

A statement to the parents of Scott-Broadwood C of E (Aided) Infant School and the wider communities of both school sites, Capel and Ockley, and, in particular, the Ockley Parent Action Group

The purpose of this communication is to update you on the key events since the informal consultation meeting at The Ashcombe on 18 January 2017.

At The Ashcombe meeting, various suggestions were made and, subsequently, an Ockley Parent Action Group was formed. Several members of this group met with some Governors over the past weeks. The Parent Action Group organised a village meeting on 14 February 2017 at which a motion was passed requesting that the Governors reconsider their planned consultation process to close the Ockley base and halt the process for the academic year 2017/18 to allow the parent group further time to work on plans for the long-term sustainability of the school. To support this case, an evidence document was produced and circulated to Governors on 17 February 2017.

The Governors, the School and the Diocese recognise the level of concern and the strength of feeling on the issues and have welcomed communication from all interested parties.

Over the past two weeks, three Governors have resigned. The Vice-Chair departed for personal reasons. The departure of the Ockley PCC Governor (also the Chair of Governors) followed the decision by the Ockley PCC to defer her reappointment. Consequently the Chair felt her integrity as a Governor to do the best for the School was compromised and so resigned. This was followed by the resignation of the third Governor who was the Ex-Officio substitute for the Vicar during the parish interregnum.

The process of finding an experienced Governor who is prepared to be appointed to the Governing Body and to be elected as Chair is being actively pursued in order to move the process forward as rapidly as possible; as soon as such an appointment is made, this will be communicated to you.

As Scott-Broadwood is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School, it falls to the Guildford Diocese to respond at the present time.

Therefore, in response to the Parent Action Group document, please note the following:

- The strength of feeling on the issue of the possible closure of the Ockley base is acknowledged.
- The meeting at The Ashcombe on 18 January 2017 and the period between it and the start of the formal consultation process is informal consultation and not covered by any statutory requirements.
- Once the formal consultation process is started, all statutory requirements will be adhered to.
- All comments already received and all subsequent comments submitted in the Consultation Response Form at the end of the Consultation Booklet will be noted and fed into the decision making process going forward.
- The Local Authority cannot make statements about any planned proposals as it is the decision maker in any consultation process.

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