

2012
For

Proposed Through School

Sent: 06 July 2011 10:33

To: EDUC School Organisation

Cc: Savage, Lesley

Dear School Organisation Team

I am writing in my capacity as a childcare provider to support Roundhay's proposal for a through school on the Wetherby Road/Elmete Lane site. As a setting we understand the importance of good transitions for children from one provider to another and would therefore welcome the benefits that a through school would bring to children's transition from Year 6 to Year 7.

Oakwood Acorns has worked in partnership with Roundhay School in the past, for example taking our pre-school children to spectate at their sports day and joining a trampoline session that their pupils were hosting for John Jamieson pupils. Their pupils visit our settings on their Community Action Programme, for Work Experience and Alternative Learning Programme. I am therefore confident that a through school would offer further opportunities for collaborative working that would be of benefit to the community that we serve.

We look forward to continuing to work with Roundhay School and hope that they are successful in their application to become a through School.

Kind regards



Registered Office 10 Well House Avenue, Leeds LS8 4BY. Company No. 06387793

SENT BY EMAIL TO: educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk

Leeds

Director of Children's Services
c/o School Organisation Team
10th Floor West
Merrion House
110 Merrion Centre
Leeds LS2 8DT

6 July 2011

Dear Colleague

ROUNDHAY THROUGH SCHOOL PROPOSAL AND STATUTORY NOTICE - COMMENTS BY 8 JULY DEADLINE

I am a governor of Roundhay St John's Church of England Primary School but am responding to the opportunity to comment in an individual capacity.

I have a number of concerns about the proposal and the speed with which it appears to be being driven forward.

The stated need for additional primary places should not justify hasty decision-making which does not take proper account of views expressed in the consultation phase, including alternatives to what is on offer.

My prime motivation for writing at this stage is that I do not think that the response to the consultation submitted by the Chair of Governors at Roundhay St John's has been given the consideration it warrants given the school's geography and clear position as a key stakeholder affected by the proposed changes.

Despite this the school was not even identified in the consultation document and although there has been an apology for this clear omission it created misinformation from the outset which could have impacted on the views of the wider public. In addition there has been no written response to comments submitted by the Governing Body, nor any other attempt at engagement to explore the issues raised

including three alternative options and a specific request to discuss these. My impression as a concerned member of the public is that the school has been treated in an unnecessarily discourteous and offhand manner.

My comments in summary are as follows:

1. The speed of progress and work on numbers. I am not satisfied that enough detailed work has been done on the demographics of the through school proposal to address the impact on existing primary provision. It is simplistic to say that because Roundhay St John's is currently over-subscribed it will not be affected significantly by the proposal.
2. The suitability of Roundhay School Technology and Language College as a potential provider of primary education. I think that a lot more consideration needs to be given to how this would work in practice. Have models of good practice been studied and what is the research base which justifies linking primary and secondary education in this way? The two require different sets of skills which will raise professional issues. How are these to be worked through? It is not acceptable to make a strategic judgment about this without exploring the issues in detail and I would have expected this be part of the consultation. There seems to be more concern about how the finances might work than whether this model of education is appropriate. (NB I should add that I have a high regard for Roundhay School as a provider of secondary education)
3. The geography and location. Notwithstanding the alternative options proposed by Roundhay St John's which accept the possibility of primary provision on the Elmete Lane site, I am concerned as an individual that this is on the edge of the area and relatively remote from housing, which means that few children would walk to school and most would be driven and dropped off on a stretch of Wetherby Road which is relatively narrow and difficult to turn around on. I know the policy on how far primary school children are theoretically expected to walk but in practice it is unrealistic, particularly for working parents. I submit that the site would generate significant traffic, cause congestion and importantly not help Leeds City Council meet its challenging targets for reducing carbon emissions.

Yours sincerely

For

2014

Proposed primary school provision

Sent: 06 July 2011 19:44

To: EDUC School Organisation

Cc: Savage, Lesley

To whom it may concern,

I am contacting you in response to the proposal for a through school at Roundhay.

