

Respondent Unique Key: INQ-20110216151310-779471786

School Responding to: Westfield First

Name: [REDACTED] (Chair of Govs)

*Chair of Govs
Response*

Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am: I am a governor

I am mainly connected with: The school to be expanded (selected above)

Please let us know your views on the proposal: Agree

Comments:

The Governors of Westfield First School discussed the planned expansion of the school at their FGB meeting on January 20th (Kate McGuire from Hertfordshire CC also attended). After discussion the Governors approved in principle the proposal. Summary of views and concerns:

1. Berkhamsted wide issue. The Governors support the principle of providing places within Berkhamsted and understand the financial and logistical reasons for identifying Greenway and Westfield for expansion. There is a need to find places for another c60 nursery/Year R children over the next two years and there is a desire by HCC and Governors of WFS to ensure that these children are educated within Berkhamsted.
2. Risk/benefit for WFS. The obvious downsides of expansion are the building disruption, potential loss of outdoor space, and the challenge of maintaining the culture and high standards of the school. However, the school will benefit from a broader teaching and SLT base and the financial stability of larger pupil numbers. In addition, if possible the Governors would wish to maintain the County's Base at Westfield
3. Financial implication. The Governors welcome that HCC will give adequate revenue support, including an extra £20,000 during the rebuild. However, we request an ongoing financial dialogue through the build if clear knock-on effects and costs are identified e.g. if the school's server or boiler is not powerful enough to cater for the new classrooms.
4. Traffic and pedestrian safety. The Governors have concern about the traffic and parking disruption caused by much larger pupil numbers, and the safety of children and parents walking to school. As part of the planned expansion the Governors will request a meeting with the Highways Agency to discuss possible measures to improve child safety around the school.
5. Value for money. The Governors

request that HCC put all necessary internal and external policies and measures in place to ensure that the proposed build at WFS provides value for money for the school and HCC.