



Dorchester Primary School
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Headteacher:- Mrs L. Austin. MA Bed (Hons), Dip Ed, Dip Man.

21st November 2009

Dear Mr. Ayres,

PRIMARY EXPANSION PROGRAMME

Thank you for attending our Governing Body meeting on 11 November to explain to us the current intentions regarding the Primary Expansion Programme. The Governing Body have asked me to respond to you as follows:-

1. The Governing Body of Dorchester Primary School wish to confirm their support in principle to the proposed increase of the Published Admission Number at Reception Year for September 2010 from 60 to 90 places.

2. Subject to the observations and caveats set out below, the Governing Body wish to confirm their support in principle to the expansion of the School with effect from September 2011 which will require:

An increase in Published Admission Number at Reception Year from September 2011 from 60 to 90 places with extensive consultation with all necessary parties alongside the admission arrangements during the Spring Term 2010.

The publication of statutory notices will be necessary because there will be the need for significant levels of additional permanent accommodation.

3. Whilst the Governing Body accepts that there will be an initial phase of expansion to provide permanent accommodation at Key Stage 1 by September 2011 and a second phase of expansion to provide accommodation at Key Stage 2 mainly by 2014, we are not prepared to accept temporary or modular accommodation at any stage of the expansion programme.

Recently we have been able to make improvements to 4 classrooms in the KS1 accommodation, however the whole of KS2 is housed in a temporary building, which is in a very poor condition, for example, during wet weather another leak in the roof appears. As you know, Dorchester was one of the schools considered for a rebuild under the Primary Capital Programme. Indeed our school remains the highest priority community school for a rebuild. We have the full support of Paul Burstow MP and Councillor Tony Brett Young in our continued lobbying for a rebuild and have copied this letter to the both of them.

4. A very great concern to us is that, without new permanent buildings, albeit staged, the present school infrastructure would not support teaching and learning requirements and there would potentially be an effect on health and safety standards.

We are already stretched for space with hall, office, car parking, toilet and staff accommodation only suitable for a one FE school.

If the proposals are sent to consultation we will require a guarantee that resources will be made available for such additional accommodation to be built at the outset. If a permanent build was approved we would hope to have provision to offer extended services involving the local community, thereby increasing our popularity and our admission numbers to capacity.

5. The Governing Body is concerned, given the popularity of other local schools that are also being considered for expansion, that any additional class may not be filled, leaving Dorchester with insufficient income to meet additional costs. The Governing Body would want a guaranteed funding for at least 24 pupils or a class teacher for the new intake irrelevant of the number of pupils on roll above 60.

6. Provided the concerns we have raised are met, the Governing Body would welcome the opportunity to offer thirty more children per year a high quality education in a caring community. The reputation of the school is growing and we are confident that Dorchester could expand without compromising standards, care and support. The school does have the space to provide the children with plenty of opportunities for outdoor play and learning as well as a popular public playground and park nearby.

The Governing Body would welcome further discussion once the feasibilities studies have been completed and it is known which other schools in the area are feasible to expand.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'K. Dukes' and the second is 'Louise Austin'.

Karen Dukes Louise Austin Jane Templeman

On behalf of the Governing Body