

Roundhay St. John's Church of England (VA) Primary School
North Lane, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2QJ.

Phone: 0113 265 8451 / Fax: 0113 265 3929
Email: secretary@roundhay-st-johns.leeds.sch.uk
www.roundhay-st-johns.leeds.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mr Andrew Graham, MA (Ed), BA (Hons) QTS, ALCM.
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Mrs Barbara Custance, Cert. Ed, BEd (Hons).

6th July 2011

ROBO
Against

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

Further to your statutory notice of your proposal to increase primary provision in the Roundhay area, I am writing to object to these plans.

- The consultation process has been very poor indeed. I have no doubt that those leading it will say that they have met their statutory obligations, but I think that it would have been in the interests of all concerned to have engaged in a process that genuinely involved and included people from the very early stages to avoid so much inaccuracy and anxiety.
- The original consultation document was without any doubt misleading, not least because our school was not even mentioned or considered. Given that we are the only school in the area of the map identifying the new school, the omission could hardly claim to be an oversight in a document that claimed that this new provision could be brought forward 'without undermining any of the primary schools in the area'.
- There are surplus places in schools in the Seacroft area and this proposal will doubtless take even more children away from some of these established good schools. The Local Authority should be working with these schools to get them up to full capacity not throwing further challenges in their path.
- The proposed site is in entirely the wrong place. Who has asked the parents concerned whether they would be prepared to bring their children from the other side of Roundhay, where there is under capacity, down towards the Easterly Road? Why has the old Fir Tree School not been a considered option? That is closer to the area of concern.
- There is a view that there is sufficient demand for places. The figures on the consultation document do not suggest there is a need for an additional 2 form entry primary school year on year. Why can't these figures be explained? The diocese recently asked for clarification of these figures and was not offered a convincing explanation. There is a view that the formula is too complicated to be fully explained. If nobody can explain this to those it most concerns then that brings further questions about its reliability.
- Roundhay St. John's have offered the primary provision in this area since 1837 and yet are offered no opportunity to expand its provision when there is supposedly a need for it. There are a number

"Keep in Shape – mentally, physically and spiritually."



of ways in which we could expand our provision if given the opportunity on this site or the proposed site. The fact that we are in a conservation area doesn't make it impossible – just more difficult. We know that a 'golden ticket' to Roundhay would appeal to many of our families – almost half of our intake did not get a place there is year. We know therefore that this proposal would draw children away from us. The school has always aimed to serve its local community and that, at the very least, would change along with the character of the school.

- There seems to be many people in this area who remember the mistakes of only a few years ago when schools closed and this proved to be the wrong decision. There are too many doubts around this proposal that could, and probably will, lead to cause for regret further on. How can a spend of 4 million be justified on a project that is surrounded by so many concerns and has the capacity to impact on the success of so many other schools.

I object to the proposal.



"Keep in Shape – mentally, physically and spiritually."



FW: New school- Feedback on LocationR031
Against**Sent:** 08 July 2011 12:56**To:** EDUC School Organisation

From: ...
Sent: 07 July 2011 21:08
To: Brooks, G
Subject: Re: New school- Feedback on Location

The main reason for opening the new school is to provide adequate spaces for the Children in the Roundhay area. I have following comments regarding the location

1. Ideally, the school should be in the center of Roundhay area or at a place which is convenient to the Roundhay residents. This is north/ western parts of the Roundhay park. However the proposed site is in Elmete lane. This is on the eastern fringes of the Roundhay area. Roundhay residents should be consulted to determine the most appropriate location.
2. It appears that the proposed site is not connected by any bus service. The only way this school would be accessible is through car or by a (25 Mins) walk from nearest bus stop (route no 12/13/13A) . It is important for primary schools to be accessible by bus routes. Primary school kids , unlike the 11-18 years old, cannot walk long distances. Grange farm school is on the route of 49/ 50 which is one of the best served routes. The proposed school should be along the route of 12/13/13A. Accessing Grange farm school through bus is more convenient even for the Roundhay residents in comparison with the school at elmete lane.(through 12/13/13A and than 49/ 50).
3. If the intent is to provide, seats for residents of Roundhay as well as Seacroft than better alternative is to have extensions in Grange farm school and in the Gledhow schools. This will prevent competition between the schools for the resources and also generate more economies. The money saved can be used for up gradation of the existing infrastructure.
4. It is in interest of council, that every penny is spent wisely. It would be much better if the proposed school does not cannibalize on the resources and assets of any of the existing schools.
5. What steps council has taken so far or is willing to take to fill the spare capacity in the Grange Farm school? It should be noted that the Grange farm school has improved in Rankings and performance over the last 5 years. It has come compareable to the other good schools in Roundhay area. The council should support the school in endeavour to improve. The proposed location would cannibalize on Grange Farm's and other nearby school resources.

