



Buckinghamshire County Council

Acting Head of Service - Integrated Services for Special Education

Janet Sparrow

County Hall • Aylesbury • Buckinghamshire • HP20 1UZ

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Mrs Khan
10 Arnold Close
Padbury
Buckingham
MK18 2BG

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Date	5 July 2004

Dear Mrs Khan

Further to our letter of 29 June.

I have set out below the LEA response to your objection to the proposal to establish a new primary special school in Aylesbury. My letter and a copy of your objection will be submitted to the School Organisation Committee when they meet on 21 July.

1. In the proposed new school children with behavioural difficulties will be taught in separate classes in different areas of the school.
2. Of the current children at Furze Down School very few would need to move to the proposed new school as at January 2004 there were 5 children who might have to move.
3. Most children at Furze Down would have shorter journey times if going to central Aylesbury than they have now in going to Furze Down.
4. There is support from all four governing bodies for the proposal.
5. Projections of future pupil numbers demonstrate that there will be enough space in the new school for future pupils.
6. There will be much improved facilities and specialist accommodation than are presently available at Furze Down School. These include a large hydrotherapy pool, soft play area, specialist therapy rooms and multi-sensory studio.
7. With multi-agency working, the opportunities for short-term placements as well as outreach will mean that there will be the opportunity for many more children to benefit from the new school.

Yours sincerely

Janet Sparrow

Janet Sparrow

Acting Head of Service – Integrated Services for Special Education

cc: Raj Popat, Legal & Administrative Service





Buckinghamshire County Council

Schools Portfolio
Head of School Improvement - Stuart Powell

County Hall · Walton Street · Aylesbury · Buckinghamshire · HP20 1UZ
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Mrs H Khan
10 Arnold Close
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Contact Andrew Tusting
Direct line 01296 382462
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E-mail atusting@buckscc.gov.uk
My Ref:
Date 29 June 2004

Dear Mrs Khan

Re Proposal Primary Special School in Aylesbury

Thank you for your letter of 25 June.

I will ensure that your letter is submitted to the meeting of the School Organisation Committee on Wednesday 21 July, when they will consider the proposal outlined in the statutory notice.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Tusting
Assistant Education Officer

Cc Raj Popat, Legal and Administrative Service



Buckinghamshire County Council,
Education Department,
County Hall, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire. HP20 1UZ

10 Arnolds Close
Padbury
Buckingham
MK18 2 BG

25TH June 2004

Dear Sir

I am a parent with a child currently at Furze Down School. In fact my child is the youngest child in the school at the moment, and your proposal to move him **AGAINST MY WISHES**, to a school in Aylesbury, will affect him and many of the other children at Furze Down, causing disruption to their education and upheaval for their established routines. Continuity is **ESSENTIAL** to all children and **especially** those with special needs.

I feel that your statutory notices are written in such a way that most parents would not fully understand the **IMPLICATIONS** of such a document.

What you are proposing is to put 'sad kids' the children who currently only have behavioural difficulties associated with his/her condition in with 'bad kids' those who have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties because of circumstance or specific experiences. Perhaps you would like to come and explain to my child why it is wrong for him to hit and swear, but it is fine for another child to do this! I very much doubt you will be able to make him understand.

Your proposal to 'lump' all of 'those' children in together will cause the new school to become "**THAT SCHOOL WITH THOSE CHILDREN**", however much you would like it not to be labelled. We currently do not have this situation at Winslow, because being a village school the children are excepted in the community as being not 'loony kids' but kids who are a little different. I wonder in a large town like Aylesbury, whether this will be the case. I **VERY MUCH DOUBT IT!** You seem to be under the impression that in general society these special children are accepted just as any other. As a parent of one I can assure you they are not.

There are currently NO DETAILS about

- Specific provisions for each child's needs
- Specific facilities available
- What class sizes there will be
- How the school will coordinate mixed ability children i.e. Moderate Learning, Severe Learning and children with Behavioural, Emotional and Social difficulties
- What Specialists , Teachers and Support Teachers will be employed?

You state in your document that children displaced from their chosen school placement will be offered placement in the new school. As a parent, I and many parents **DO NOT** want their child moved to this new school. As parents we have made a choice. There is no reason why we should wish to change our choice, but it appears that the education department has decided what is **best** for our children and will leave us **NO CHOICE** but to send our children to the new school or place them in mainstream schools. I have already had my child in a mainstream school, and it was the school that decided that they could not cope with my child and his individual needs.

What happens when the school is full, Where will my child go? There are no answers to any of these questions!

For many children, both primary and secondary, a journey from the north of the county to Aylesbury or from Aylesbury to the north (Furze Down) will mean long, tiring journeys equivalent to commuting to London daily! This is completely unnecessary for the younger children, when there is a perfectly adequate primary facility at Furze Down.

Further, you are removing the child, either primary or secondary from there familiar surroundings. i.e. you are taking village kids and putting them into the town and town kids and putting them into a village. If the child were normal you would not choose to send your village child to a town school, a considerable distance from your home!