Having a child who is due to go to primary school in 2012, we are fully in favor of this proposal. We currently live on the city side of North Leeds and are concerned with the lack of good provisions close to us, particularly as we are looking to move further into North Leeds in the next few years. More provisions in the area can only be a good thing and will also open up places at other schools, which some parents may have struggled to get their children into before. We feel that 60 extra places would make choosing a school a fairer process.

We support the through schooling route and see the benefits of an easy transition between primary and secondary education.

Yours sincerely,

for

R015

Roundhay School Primary School Provision.**Sent:** 06 July 2011 20:10**To:** EDUC School Organisation**Cc:** Savage, Lesley

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a parent with a young child who is due to start school in September 2013 I would welcome any additional Primary School places in the area. Thinking about and choosing the right school is a difficult decision for any parent, but with a shortage of places and catchment areas that are narrowing due to increases in demand it can be a stressful time too. To be given the opportunity to send my son to a school with a reputation as good as Roundhay's would be fantastic. To then be able to secure a secondary placement would be ideal and it would most certainly relieve a great deal of pressure on many parents, including myself. I think that it is a fantastic idea and I can only welcome the project.

I also feel that this would be the best use of the site as it compliments the original use of the land and will also provide a much needed service in the region.

I really hope that the project goes ahead and that I get the opportunity to send my son to this school in two years time.

Your sincerely

Lesley Savage

For

R016

Proposal for primary campus on Wetherby Road & Elmete Lane

Sent: 06 July 2011 21:00

To: EDUC School Organisation

Cc: Savage, Lesley

Hi,

I received information today from my son's nursery on the proposal for the primary campus on Wetherby Road & Elmete Lane.

I think overall it would be beneficial for the area and believe it is important for children to have a smooth transition from their primary schooling into their secondary. However an area that is unclear is the fact that the primary site will be completely separate from the secondary site. I cannot see how this would be different from any other primary transition to high school, unless the children are transported on regular visits to Roundhay school to feel they belong all together. Would you be able to expand on this please?

Many thanks

This message has been processed by MIMESweeper for Exchange.

Against

2017

Proposal to build a new school

Sent: 06 July 2011 21:46

To: EDUC School Organisation

Cc: Atkins #7

To: The Director of Children's Services.

I am writing to express my concern over the proposal to build a new primary school on the site of the old Braimwood school. I understand that the purpose of building a new school is to provide school places for children in the Roundhay area. Unfortunately, siting the new school on the Braimwood site would mean a long journey for most families living in Roundhay and would actually be more likely to become the school of choice for many Seacroft families.

As you are no doubt aware, the local Seacroft schools are currently undersubscribed and are likely to continue to be in the future. If these schools lose pupils to the proposed new school, this will have a detrimental effect on school budgets, causing redundancy and distress. Further, it will adversely affect the pupil profile of the Seacroft schools. Many aspirational parents will choose a Roundhay school because of its associations with Roundhay High school. I would therefore suggest that one of the local Roundhay schools, such as St. Johns, or Gledhow be extended to enable it to accommodate more pupils. This would be much more convenient for Roundhay families and avoid adverse effects on Seacroft schools.

I hope you are able to reconsider these plans as they currently do not seem to solve the problem they are designed to solve.

Yours faithfully

This message has been processed by MIMESweeper for Exchange.

Tel.
e-mail:

Wednesday, 6 July 2011

The Director of Children's Services
Fao: School Organisation Team
10th Floor West
Merrion House
110 Merrion Centre
Leeds
LS2 8DT

Dear School Organisation Team

I am writing in response to the statutory notice of your proposal to increase Primary provision in the Roundhay area by changing the age range of Roundhay School and consequently increasing the size of that school by developing a new primary unit on land at Elmete Lane. I wish to object to that proposal.

I wrote on 16 February as Chair of Governors of Roundhay St John CE Primary School and on behalf of the Governing body of that school as part of the public consultation exercise. I am now writing on an individual basis as a very concerned school governor and local resident.