Kind Regards

j

--- On Mon, 6/27/11, ...

|

FW: New school

R032
Against

Sent: 08 July 2011 12:56

To: EDUC School Organisation

From:

Sent: 06 July 2011 12:33

To: Brooks, G

Subject: Re: New school

I write concerning the proposed new school on the site of Brainwood school, Roundhay.

There are a number of inter-related issues:

Is there a need for a totally new build at a time when government cut-backs are affecting every area of life? Cheaper options such as enlarging existing schools would surely be a cheaper alternative.

The siting of the proposed new build is not near the centre where increased numbers of places are required and is likely to more greatly affect the schools in Seacroft than provide places where they are most needed.

The whole issues of the number of school places required was thoroughly investigated a few years ago when Asket Hill school was closed when those involved were assured that even if there were an increase in school places required there was sufficient capacity in existing schools.

The positioning of a Primary school on a major road such as the outer ring road also raises the issue of whether the school would be easily and safely accessible apart from by car.

I hope that very careful consideration will be given to these and other issues raised by those who are concerned about this proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

(School governor at Grange Farm)

From: Brooks, G

Sent: Monday, July 04, 2011 3:05 PM

To: pbb@leeds.gov.uk

Subject: New school

From: Atkins, K

Sent: 26 June 2011 17:06

To: Atkins, K

Subject: New school

Reminder- please respond re the new school proposals by Friday this week- it is really important that we do. Thanks to those who have done

so already

These are the points I hope governors will make in their responses- you may want to just pick out one or two key points so we are not all saying the same thing. Parent governors may wish to make a joint response. Please copy me into all responses as I am also contacting individual councillors. You can write or send an email- details are attached.

I really hope everyone responds- it is really important.

-The information given to Executive Board- that there were plenty children to fill the places in Seacroft- was incorrect- although Grange Farm may appear 'full' for September 2010 there are only 50 first choices (school is a 60 place school)- experience shows us that most of the places children do not arrive- so we are likely to have surplus places in September as we have every year. The building of this new school will take children away from our school and other Seacroft schools that already have surplus places. Children Leeds Planning department have admitted to us at the governing Body meeting that the new school will have 'an impact on numbers in your school'. It will take children away from a good school and create surplus places - at a cost of over £4,000,000

- We are the nearest non-denominational school to this new school. It is less than a mile from- 1.1km. The demand for places, where schools are over subscribed- is not in Seacroft but around Gledhow Primary (2.1 miles from the proposed site of the new school), Kerr Mackie (2.1 miles from proposed site), Talbot Primary (2.7 miles from proposed site)- or in Harehills- for example Hovingham Primary - (2.2 miles from proposed site).

The site is in completely the wrong place.

- Although Grange Farm is a good school, a straw poll of parents, conducted by parent governors, shows that many parents would choose the proposed new school over Grange Farm, because of the ticket to Roundhay High. This would therefore disadvantage the remaining pupils and alter any social and cultural mix which we currently have, as the more aspirational parents may well choose Roundhay. It is therefore adding disadvantage to an area which already experiences significant economic and social disadvantage.

- The impact on Seacroft schools does not appear to have been considered by Leeds Planning. We were never visited or telephoned to discuss the impact of the proposals as other Roundhay schools were. It feels like a case of 'Here is a piece of land, let's use it'- not- 'where is the best place to site this school?' It is just over 1 km from our school-less than a mile- but no-one thought to consider that- although are happily proposing that children will travel 3 miles to attend this new school.

