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14th July 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governors of Reigate Parish Church School met last night and agreed to expand from an Infant to a Primary School. We think it is important that you are aware of how the decision was made and how the consultation influenced that process.

The Educational Consultation

Thank you for all of your responses. We had a total of 110 from residents, parents, carers and staff. 78 agreed that the school should expand. 24 disagreed and 8 said they were unsure. The main concerns raised by those who disagreed with the proposal cited issues with parking, traffic, the size of the site and admissions. A number of those who supported the proposal also raised these points.

Last night, the Governors met and read every single response form and were also provided with a summary document which had been prepared by the Clerk. The Governors then had a full and frank discussion focussing primarily on the concerns raised as part of the consultation. We also had access to the latest plans and discussed the practical ways in which the school could work on our site.

We talked widely about the merits of becoming a through Primary, discussing in particular the practical ways in which the School Leadership Team (SLT) could continue to provide an outstanding education for all of the children at the school. This is always a key priority for the Governing Body.

The Secret Ballot

There were 12 governors present at last night's meeting out of the full complement of 14. We felt that it was imperative for all Governors involved in the final decision to be able to read and discuss all of the consultation responses. Hence only the 12 Governors present were able to vote. This is in line with Department for Education decision-making guidance for School Governing Bodies.

Having thoroughly considered all of the matters raised in the consultation, the Governors held a secret vote. The proposal to expand was agreed by 7 votes to 5. Following the ballot, the Governing Body has unanimously agreed to support the proposal to go ahead with the expansion and continue to support the SLT through these exciting times.



The Next Steps

We would encourage as many of you as possible to attend this Thursday's Pre-Planning Viewing which will take place between 3.15pm and 8.30pm in the school hall. Please drop in at any time. You will be able to see the detailed designs as they currently stand, and have the opportunity to share your comments, thoughts and questions about them. In attendance will be the Schools Commissioning Officer, Admissions, the Project Manager, representatives from the Architects and from Transport. At 7pm, Mrs Davis and Mrs Kennedy will do a brief presentation outlining some of the ideas they have for Year 3.

On Thursday afternoon the teachers will share the latest plans with the children.

On a final note

This is a very exciting proposal, but we recognise that there are many challenges ahead. As a Governing Body, we remain committed to ensuring that you are as informed as possible throughout the process. Parent Forums next year will be one way for parents to continue to share their thoughts, although of course, we are happy to hear from you at any point.

Thank you again for your responses to date and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday.

Yours faithfully,



Deborah Arnold

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Board of Governors