You have STATED in your document that THERE IS SUPPORT FROM GOVERNORS OF ALL FOUR SCHOOLS FOR THIS PROPOSAL

This statement is false! There is support for the new school, there is support for the improvement to Furze Down School, THERE IS NOT SUPPORT TO CLOSE THE PRIMARY FACILITY AT FURZE DOWN.

FURZE DOWN WISH TO KEEP THE PRIMARY FACILITY OPEN!

This is misleading to any parent reading this particular statement.

You also state that the school will offer a new approach to meeting the needs of pupils **WHAT HAPPENS IF THIS DOES NOT WORK?**

Lets be completely honest here, what you are proposing is to put all children with any hint of problems in one place, mix them all up together and hopefully pull out a normal balanced person at the end **THIS IS COMPLETE RUBBISH AND WON'T HAPPEN!** To those kids who don't quite fit you will push them out into inappropriate places in mainstream schools whether that is the right placement or not. Effectively trying to fit a square peg in a round hole.

As parents we want the best for our children who already face disadvantages. You are taking away our choice, our control and deciding our child's future. You have no right to do this. I have recently sent a questionnaire to parents of children at Furze Down. **PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ THEM.**

- Firstly the parents do not want their children educated in Aylesbury
- Most are not happy for their child to be educated alongside EBSD children
- They all wish Furze Down to remain an all age school (4 – 19)
- They do not wish Furze Down to become just a secondary school
- They are all concerned about the type of children who will be educated at all of the schools mentioned in the document, as they clearly recognise that the answer is not to put all the children of varying levels MLD, SLD and EBSD together.
- None of them are happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down.

I PLEASE ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER KEEPING THE PRIMARY PART OF FURZE DOWN SCHOOL OPEN.

I will be arranging a meeting for parents to attend to discuss your proposals. You can be assured that we will fight to keep our primary department open.



Helene Khan

Dear Parents

You will all have received the latest letter from the Education Department, concerning the proposed changes to Furze Down School from a mixed age school to a secondary school.

Did you understand the implications of the document?

It is proposed that younger children with special needs will be educated in Aylesbury. **YOU WILL HAVE NO CHOICE**, because there will not be any other primary special schools in the north of the county.

For many both primary and secondary, this will mean a long and tiring daily journey and disruption to their education and upheaval for their established routines. Continuity is **essential** to children and especially to those with special needs.

Despite the proposals there are no answers to basic questions such as:

- What specific provisions there will be to cater for your child's needs
- What specific facilities there will be
- What class sizes there will be
- How they are going to coordinate mixed ability children i.e. Moderate Learning, Severe Learning and children with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties.
- What specialists, teachers and support teachers are to be employed?
- What would happen to pupils from the North if the new school was full?

Your child who currently only has behavioural difficulties associated with his/her condition, could be educated and will mix with children who have Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties. How will this affect your child?

We would be grateful if you could complete and return the short questionnaire attached to this letter. Replies need to be received by **TUESDAY 22ND JUNE 2004**

With the government's emphasis on early years learning, we feel it is vital to continue to offer the specialist education and supporting environment of Furze Down School to children as early as possible. Many of your children have benefited from attending Furze Down at a young age and we hope you will agree that younger children already at the school and those waiting to come to us should be given the same opportunity.

We look forward to receiving your replies and any additional comments you wish to make would be welcome

Yours Sincerely,



Parents Action Group, Helene Khan, 10 Arnolds Close, Padbury, Buckingham.
HKHAN217@AOL.COM, Telephone: 07961875333 or 01280 820986

QUESTIONNAIRE

Children aged 4 – 11 years will be educated in Aylesbury. Do you agree with this?

YES

NO

Are you happy for your child to be educated with children who have behavioural, social, and emotional difficulties (EBSD)?

YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to remain an all age school ? (4 – 19)

YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to become a secondary school?

YES

NO

Do you agree with children being educated in Aylesbury

YES

NO

Are you concerned about the type of children that will be educated at Furze Down if it becomes a secondary school only? (i.e. if the needs of the children changes)

YES

NO

Are you happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down School?

YES

NO

Would you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Furze Down School and the changes being proposed?

YES

NO

Further Comments:

QUESTIONNAIRE

Children aged 4 – 11 years will be educated in Aylesbury. Do you agree with this?

___ YES

NO

Are you happy for your child to be educated with children who have behavioural, social, and emotional difficulties (EBSO)?

___ YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to remain an all age school ? (4 – 19)

YES

___ NO

Do you wish Furze Down to become a secondary school?

___ YES

NO

Do you agree with children being educated in Aylesbury

Only if they live there .

___ YES

___ NO

Are you concerned about the type of children that will be educated at Furze Down if it becomes a secondary school only? (i.e. if the needs of the children changes)

YES

___ NO

Are you happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down School?

___ YES

NO

Would you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Furze Down School and the changes being proposed?

YES

___ NO

Further Comments:

QUESTIONNAIRE

Children aged 4 – 11 years will be educated in Aylesbury. Do you agree with this?

_____ YES

_____ NO

Are you happy for your child to be educated with children who have behavioural, social, and emotional difficulties (EBSD)?