- The fact that the school is designed for 60 places does not make sense. There are 62 children in the polygon for the new school for 2010 (consultation document) and 47 the following year. Bearing in mind several of those children are likely to go to denominational, private or other schools- where is the justification for making it 60 places? If LCC Planning are expecting children to travel 3 miles from Gledhow or Talbot areas, why don't they realise the children from Seacroft- who will be much nearer- will also be prepared to travel as their parents did historically to Braimwood school. The children from Seacroft will be much nearer - so if there were high demand for this school the places would be granted to children from Seacroft- who will live nearer. The only way this school will fill is take places away from existing schools in Seacroft.

-There are other avenues which seem far more sensible to be explored. The idea of expanding Roundhay St John's to a 2 form entry- far cheaper- I am told by the school has not been offered to them. 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

- 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 (Asket Hill- Seacroft people remember it well). Other avenues should be properly explored.

Kathryn Atkins

Kathryn Atkins

Headteacher
Grange Farm Primary School
Barncroft Rise
Leeds LS14 1AX
Tel: 0113 2930120

This message has been processed by MIMESweeper for Exchange.

FW: New school

2033
Against

Sent: 08 July 2011 12:56

To: EDUC School Organisation

From:

Sent: 06 July 2011 11:17

To: Brooks, G

Subject: RE: New school

Hi Gill, please find below a response re the new school, not sure if its what Kathryn wanted in a response so if its not, or she wants me to add anything or change anything let me know and i will do it today. Will also text Donna Rogers and see if she has a response and if not get her to do one.

As a Parent Governor for Grange Farm Primary School, I am concerned about the location for the new school build, I feel that it is the wrong place for a new school, and that the children who need school places in Roundhay are not going to be able to gain places at the new school due to the fact that it is closer to Seacroft than to Roundhay, Grange Farm and other Seacroft schools already have surplus places as there is not enough children in Seacroft to fill Grange Farm. Also the parents of Seacroft children will more probably choose to send their children to the new school rather than choose Grange Farm or another local Seacroft school as the children going to the new school will automatically gain a place at Roundhay High. Losing children to the new school will have a big impact on Grange Farm, and the other Seacroft schools, which may result in school closures and loss of jobs for the staff at Grange Farm.

From: brooksg01@leedslearning.net

To: abhideep_25@yahoo.com; suttonm02@leedslearning.net; gearyj01@leedslearning.net; gibbonv03@leedslearning.net; brian.selby@leeds.gov.uk; donna0175@hotmail.com; halsall_54@hotmail.com; heather.jamieson1@ntlworld.com; julie_davis@rocketmail.com; trudes23@msn.com;

veronica.morgan@leeds.gov.uk

Date: Mon, 4 Jul 2011 15:05:13 +0100

Subject: New school

From: Atkins, K

Sent: 26 June 2011 17:06

To: Atkins, K

Subject: New school

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Kathryn Atkins
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Headteacher
Grange Farm Primary School
Barncroft Rise
Leeds LS14 1AX
Tel: 0113 2930120

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ROUNDHAY SCHOOL

Technology & Language College

Gledhow Lane,
Leeds LS8 1ND
Telephone: 0113 3931200
Attendance Hotline: 0113 3931202
Facsimile: 0113 3931201
E-mail: secretary@roundhay.leeds.sch.uk
www.roundhay.leeds.sch.uk

R035
For

Formal response to the Proposal to create additional primary provision in the Roundhay area at Elmete Lane from September 2012 to be run by Roundhay School Technology and Language College

The Governing Body wishes to reconfirm its total commitment to the Leeds request for Roundhay to become an 'all through school' with two Reception forms of entry. The governors have voted unanimously in support of the proposal and recognise it as an exciting opportunity to further meet the needs of the community. We feel that this proposal will further enhance our on-going working relationship with local primary schools, putting us in an even stronger position to further develop the excellent educational links we already have.

