

Dear Chair

I'm writing to you in advance of the governors meeting on 12th February, when I understand governors will be voting on whether to proceed to the next formal stage of discussion about Round Hill joining the White Hills Park MAT.

As a parent of a child in [REDACTED] received a letter from school several months ago which, from memory, outlined that there had been an approach from WHP and that Roundhill governors had agreed to have an exploratory conversation with the WHP team. As parents we've heard nothing more about this since. I'm sure many parents assumed, like I did, that the absence of any further communication on the subject was an indication that the governors had decided not to pursue the discussions with WHP any further.

I went along to the Parents Forum meeting last week, which was an informal catch-up with the Head with no published agenda, and was very surprised to learn not only that the MAT discussions are continuing but also that governors would be making a decision at an EGM on 12th February on whether to proceed to the next stage of discussion/negotiation with WHP. It's incredibly disappointing that parents have not been kept informed about the progress or otherwise of this enormous decision for the school.

Having checked the school website this weekend I can find no information for parents or other stakeholders relating to the MAT proposal. The website contains a bank of copies of letters to parents only from the current academic year, meaning that the one letter we have been sent about the MAT proposal is not there for parents or stakeholders. There are also no minutes of governors meetings since July 2018, and no up to date governors list - meaning parents do not know who will be making this significant decision on their behalf and what their discussions have been since last summer.

I understand from the Parents Forum meeting that the vote on 12th February is to decide whether to proceed to the due diligence stage of discussions with WHP. In my professional experience, entering into the 'due diligence' stage of negotiation would

demonstrate a firm 'intention' to progress - due diligence, when done properly, is a highly costly and time consuming piece of work that organisations do not embark on merely as exploration.

I also understand that consultation with parents (and presumably your staff) will commence after the 12th February, should the vote be to proceed to the next stage. I would like to understand your plans for that consultation and the form that consultation will take. Again, in my experience, a large scale consultation exercise with stakeholders and employees is a costly and time consuming project and not embarked upon unless there is a firm preference to proceed.

Since the parents forum meeting I have heard parents in several year groups express serious concern about the lack of communication on this issue, and the lack of opportunity for the parent voice to be heard in the process to date. I have also heard parents of children in Foundation say they were completely unaware of the MAT proposal, having joined the school after the letter to parents had been sent out. Parents are setting up meetings themselves to discuss the proposals, and I am aware of two separate parent meetings taking place in the next week, as parents get together themselves to try to work out what is going on with no information from governors.

I am wholly opposed to Round Hill joining a MAT, which effectively puts our school, buildings, land and the education of our children in private hands with little public scrutiny or accountability. I am extremely concerned that many parents do not even know that the prospect is being discussed by governors, and that only a handful are aware that governors will be voting on whether to proceed to the 'next stage' in just a few days time. I would argue that the lack of communication, the fact that an entire year group appear to be completely unaware of the proposals and the lack of any useful or current information in the public domain on the website just a few days before the EGM would be justification, at the least, for a delay in the 12th February vote. This would afford parents the opportunity to become aware of the proposals, research what the proposals might mean for the school and form their own views.

I would appreciate it if my comments could be considered by governors in advance of their meeting on 12th February.

With best regards



