

Expansion of Primary Schooling Provision in Henley

Submission of Trinity C of E Primary School Governing Body

There are a number of additional issues concerning the case for Trinity, which the Governing body believes are material and submit for consideration by councillors:

- Trinity is committed to 2FE as a stated strategy for the school . We have worked with the admissions team to accommodate rising pupil numbers over the last two years (currently 60 pupils in year 1 and 52 in our reception year). We accepted these additional children in order to demonstrate our commitment to 2FE, in spite of serious concerns over lack of space: our *current* hall provision is 30% below the minimum recommendations for 1.5FE, and 40% below that for 2FE.
- We worked with the OCC / Mouchel team to develop the feasibility scheme which features some very good ideas. The scheme is good, but is complex and expensive.
- We actually believe that Trinity could become a fully-functioning 2FE facility for substantially less than the stated £3.5m, by both amending the design and substantially reducing the scope. Following a sketch scheme prepared by our school governor, Ben Marston, who is an architect specialising in school design, (details attached) we suggest that the cost of expanding to 2FE would be in the region of £800-£900k and therefore
 - **£875k is a realistic direct cost of expanding to 2FE.**
 - New Hall: The redesigned scheme would involve expansion of the school hall/studio/storage/staffroom space in a simpler way than the feasibility scheme; importantly retaining the existing hall and expanding the space, rather than demolishing and rebuilding it with a raised floor level and roof as the feasibility scheme proposed. A new hall space would simply be built alongside the existing building.
 - Modular/Temporary Classrooms Retained: The suggested £1.85m to build a new 5 classroom block, replacing 4 current temporary classrooms is not a cost directly attributable to expanding to 2FE. Whilst building permanent classrooms is highly desirable and would address the long-standing issue that 23% of our classrooms (90 pupils) are in temporary buildings, the school can operate at 2FE with the current provision.
- If we are not expanded permanently, we would be very adversely affected financially and organisationally for the next few years as we manage two “oversized” year groups moving through the school. As a high-performing school we are very fearful that we will consequentially be forced to make cuts which will have a detrimental impact on pupil outcomes and standards.
- Capacity at Trinity is already insufficient to meet parental preferences from within its’ catchment. Additionally, 3 of the 4 sites available for housing development in Henley are on the Trinity side of the town, which the school will be expected to serve. A decision not to expand Trinity will force

larger numbers of young families to travel unreasonable distances across the centre of the town, forcing families into cars and exacerbating existing traffic circulation issues in Henley town centre.

- We are the only Church of England school in Henley and know that this is an important factor and preference for many parents in selecting a primary school.
- Expanding Trinity will mean building upon the success of a very high-performing, over-subscribed and centrally-located school that has already demonstrated a commitment and intention towards 2FE.