We have been pleased and grateful for the support shown and assistance given to us including from primaries in our area as we have undertaken significant preparatory work both in terms of buildings related issues and very importantly planning for the organisation of excellent educational provision. We accept that there will be a number of challenges and that we will need to work with the senior management team to build primary expertise, but we are confident that we have the capacity to deliver an exciting and stimulating primary environment. The Governing Body includes members with a wealth of primary and pre-school experience including teachers, leaders and governors. We shall continue to work closely with key stakeholders to address issues and plan thoroughly for this exciting development.

The split site nature of the proposal will enhance the development of a true 'primary ethos' led by a specialist primary leader as part of our enhanced staffing structure and we are confident that the brilliant new purpose built learning environment will be tailored to the needs of the primary phase.

We look forward to the progression of this proposal and see it as a way Roundhay can continue its long tradition of meeting the educational needs of its community.

Pauline Ackroyd
Vice Chair, on behalf of the Full Governing Body of Roundhay School Technology & Language College
Dated Thursday 7th July, 2011



"An outstanding, high-performing, specialist school...where every child matters equally" (Ofsted)
Headteacher: Neil Clephan B.A., M.A., Ad. Dip. Ed. Man. Deputy Headteacher: Jean Clennell B.A., M.Ed.

R036
For

Roundhay School Primary Proposal Support

Sent: 08 July 2011 14:30

To: EDUC School Organisation

FAO: Director of Children's Services

To whom it may concern,

Please may I express my support towards the proposed expansion of Roundhay School to include a Primary School. As a father of 2 boys aged 11 months and 9 years in the local area the provision of Primary School Education has been, and in the next few years will again be, a highly important issue for both myself and my partner.

Drawing from the experiences of my eldest child's applications to Primary Schools I felt that across the whole city there was a lack of provision of Primary School Education which would bring the benefits of an "All-through School" in addition to a lack of choice of primary school education within our local area.

I work with young people aged between 16 and 19, the nature of their transitions from GCSEs to A-Levels can often be challenging for both the learner and teaching staff. I can only imagine that this transition for a Year 7 aged child must be extremely difficult in certain situations and that the provision of education from 4-19 for a large number of parents in the area would be welcomed.

I look forward to seeing how Roundhay School will develop this new part of their School and hope that when my youngest child begins his applications to primary schools in a few years time that there will be further diversity within the provision of primary education.

Your Sincerely,



Bradford and Ripon & Leeds
Diocesan Education Team

Windsor House
Cornwall Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 2PW



Telephone : (01423) 817553

www.brleducationteam.org.uk

Fax : (01423) 817051

8 July 2011

BY POST AND EMAIL to educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk

The Director of Children's services
Leeds Education Authority
c/o School Organisation Team
10th Floor West
Merrion House
110 Merrion Centre
LEEDS
LS2 8DT

Public Consultation: Proposal to create additional primary provision [initially 2 form of entry] in the Roundhay area at Elmete Lane from September 2012 to be run by Roundhay School Technology and Language College.

The Diocesan Boards of Education of Bradford and Ripon & Leeds:

- 1. Formally object to the above proposal**
- 2. Support the statement made by Roundhay St John's Church of England Primary School on 16th February 2011 in response to the first consultation:**
"we consider that we would be the best provider of the additional primary provision under discussion." [Colin Cheeseman, Chair of Governors, Roundhay St John CE Primary School]

The Diocesan Boards of Education for Bradford and Ripon & Leeds (DBEs) recognise the challenges faced by the Local Authority (LA) in meeting its obligations relating to pupil places in coming years. As a partner in the provision of high quality education we wish to support the LA in achieving these objectives. However, we are concerned that a number of apparently feasible options have not been included in the consultation process and accordingly the process is flawed.

Our comments underpinning the objection are based upon a presumption that the demographic forecasting is accurate. We are aware that this accuracy has been questioned but we also feel that in the absence of alternative published statistical forecasts, those presented should be the basis of responses.

1. The figures used to propose the additional places appear to indicate a need for one additional form of entry not for two additional forms of entry as is proposed. This could thereby create a surplus of places which are likely to have a detrimental affect on existing primary schools. This also brings into question the sustainability of a new two form of entry primary school.

