

Delegation to Leeds City Council

21st June 2006

Good afternoon I will be referring to this sheet throughout my presentation.

We are here as extremely concerned parents of children at Adel Primary School.

As I speak there are 3 classes of children watching as their windows are being bricked over. Just over a year ago, a decision was made to demolish internal store cupboards in classrooms and to replace them with solid brick stores outside the classrooms.

There appears to have been a series of unfortunate events leading to the current situation.

1. Leeds Architectural Design Services were employed to design the scheme. They ignored DfES guidelines which require 'daylight' to be 'the prime means of lighting', and unbelievably came up with this solid brick box. Please see diagram 1 (*Front elevation on approved plans*)
2. They produced drawings submitted for planning approval which did not show existing windows in the classrooms. Please see diagram 2. (*Proposed floor plan without windows*) The plans were accompanied by a photo which was taken at such an angle that 2 large windows were obscured. Please see photo 3 (*Photo as submitted with plans*).
3. Leeds City Council Planning Department granted planning permission on the basis of these grossly inaccurate drawings.
4. Planning Notices were posted in 2 cul-de-sacs during the school summer holidays so parents were not alerted to the potential impact of the stores on the classrooms. No plans were displayed for us to have a look at, not even a letter describing the detail of the wonderful new stores outside the classrooms, so that someone might have picked up the fact that they would obstruct the existing windows completely. The first we knew about it all was when construction started. See photo 4 (*Year 4 photo as worked started*).
5. Parents immediately raised concerns with the school and were assured that all correct procedures had been followed and that nothing could be done until the governing body met on 12th June.

Photo 5 year 5 blocked up windows

6. A petition was drawn up to stop the blocking of daylight from classrooms and within 36 hours it was signed by some 81 parents. Before the governors could meet, costly ad hoc alterations have been started, deviating from the approved planning permission. These alterations include adding external doors, velux windows in the roof and high level slit windows. Please see photo 6 (*Today's photo*) . Since the parents had been told right from the beginning that no changes could be made to the approved building work unless there were health and safety issues, it is a mystery how such alterations could have been started before the governors meeting. We simply do not understand on whose authority this was done and why some changes have been made while other suggestions for improvements have been ignored.
7. Parents have attempted to get Minutes of sub committee meetings, a formal meeting with parent governors and a parent with professional experience to be invited to speak at the Governors meeting.

All have been ignored or rejected.

8. After the meeting on 12th June the governors gave no undertaking that the situation will be effectively addressed, merely stating in a letter to all parents that the current building work would be completed, and then a costing undertaken for the insertion of a 4 foot square window underneath the high level one.
9. What we are left with is
 - 1 woefully inadequate storage – because as you will appreciate with doors and windows added and the original windows being one whole wall, there is not a huge amount of wall left that can actually be used for shelves.
 - 2 pupils having virtually no view outside
 - 3 pupils are unable to grow plants from seeds on the windowsill as part of the National Curriculum and
 - 4 parents being unable to check their children are safely in the classroom or even to wave them goodbye.
10. This whole fiasco was originally costed at **£54,000**. Is it

good use of public funds???

1 Our primary concern now is that since the governors' next scheduled meeting is in September, the whole of the summer holidays, when of course this work should ideally be done, will be wasted, and even if further changes are eventually agreed to be made, the whole process will drag on and disrupt the childrens' educational environment for yet another term

We are here to appeal directly to you to work with the school governors, Education Leeds, the Planning Department and Leeds Architectural Design Services to come up with the funding for a more appropriate solution to the storage problems.

Thank you for your attention.