Before raising specific issues which lead to my objection, I wish to make it clear that I think the process of consultation which has preceded and surrounded this proposal has been inadequate. So far as I am aware, no local school knew of this specific proposal, or of the likelihood that anything like it would be made, prior to the dissemination of the documentation for the public consultation in January this year. As a result there has been no direct discussion of this proposal with the schools most likely to be affected by it and no opportunity to propose and discuss other viable and potentially more appropriate alternative schemes. Similarly, through my letter of 16 February, the Governors of Roundhay, St John School raised specific matters which were of concern to them and made alternative proposals. Although Roundhay St John's school is closest to the proposed new unit and very likely to be affected by it, there has been no response to our letter and no discussion of the alternative proposals the governors made there. I consider this to be an entirely inadequate way of dealing both with this proposal and with the concerns of those affected by it.

The particular matters I wish to raise are:

1. **Demographics:** I am very concerned about the demographics underlying the proposal. Based on the number of births cited in the January consultation document, the provision of a new two form entry school on the proposed site would result in a significant over provision of places for the area immediately surrounding the “new school”, assuming that Roundhay St John’s continues to provide thirty places a year. Based on the figures provided in that same document, it seems clear that the foreseen need for Primary places in the south Roundhay area can be met from existing provision at existing schools. I also understand that schools immediately adjacent to the area to be served by the new unit, but on the far side of the Easterly Road are far from full.
2. **Effect on other local schools:** In light of the above, I strongly disagree with the statement on page 4 of the consultation document suggesting that the proposed primary provision “would build on the strengths of the existing secondary school **without undermining any of the other primary schools in the area.**” So far as St John’s School is concerned, the proposed primary school will accept children from much the same area as St John’s does at present. As Roundhay St John’s is not able to offer the incentive of being able to guarantee a place at Roundhay High School which the new primary school will offer, the fear is that Roundhay St John’s will struggle to fill its places from the area immediately surrounding the school. The fact that at the moment St John’s is oversubscribed does not mean that this will always be the case and it does not mean that it will not be badly affected by this proposal. St John’s has always been a local school serving its immediate locality and it has actively tried to be part of the local community. At the very least, this proposal would change its character completely.
3. **Roundhay School:** I do not believe that Roundhay School is best placed to provide Primary Education. The School and Governing Body have no experience of doing so. Primary Education is not the same as Secondary Education. I believe Primary Education is best provided by those already experienced in doing it. As I understand it, there are precious precedents for extending the role of an existing Secondary School in this way.
4. **Geography:** The Elmete site is at the far edge of the area it is supposed to serve. Based upon your own projections, there will not be sufficient demand for places in the immediate area to fill the sixty places each year in the new unit. This certainly means that more travelling – almost certainly by car - would be required. This is undesirable in itself and would increase traffic problems in the Wetherby Road at a point at which it is already quite narrow.
5. The extra demand for places in the Roundhay area, appears to be coming largely from the area that might be described as North Roundhay, around Street Lane. It is highly questionable whether parents will wish to bring their children all the way to the Elmete site. One clear option in that general area would be to re-open Fir Tree School – closed in the last, mistaken, round of re-organisation just a few years ago.

For these reasons I object to the proposal

Yours faithfully,

2019

Roundhay School Primary Proposal

Sent: 07 July 2011 11:38

To: EDUC School Organisation

Cc: Jeremy [jezben@gmail.com]

For

Good morning,

I'm writing to add our support to the proposed primary school as part of Rounday School on the old Elmete site. Our son, Sam, will be due to start school in September 2013 and we have been very concerned over the lack of primary places in local schools, not wishing to travel beyond our local area. Several of our local friends have had real difficulties in finding a suitable place for their 4-year-olds which has caused a great deal of stress and in some cases meant they have had to move house to get their child into school. We do not want to go through this kind of upheaval.