Director of Education – Revd Clive Sedgewick

2. To meet the need for additional places, it would appear that this proposal is an attempt to circumvent going to competition for a new primary school. We strongly believe that existing primary schools in the area are well placed to provide an appropriate, high quality education for primary aged pupils. Wherever possible we recommend expansion of existing primary schools, or where feasible new primary schools, subject to time for the necessary due process.
3. We are aware of a number of inaccuracies, errors and assertions which may affect some responses from other schools and communities, thereby potentially affecting the overall accuracy and transparency of the process and its outcomes. These include:
 - All local schools are stakeholders in the provision of educational places and as such we believe that all schools directly affected should have been consulted in a different way to the general public on these proposals. Local schools not directly impacted by these proposals (i.e. all the Primary schools within the NE/XT cluster) were not consulted on this proposal prior to it being made public.

We understand that a precedent for consultation with schools has been set in previous years. Schools have been consulted on other proposals for expansion of existing primary places but they were NOT consulted on this specific proposal. We believe this to be unfair and therefore challenge the claim made by the School Organisation Team that they are working with "all schools in the city".

- The proposed new site is geographically closer to some schools in the Seacroft area than some of the Roundhay schools but these were not included in the consultation process. We believe that this is a considerable omission / oversight with regard to the affect that new primary provision will have on these existing schools. We understand that neither Grange Farm Primary School nor Whinmoor St Pauls' Church of England Primary School were consulted, although Grange Farm is very close geographically to the proposed Elmete Lane site and both schools are on its direct bus route.
- Roundhay St John's Church of England (VA) Primary School was not included in the map used in the consultation document. This caused confusion to parents and created the impression that either the school is not important, or that it will be closing. This undermines the school which is at odds with statements made in the consultation document:

"... without undermining any of the primary schools in the area."
[page 4, Leeds Consultation document February 2011]

4. We believe the impact of 'through schools' has been underestimated as they guarantee access to secondary provision, thereby reducing the chances of pupils from other primary schools in gaining a place at the secondary school of their choice. This so called 'Golden Ticket' to a preferred secondary school via primary admissions is contrary to the spirit of the current School Admissions Code. This appears to represent a significant policy decision but is not addressed as such. It potentially stores up long term problems for existing primary schools should pupil numbers recede in the future.
5. The proposed site for the additional primary provision is not one which is easily accessible for families from the north Roundhay area which includes Gledhow and Moor Allerton Primary Schools. There is no direct bus route and the distances young children and their families would have to walk are not practical, eg Gledhow Primary School is over 2 miles from the proposed site on Elmete Lane, as are Kerr Mackie, and Talbot; whereas Grange Farm Primary School is less than one mile away from the proposed site.

Director of Education – Revd Clive Sedgewick

6. Whilst recognising that in some circumstances 'through schools' have merit and can be successful, the DBEs support the principle that primary schools should provide the leadership for expansion of primary places. Our reasons for this include:
 - Secondary education leadership models are very different from those in primary schools.
 - Governors and senior leaders of secondary schools have little experience of the primary curriculum, nor do they have an understanding of the specific needs of younger children.
 - Young children need role models and social interaction with slightly older and more mature primary aged children. It is not good for a group of children to progress as the oldest children in a school for up to 7 years.
 - If the intention is for Roundhay High School to share their facilities and resources on their existing site with the primary pupils, there are real safeguarding concerns about very young children mixing with secondary aged students.

7. Proportionality is a right which is built into Statute. As a significant element of the Church of England's response, we record our commitment to maintain the overall proportion of Church of England school places available across the LA. Whilst we acknowledge that there will be local and short term fluctuations, we do consider that the necessary overall growth in pupil places should address the proportionality issue.

