



ROUNDHAY SCHOOL

Technology & Language College

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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

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Cornwall Road
Harrogate
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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.

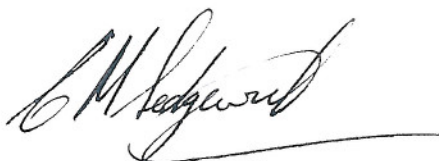
In conclusion, Roundhay St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is the major provider of primary education in the area closest to the Elmete site. We propose that Leeds Education Authority investigates with the DBE the expansion of the school to become a two-form entry primary school. 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

R034 for

Roundhay primary school

on behalf of [redacted] [redacted]

Sent: 08 July 2011 13:43

To: EDUC School Organisation

Hello, I'm writing to give my support to the roundhay primary school proposal. I'm very pleased there could be an option for a through school in the area.

Many thanks

[redacted]

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

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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