



Elms Road, Botley, Oxford. OX2 9JZ.

Tel: 01865 248573 Fax: 01865 244127 office.2569@botley.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms Alison Marsh Deputy Headteacher: Mr Simon Jackson

Senior Leadership Team Response to 2FE Consultation

In principle we are in favour of the move to 2FE on a permanent basis for the following reasons:

- We have done this for the last few years and we as an SLT have managed this change successfully.
- As a school we have successfully managed other big “strategic changes” such as the merger between Elms Rd Nursery School and Botley Primary School extremely well, to ensure a smooth transition to Botley School opening in September 2011.
- We believe a growing school gives a positive image to the community and therefore will attract more local children than it currently does.
- We are encouraged by the proposed increase in pupil numbers from local new housing developments to fill our current vacant pupil places.
- In consultation with the LA and Mouchel we believe the proposed building of two new permanent classrooms would further enhance the current school building, providing purpose built spaces for learning.
- Obviously the more children we have does mean more money to be able to invest in the school and its pupils.

However, we do have serious concerns and would like reassurance from the LA that these can and will be addressed to ensure we get strong support should the 2FE go ahead, so there is no negative impact on the good quality of teaching and learning for our children and staff.

- The number of children coming from across the city by taxi is dramatically increasing. This can be quite a traumatic experience for 4 year old children (and their parents, who have minimal daily contact with the school). Many of these children have English as an additional language, who can arrive at school upset and very anxious. This obviously has a negative impact on their learning, and therefore limits their overall performance and progress. This

in turn then impacts on the School's overall attainment and achievement, on which it is judged by Ofsted. Having achieved an Ofsted "good" in November 2011, we are working very hard to continually improve and build on this, but find it even more challenging when some children from across the city are arriving, not fully prepared for learning, having been picked up early by taxi, through no fault of their own.

- Will children who are taxied over to our school for their primary years have any preferable treatment when applying to admissions for secondary schools? If they stay at our school for all their primary years, will they then be able to "move up" with their peers, who they will have built strong relationships with over the past 7 years? If not, it is likely that their performance and progress could be hampered, having the anxious time of moving to a different school, away from their primary school peers. Is this fair on those pupils?
- Our car park is due to be remodelled over Summer 2012 to enable its parking capacity to be increased to provide dedicated spaces for up to 5 taxis at the start and end of the day. However, based on current F1 intake numbers for Sept 12, it is likely that approx. 25 additional children will need to be taxied in from across the city. This is in addition to those taxis already coming on site, which will cause further congestion in the School car park causing emergency access difficulties.
- We are concerned that some internal remodelling (should the 2FE be approved) will mean we will lose our large, bright, spacious classrooms that are an absolute asset and are an integral part of our continual improvement in raising standards. For example one classroom of over 100 sqm could be made into 2 classrooms, for KS 2 children, leaving limited space for withdrawal/SEN inclusion work within the classroom or storage, which will obviously have a negative impact on standards. We are concerned that just providing "minimum requirements" for a 2FE school does not necessarily mean the best learning environment for the children to achieve their potential. The space we have on our current site is very much valued by parents, staff and children and is a key feature of our school.
- We understand the LA is under extreme pressure to find school places for the increased demand, but we would not accept temporary/modular buildings as a measure for providing school places. As we are along the A34 slip road, the noise from the A34 is too loud for such a temporary building to be an option. We would only accept permanent building extensions to house the increased numbers.
- As part of the conversion to 2FE, we will need to turn our current ICT suite into a classroom. This means re-organising our ICT provision, which we have not budgeted for. What financial assistance will the LA provide for this?