My stepson, Jacob, is currently in year 8 of Rounday High School, which is our local high school and with which we are very happy, and we would want Sam to go there too in year 7, so the Rounday Primary school would be a very attractive option for us for this reason too.

We like the idea of an all-through school provision and the continuity of curriculum provision and quality control it brings.

So, please add our names to your list of supporters for the proposal. We would also be grateful if you could keep us updated on its progress.

Best wishes,

2020

Proposed development for additional Roundhay primary school

Against

Sent: 07 July 2011 13:18

To: EDUC School Organisation

Cc: Atkins, K [atkinsk06@leedslearning.net]

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a class teacher at Grange Farm Primary school, I feel compelled to voice my deep concern in regards to the proposal made to extend Roundhay High school by building a new primary facility off Elmete Lane.

In short, I am worried that the Executive Board have been **seriously misled** in relation to the intake numbers for the Seacroft area, upon which so much of the proposal rests. The numbers presented to the board, in my opinion, are seriously flawed. They appear to have been generated with zero consultation of the professionals **at school-level** who have to work with such figures in their real-world manifestations. The headteachers who have examined the figures have clearly stated that the predicted 'full schools' image for the next few years simply will not come to fruition. A new primary would take numbers from our own roll and the schools around us. Without doubt. A ticket straight to Roundhay High School - ask yourself the question: if such a primary was on your doorstep, wouldn't you take the opportunity? Particularly when you as a Seacroft resident would be more entitled, **geographically speaking**, than the residents in which the identified 'pressure' exists!

2012/13: Our school will not be full. Beechcroft will not be full. I would hate for anyone to have been so misled as to commission a new primary, which ends up depleting numbers from the local schools in the area and in the longterm, creating redundancies. Askett Hill primary school?

There are other avenues which seem far more sensible to be explored. The idea of **expanding Rounday St John's** to a 2 form entry has not been fully explored. The land around the school is a Conservation area but this does not make it impossible, just more difficult. Another option would be to allow St John's to become a split site school with the new building on the Elmete site, again a cheaper option which would provide 30 additional places rather than 60- making much more sense. There is room to **expand Gledhow Primary**- where the demand is- why is pressure not being brought to bear on the governing body there? What about Fir Tree Primary? I was informed by Leeds Planning that it was 'in the wrong place'- but it is nearer to the Roundhay bulge than this proposed venture. The original proposed expansion of Moor Allerton Primary would also alleviate the problem.

- In times of great financial constraint, surely it is completely wrong to build a school for over 4 million pounds, not that long after pulling one down very near to that site.

I also feel that as a school, we have been **very badly treated**. We were not consulted about this proposal. Allegedly because it does not affect our area of schools. I cannot imagine anyone threatening to build a hotel nextdoor to a B&B being able to do so without at least putting some planning permission through at the initial stages. For the benefit of local residents and business owners.

To conclude:

The proposal shows a complete lack of common-sense.

The proposed site is misplaced, seemingly chosen because: 'It's the only one we've got', as your representative mentioned when we met her recently.

Please give the entire proposal a thorough examination.

Yours Sincerely,

Grange Farm
Class Teacher.

R021

For

Roundhay School Primary Provision

Sent: 07 July 2011 13:28

To: EDUC School Organisation

I want to comment positively regarding the proposal to expand Roundhay School to include Primary provision.

I think it is an essential and very feasible option.

I have a child who is currently in reception in our 2nd choice school, we are still waiting for a place for her in our 1st choice, we moved house to get her in there. The lack of places, and sheer number of children needing places is a hot topic for us parents, and very stressful

We have 2 other children who will start school in 2012 and 2014, having this extra provision can only be a good thing, and actually totally essential.

I think its a wonderful solution to have a through-school too, we have found this whole process with our first child soooooo stressful, and keep thinking that we have to be mindful of the next stage for her (secondary school) it would therefore be wonderful not to have that stress of trying to choose and worrying about places available.

We therefore wholeheartedly give our support to the proposal.

Regards