

Full Proposal Annex A

***Church Lawton
Primary School***

***Headteacher:
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22nd January 2009

Councillor D. Rowlands
Children's Services Director
Cheshire County Council
County Hall
Chester
CH1 1SQ

Dear Councillor Rowlands

This letter replaces the previous letter handed to you at the meeting at Church Lawton Primary School on 20th January 2009. A revised Two-Year Recovery Plan is attached, which takes into account issues raised at the above meeting, we would particularly like to draw your attention to the matter of Federation.

We the governors for Church Lawton Primary School ask you to give serious consideration to the case for keeping Church Lawton Primary School open. We submit the enclosed Two-Year Recovery Plan which we believe forms the basis for an upswing in pupils numbers within the school and also addresses how the premises may be used more effectively.

PUPIL NUMBERS

The Recovery Plan outlines what we believe is a realistic and achievable objective of pupil numbers within a two year period. The Plan describes procedures which if introduced will, we believe, enable the pupil number target to be met. Once an increase in numbers is observed confidence in the School will begin to emerge and the School will then be able to continue to flourish. We also believe that Federation with other schools would act as a boost to pupil numbers and we have started to actively pursue this option.

COMMUNITY

It is important to recognise that Church Lawton is a village community in its own right and as such is not part of the larger neighbouring community of Alsager. The original Church Lawton Gate Primary School was established in 1843 and in the past as many as three schools have served the Church Lawton community. Several years ago we lost our Youth & Community Centre and since that time the current School has acted as the hub of the community hosting such events as the Village Fete, Village Football Tournament and has provided facilities to act as a local polling station. Village life as we know it in this country

needs a focal point to ensure community cohesion. The closure of the school would deprive the village of this community cohesion.

SITE AND BUILDINGS

The School site occupies a pleasant rural position, with access to nearby local resources such as the Trent and Mersey Canal, fields and the local church. The buildings are in very good condition and have been well maintained and resourced. The School provides an ideally learning environment. It is difficult to imagine what sort of alternative use could be found for such a site should the decision be taken to close the School.

FINANCE

We appreciate that keeping a small school open has financial implications and that there are numerous small schools in Cheshire where it is more expensive to educate children. However set against this fact is that a significant number of parents send their children to this school because of what this school offers. The particular needs of our pupils are best met in smaller class sizes, this is the moral and humanitarian case against the financial case. However with appropriate financial support from the Local Authority we believe the implementation of the Two-Year Recovery Plan will begin to increase pupil numbers and lessen the financial burden.

We trust that you will give careful consideration to the points we have raised and we look forward to been given the opportunity to turn the School around through the introduction of our Recovery Plan.

Yours sincerely

Governing Body of Church Lawton Primary School.