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"Joy In Learning"

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20 March 2013

Response to Statutory Notice for the proposed expansion of Wheelock Primary School, Sandbach

Dear Sirs

We write to object to the proposed expansion to Wheelock Primary School and put forward an alternative solution for consideration.

At the meeting with Local Authority representatives on 9th November 2012, we raised the issue of formal representations to the sub-committee should the proposal go forward to this stage. We requested that any representations made by our parents during the consultation period carry forward to the next stage and be accepted as formal objections. We were reassured that this would be the case. Reference to this discussion is recorded in the notes of the meeting. Please, therefore, accept any representations previously made by an Offley parent, whether in writing or at the drop in session on 15th January 2013, as a formal objection for the purposes of this stage of the process.

We enclose a copy of the letter previously submitted by our governing body together with representations sent direct to Mrs R Bailey, Portfolio Holder, by our Chair of Governors. These set out the position of the governors of Offley Primary school. For the avoidance of doubt we have concerns over the proposal as we believe that an expansion of this nature will potentially have a detrimental effect on other schools in the locality. We would suggest that the impact of the proposed expansion is already being felt. In support of this we would point to the fact that as at 14 January 2013 the admission applications for two schools near to Wheelock were significantly below their PAN. Furthermore, we believe that the capital spend at a time of austerity is not appropriate particularly when there is a cheaper, viable alternative.

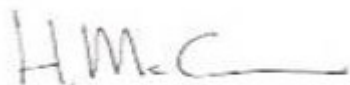


We wish to put forward an alternative proposal to return Offley to a PAN of 60. This would create a similar number of places however would have the following advantages:

- Offley has previously been a 2FE and therefore has the infrastructure to accommodate a PAN of 60. For example 2 halls, large staffroom, group work rooms, adequate toilets etc
- Offley is currently a 1.5FE therefore increasing its PAN to 60 would provide a more efficient organisation for the school and fit with the stated aim of Cheshire East for schools to be 1FE or 2FE thus avoiding mixed age teaching.
- Offley operates a 2FE structure at KS1 and therefore can accommodate 60 pupils until 2015. At that stage further accommodation would be required but at considerably less cost. Furthermore as 57 pupils were allocated to the school in 2012, this accommodation will be needed in any event.
- A return to 60 PAN will ensure the budget allows for the current level of staffing going forward and secures the viability of the school.
- Due to the current high numbers of pupils in the upper school, the effect of a return to a 2FE will not have an impact on other local schools
- Offley is a popular and successful school. Once again, our academic results have been significantly above national averages. For the year 2013, we have had over 100 applications including 52 first preferences.

If the committee feels inclined to agree the proposed expansion of Wheelock, we would request that steps are taken to consider the immediate return of Offley to a 2FE in any event. We would ask that an application for funding in relation to the accommodation that is required in 2015 is made as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully



Helen McCourt

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Offley Primary School

