

Fernwood Primary School  
Arleston Drive  
Wollaton  
Nottingham NG8 2FZ

28th January 2016

Re: Proposed Expansion of Fernwood Primary School

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you as the Fernwood Primary School Governing Body to outline our concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the above school.

We have met as a governing body to look at and discuss your proposed building plans for the Infant and Junior school and we would like to outline the following concerns and issues which we have with what you are proposing:

At the Infant School:

1. There is no Cloakroom area being planned alongside the new classrooms which is needed for the pupils' coats and gym bags.
2. We would like to propose an expanded play area at the back of classes 7 and 8 to run along the new classrooms so all children have the same facilities.
3. The kitchen needs expanding and further equipment will be required to accommodate the preparation of meals for the extra children
4. The Hall needs expanding to accommodate extra children at lunchtime, assemblies, school plays and for extracurricular activities.
5. The staffroom needs expanding to accommodate the extra staff.

We feel that all of the above could be done and accommodated with amendments to your proposed plans. For example, could the hall be extended into what is now classroom 7 on the corridor and a replacement for classroom 7 added at the end of the Year 2 conservatory area which is now known as the 'Sparkle Room'?

At the Junior School:

6. The new classrooms will be smaller than current classrooms at the Junior school.
7. The kitchen needs expanding and further equipment will be required to accommodate the preparation of meals for the extra children.
8. The Hall needs expanding to accommodate extra children at lunchtime, assemblies, school plays and for extracurricular activities. According to the Education Funding Agency bulletin, our hall range should be between 277.5 sq metres and 371.5 sq m. Our hall is only 275 sq metres.
9. The staffroom needs expanding to accommodate the extra staff.
10. According to the Education Funding Agency bulletin, you should also be adding an additional studio space for each additional form of entry. This is not included at all.

Again with amendments to your proposed plans, these issues could be rectified. The Governing Body requests further information on your budget for the building work and costs involved.

We also have concerns about the following issues being addressed by the Local Authority:

The further impact of extra traffic and pedestrians. The Traffic Calming system on Arleston Drive is outdated and inadequate and cannot cope with the current amount of people and traffic never mind the extra volume.

Has a Traffic Impact Assessment been done by yourselves? This was suggested in the consultation and would also involve the local community. As of yet we have not seen any evidence of this being done. This is a huge priority for the school and the Governing Body as we feel we would be neglecting the safety of the pupils if this was not at least assessed.

There are several options for improving the area with, for example, widening of the pedestrian path, extra signage, zebra crossings, vehicle weight restrictions, extra bollards to stop vehicles driving along or parking on pavements, bicycle parking provision and CCTV cameras.

The overall size of the school, adequate buildings, traffic issues, impact on the quality of education, pupils and facilities were all problems highlighted in replies to your original consultation but our Governing Body feels from your ensuing report that none of these issues are being addressed or solved by yourselves.

We are also concerned about what action, if any, is being taken about providing additional secondary school places for our extra pupils to move onto?

We understand from our Senior Leadership Team that there have been talks recently regarding the Scout Hut being rebuilt and becoming part of the school buildings which would obviously help with extra school space generally needed but specifically, for example for a larger Extended School Provision. We understand that this is no longer a possibility. Why not?

In our original meeting with Lucy Juby, governors said that we would, in essence, agree to an expansion of the school as long as the overall excellent standard of the school and facilities are not made worse and compromised for all pupils. This does not appear to be the case.

Nick Lee had also assured us in meetings that the Local Authority would work with the school to make the project a success and that as far as the consultation was concerned, people's views in the community needed to be taken on board as far as possible. Again, this does not seem to be the case.

We feel that further work and consideration is needed with your overall plans for the school and would like a meeting to discuss and follow up your possible solutions to the issues which we have highlighted. It is intended that the School and the governing body would work in partnership with yourselves to meet the demands of the community and therefore we feel that the above points need to be addressed as they are important to all stakeholders.

Please feel free to get in touch with the school or myself to arrange a meeting with us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rajni Sharma on behalf of Fernwood Primary Governing Body