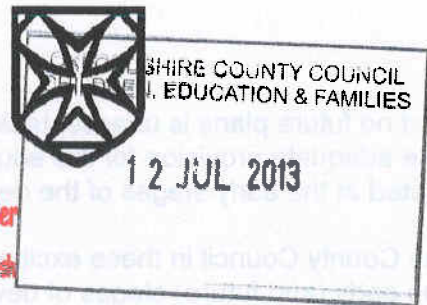


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Grow in wisdom
Respect
Ourselves
Value
Everyone

Head Teacher: Wendy Foster
Chair of Governors: Maggie Mellersh



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Diane Cameron,
School Organisation & Planning,
County Hall,
FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

7th July 2013

Response from the Governing Body of Grove CE School to public consultation on proposed new schools for Grove and Wantage

Dear Ms Cameron,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the public consultation on new schools and re-organisation of schools in the Grove and Wantage area. The Governors and staff at Grove CE School are keen to work proactively with the County Council in helping to serve the local community, by continuing to provide excellent quality education throughout all the stages of the various housing developments taking place in the area.

The Governing Body's strong preference is to remain at the school's current location. For that to happen it is essential that the present school buildings are refurbished to modern standards and extended to provide permanent accommodation which replaces the present dilapidated temporary classrooms. This will allow sufficient capacity for the influx of pupils from the early stages of developments at Monks Farm, Grove Airfield and Stockham Farm.

In the short term we need to become a permanent 3 – 11 single form entry school. In the longer term we want to expand into a two form entry school serving the developments as they progress. This would require the purchase of adjoining land in order to facilitate expansion.

Our current concerns are;

- much needed maintenance of the existing school as an OCC property has been neglected.
- ongoing local development discussions and negotiations over many years have prevented upgrading to modern standards.
- the local community are hesitant to have their children attending a school that is outdated and this adversely affects the school roll.
- prospective staff and parents are anxious about the uncertainty surrounding the future of the school.
- the Governors wish to move the school forward towards outstanding status and current instability is having an adverse effect on this aim.
- Section 106 development money will be used for building new schools in the area and we will be left 'on the shelf'.

Contd.



The current position with no investment and no future plans is unacceptable to the Governing Body. If the School and County are to make adequate provision for the education of the children of Grove, it is imperative that funding is allocated at the early stages of the developments.

We look forward to working closely with the County Council in these exciting times, and in particular in being part of the solution to the early (and future) stages of development in the Grove area.

Yours sincerely,



Maggie Mellersh
Chair of Governors

