEA has done little to support this situation indeed has indirectly supported it by raising admission numbers and allowing building developments to increase accommodation.

The shortsightedness of this policy is clear to see. The Infant School being larger than the Junior school cannot guarantee a placement at age of transfer. Parents and their children are now faced with an unpalatable option. Their children are being separated from their peer friendship groups and being allocated placements at schools their parents are unhappy for them to attend. Concurrently, the receiving schools are being subjected to unpleasant hostile visits from these angry parents who have been directed to visit the school allocated to their child. A huge amount of time has been wasted showing these reluctant parents around the school and on occasions I have even asked parents

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Head Teacher: Mrs J E Loder, Cert.Ed., FRSA  
Telephone: Aylesbury (01296) 484434 Fax: Aylesbury (01296)  
393425

to leave as they are insulting and arrogant and blinkered to the quality of education they are being offered.

If by granting Foundation status to the two schools this time wasting and disruptive process can be avoided then I would support the application. I am greatly concerned however that there may be as yet unseen detrimental issues to schools supporting the bid. The time for consulting with this school has been minimal. I have no information other than a telephone conversation with Mrs Capstick who had the courtesy to contact me and outline the reasoning behind the bid and seek my support.

Mr Fisk on the other hand has made no attempt to discuss the matter with me nor reassure me about his application. I feel this is a sad reflection on his lack of sensitivity to other colleague head teachers from whom he is seeking support.

In principal I believe it should be every child's right to receive as smooth a transition as possible between Key Stages at age of transfer in order to secure continuity and progression.

Nevertheless I also believe passionately that local schools should serve their local communities.

Yours sincerely

Jane Loder  
Head Teacher