

My name is Oliver Moses. I am the Deputy Headteacher of Reigate Priory Junior School and the teacher's representative on the schools governing body. I am also a lifetime resident of Reigate and Redhill. I speak on behalf of the Headteacher and the 32 committed teaching professionals of Reigate Priory, a three times Ofsted Outstanding school and therefore asset to the town of Reigate, who want the following to be placed on record.

As a group of education professionals who regard the safeguarding of children in our care as an absolute priority, we believe it is incomprehensible that a public right of way should even be considered through part of a local community junior school. By junior, I mean a school attended by children who are just seven to eleven years old.

We have read the report by Mr D. Williams and it would appear that the rights and safety of 655 young Reigate children have been totally ignored in favour of a 'short cut' (Section 2.2) for convenience.

We struggle with the lack of sense in this application. Not only is it in complete opposition to the safeguarding expectations set to us by Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Minister of Education, Ofsted and most importantly, the 521 central Reigate families who send their children to us. But also, since the extensive redesign of the park, there are other routes available! Which people already use! The public do not have to walk through our school!

As I am sure you are aware, in our society safeguarding incidents are widely reported and scrutinised. The official recognition and publication of this route way will only draw further attention to it. It cannot be guaranteed that all that attention will be positive. Therefore, we, the teachers of Reigate Priory, want it on record that we totally oppose the recognition of public footpath rights through our school.

Any harm, even to one child, as a result of your decision will be inexcusable and unforgiveable.

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