

CHESTERTON (CE, VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS TO ST.EDBURG'S (CE) PRIMARY SCHOOL

The School Governors met on Thursday May 17th and discussed the above proposals.

(i) **P.10 Consultations on catchment areas**

Concern was expressed over the future allocation of pupils living in Wendlebury. At present 'Wendlebury children' are zoned to St.Edburg's but, in practice, very few if any attend that School. Indeed the Authority provides free transport from Wendlebury to Chesterton School. In any redistribution of catchment areas Chesterton School would wish to see Wendlebury formally placed in our catchment area. This reflects current practice and the fact that Wendlebury Parish is in the Akeman Benefice along with Chesterton & Middleton Stoney. It is also a 'village community' as is Chesterton.

(ii) **P.16 Other Church of England schools in Bicester**

The statement says that there are 'no other Church of England schools in Bicester town' – this may be technically correct but fails to note that Chesterton School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School and, at present, the Kingmere development lies in Chesterton Parish. The School draws heavily on 'Bicester children' whose parents want them to attend a Church of England school, although they are not in our catchment area. We would not wish to lose this important client base.

(iii) **P.6 Future access to St.Edburg's**

The proposed arrangements for transport says that 'the majority of children attending the school will be able to walk/cycle/scoot to the school'. This is equally true of Chesterton where two footpaths/cycleways will make access to Chesterton from Kingsmere even easier than at present.

Since Kingsmere is in Chesterton Parish, at least for the time being, and Chesterton School draws on the parish for pupils and is also a V.A. School the Governors feel that prior consultation directly with them would have been appropriate in the circumstances. The Governors request assurances that the doubling of the intake and the addition of a Nursery unit at the relocated St.Edburgs will not have a deleterious impact upon the future viability of the School. We are already aware of the potential impact of the Upper Heyford 'Free School' upon the options for children living in Middleton Stoney.

Philip Clarke
Chair of Governors
28th May, 2012