

2011BNS TAT04



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22/02/2010 17:26

To <educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Statutory notices for expansion of primary provision

Response to consultation

The Governing Body of Gildersome Primary School supports the proposal to revert our school to a two-form entry from September 2009. In considering the proposal the Governing Body wish for the following points to be taken into account:

- Historically, Gildersome Primary School has taken a two-form entry into their reception. The proposal should therefore not be considered as a proposal to expand the school, but a proposal to revert back to a two-form entry – a position that the school was in until relatively recently.
- The school is about to be re-developed as part of a significant capital programme. It therefore presents an opportunity to provide the primary school places required by our village and to ensure appropriate capacity in purpose built accommodation. We don't want to see our school re-developed with portacabins then having to be introduced to allow for additional places to be accommodated.
- Parents from Gildersome expect their children to be given a place within the local education system without having to travel out of the village.
- Both Birchfield and Gildersome Primary Schools have had full intakes into their reception class in the past few years, meaning that parents are already having to travel out of the village to find a primary school place for their child.
- There are over 70 preferences that have already been expressed for Gildersome Primary School's 30 Reception Class places for 2009/10.
- Without an increase in primary school places in the local community, it is likely that there would be an increase in traffic movements as parents are forced to travel further afield for a primary school place for their child. A place at a local school offers the opportunity to walk to school.
- Gildersome Primary school offers the most logical place for expanding primary school places given the current size of the school, the scope for expansion and the capital development planned on the site.
- There is also evidence that parents of nursery age children have to travel out of village to find a nursery for their children. There is therefore the opportunity to explore the potential for a nursery as part of the redevelopment to reduce the need to travel out of the village and to provide full foundation provision at Gildersome Primary School.

Gildersome Primary School's Governing Body therefore unanimously supports the proposal to revert the school to a two-form entry from September 2011.