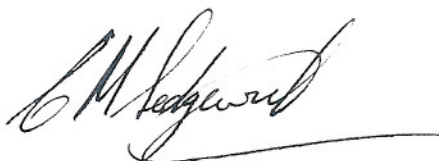
In conclusion, Roundhay St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is the major provider of primary education in the area closest to the Elmete site. We propose that Leeds Education Authority investigates with the DBE the expansion of the school to become a two-form entry primary school. This would meet the foreseeable need in the immediate area and it would be a popular move amongst parents and the wider community.

We are aware that the present site of St John's is too small to accommodate this development, however, there are possible feasible solutions:

1. There is local amenity land immediately adjacent to the current school site and this could provide an area into which St John's could expand.
2. St John's could move to the proposed Elmete site
3. Although not the preferred option, St John's could operate on a split site

We do not consider this proposal to be any more challenging or time consuming than the present proposal by the Local Authority as there is a precedent to local primary schools expanding to accommodate additional pupil places that were needed for September 2011.

Revd Clive Sedgewick
Diocesan Director of Education



Director of Education – Revd Clive Sedgewick

R038
For

Proposed primary school provision via 'all through school' at Elmete Lane

Sent: 08 July 2011 15:52

To: EDUC School Organisation

Cc: Savage, Lesley

Dear Sir or Madam

As parents of a two children who will be entering into primary school education in 2012 and 2015 we welcome the proposals to create additional primary school places in this area of Leeds. We also like the idea of through school provision and believe it will offer consistency and better transition to secondary school. We also believe that this will reduce the pressure on other local schools such as Kerr Mackie and Gledhow and will give parents more choices.

A couple of questions:

Currently geographical proximity to a primary school is taken into account when offering places; for the new proposed school at Elmete Lane will this also be the case or will all children who would be in the catchment for the current Roundhay Secondary School be given equal priority?

I am slightly concerned that if my child were to be offered a place at the proposed new school and was entering reception in 2012... it is going to be an unusual school environment with no other year groups attending.. and I wonder if this might feel a little isolated? Has any consideration been given to this and would pupils from the secondary school attend the Elmete site for any lessons/activities?

Many Thanks

Yours

for

2001

Proposed thru school for Roundhay High School

Sent: 22 June 2011 13:33

To: EDUC School Organisation

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I wish to write in support of the above proposal. The facts are quite clear that a rising number of primary school pupils cannot all be catered for within existing institutions. The site of the former Braim Wood High School for Boys is an ideal site for such a school given its previous education usage and is close to Elmete SILC which can be of benefit to both set of pupils.

I do understand the fears of St John's CE Aided school and some parents but I am with President Franklin Roosevelt when he said "we have nothing to fear but fear itself". It is inevitable when such fears arise a groundswell of opposition will occur but as responsible citizens we have to look at the wider picture.

Roundhay High school is rightly proud of its reputation and educational achievements and has not entered into discussions with Education Leeds without giving every consideration to what it would mean for the current school and its potential role as an all thru school. A decision by governors to consider this option has been based on its knowledge of the area and its confidence in the ability of the school to attract highly qualified staff to contribute to the success of an all thru school.

There is also a strong sense of ethics and an ethos of co-operation and commitment both within and without the school which are qualities which cannot be guaranteed with any other potential providers who remain unknown at this stage.

I therefore heartily endorse this visionary step by Education Leeds which future parents and pupils will appreciate greatly.

Yours sincerely,

for

Page 1 of 1
R002

re: proposed through school in Roundhay

Sent: 27 June 2011 22:13

To: EDUC School Organisation

To whom it may concern,

I write to offer my comments regarding the proposed "all through school" at the former Braimwood School site. As a local resident in the area, I was delighted to hear that Roundhay school had been approached by the local council to open a new primary school in the area. I know that so many friends have struggled to get their children into other schools in the area demonstrating that there is a clear need for another primary school. I certainly wish I had had the option of selecting this school for my children when they entered the schools system. It is my belief that children have the right to gain a place at a local school and with such high demand this is clearly not always happening and I fear this situation will in years to come only get worse. The proposed school would go some way in offering a very real solution to this problem.

I am also so pleased that the Braimwood site, which has sat neglected for so long, would finally be used in such a positive way.

Thank you for considering my comments and I look forward to hearing the final decision when it is made.

Yours faithfully