_____ YES

_____ NO

Do you wish Furze Down to remain an all age school ? (4 – 19)

_____ YES

_____ NO

Do you wish Furze Down to become a secondary school?

_____ YES

_____ NO

Do you agree with children being educated in Aylesbury

_____ YES

_____ NO

Are you concerned about the type of children that will be educated at Furze Down if it becomes a secondary school only? (i.e. if the needs of the children changes)

_____ YES

_____ NO

Are you happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down School?

_____ YES

_____ NO

Would you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Furze Down School and the changes being proposed?

_____ YES

_____ NO

Further Comments:

QUESTIONNAIRE

Children aged 4 – 11 years will be educated in Aylesbury. Do you agree with this?

___ YES

NO

Are you happy for your child to be educated with children who have behavioural, social, and emotional difficulties (EBSD)?

YES

___ NO

Do you wish Furze Down to remain an all age school ? (4 – 19)

YES

___ NO

Do you wish Furze Down to become a secondary school?

___ YES

NO

Do you agree with children being educated in Aylesbury

___ YES

NO

Are you concerned about the type of children that will be educated at Furze Down if it becomes a secondary school only? (i.e. if the needs of the children changes)

YES

___ NO

Are you happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down School?

___ YES

NO

Would you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Furze Down School and the changes being proposed?

YES

___ NO

Further Comments:

QUESTIONNAIRE

Children aged 4 – 11 years will be educated in Aylesbury. Do you agree with this?

_____ YES

NO

Are you happy for your child to be educated with children who have behavioural, social, and emotional difficulties (EBSD)?

YES

_____ NO

Do you wish Furze Down to remain an all age school ? (4 – 19)

YES

_____ NO

Do you wish Furze Down to become a secondary school?

_____ YES

NO

Do you agree with children being educated in Aylesbury

_____ YES

NO

Are you concerned about the type of children that will be educated at Furze Down if it becomes a secondary school only? (i.e. if the needs of the children changes)

YES

_____ NO

Are you happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down School?

_____ YES

NO

Would you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Furze Down School and the changes being proposed?

YES

_____ NO

Further Comments:

QUESTIONNAIRE

Children aged 4 – 11 years will be educated in Aylesbury. Do you agree with this?

YES

NO

Are you happy for your child to be educated with children who have behavioural, social, and emotional difficulties (EBSD)?

YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to remain an all age school ? (4 – 19)

YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to become a secondary school?

YES

NO

Do you agree with children being educated in Aylesbury

Not only at one school.

YES

NO

Are you concerned about the type of children that will be educated at Furze Down if it becomes a secondary school only? (i.e. if the needs of the children changes)

YES

NO

Are you happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down School?

YES

NO

Would you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Furze Down School and the changes being proposed?

YES

NO

Further Comments:

QUESTIONNAIRE

Children aged 4 – 11 years will be educated in Aylesbury. Do you agree with this?

Other children will be educated

___ YES

___ NO

Are you happy for your child to be educated with children who have behavioural, social, and emotional difficulties (EBSO)?

___ YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to remain an all age school ? (4 – 19)

YES

___ NO

Do you wish Furze Down to become a secondary school?

___ YES

NO

Do you agree with children being educated in Aylesbury

Other children will be educated

___ YES

___ NO

Are you concerned about the type of children that will be educated at Furze Down if it becomes a secondary school only? (i.e. if the needs of the children changes)

YES

___ NO

Are you happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down School?

___ YES

NO

Would you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Furze Down School and the changes being proposed?

If convenient to attend

YES

___ NO

Further Comments:

QUESTIONNAIRE

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Children aged 4 – 11 years will be educated in Aylesbury. Do you agree with this?

YES

NO

Are you happy for your child to be educated with children who have behavioural, social, and emotional difficulties (EBSD)?

YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to remain an all age school ? (4 – 19)

YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to become a secondary school?

YES

NO

Do you agree with children being educated in Aylesbury

YES

NO

Are you concerned about the type of children that will be educated at Furze Down if it becomes a secondary school only? (i.e. if the needs of the children changes)

YES

NO

Are you happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down School?

YES

NO

Would you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Furze Down School and the changes being proposed?

YES

NO

Further Comments:

QUESTIONNAIRE

Children aged 4 – 11 years will be educated in Aylesbury. Do you agree with this?

YES

NO

Are you happy for your child to be educated with children who have behavioural, social, and emotional difficulties (EBSD)?

YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to remain an all age school ? (4 – 19)

YES

NO

Do you wish Furze Down to become a secondary school?

YES

NO

Do you agree with children being educated in Aylesbury

YES

NO

Are you concerned about the type of children that will be educated at Furze Down if it becomes a secondary school only? (i.e. if the needs of the children changes)

YES

NO

Are you happy with the proposals for the future of Furze Down School?

YES

NO

Would you attend a meeting to discuss the future of Furze Down School and the changes being proposed?

YES

NO

Further Comments:

As my daughter finishes school in July I don't think my vote will count but I've filled in the form anyway. But I do strongly believe it's very wrong to send 4-11 years to Aylesbury they should stay as near to their home town as possible. Sherlan Oates mum to Sammy Oates