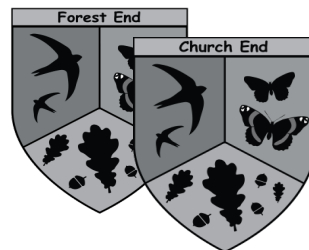


APPENDIX B

Church End Lower School
Marston Moreteyne School
Church Walk
Marston Moreteyne
Bedford MK43 0NE



Tel: 01234 768271

E.mail: churchend@cbc.beds.sch.uk

Website: www.churchend.beds.sch.uk

1847

Headteacher: Mr Brian Storey
the Month: **Curiosity**

Value of

Consultation on Church End Lower School gaining a designation as a Church of England School and becoming a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Lower School

Dear Parent/Carer

The Governing Body of Church End Lower School and The Diocese of St Albans Board of Education are writing to you to seek your views as to whether Church End Lower School should seek designation as a Church of England School.

As you may be aware the educational landscape in England has changed dramatically over the past six years with the rapid expansion of the Academy programme, including Multi-Academy Trusts and the introduction of state funded Free Schools. This change has coincided with a dramatic decline in the ability of Local Authorities to support and influence their schools, with services previously offered, being considerably diminished with the squeeze on public sector finances. Over this period the Church End Governing Body, has considered these options and concluded, for a variety of reasons, that becoming an Academy or joining a Multi-Academy Trust is not the right future direction for our school.

It is our firm belief that being part of a bigger educational family enables our pupils, their families and school staff access to advice, support and resources which will add to the educational experience we are able to provide. By joining the Church of England family of schools we will be working with other local schools which share our educational vision and promote our values based ethos.

The implications for Church End Lower School of assuming a designation as a Church of England School are as follows:

- The school will be designated as a Church of England School, under the umbrella of the Diocese of St Albans;
- The school will be subject to an additional inspection process, as a church school, under SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools);
- The school buildings will transfer from the current ownership of the Local Authority to the Diocese whilst school land will transfer from the Governing Body to the Diocese;
- Religious education will continue to follow the Local Authority Agreed Syllabus;
- Collective Worship will continue to be broadly and mainly Christian;
- 2 Foundation Governors will be appointed to represent the Church of England on the Governing Body alongside existing Parent, Staff Community and Local Authority Governors;
- The admissions policy will remain unchanged;
- The School will have access to support, advice, courses and professional advice from the Diocesan Schools team and its team of 25 educational consultants;
- The School will continue to have a close working relationship with the Local Authority who will continue to maintain the school;
- The School will become part of a network of 136 Church Schools across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Luton, Barnet and Buckinghamshire.

The Diocese of St Albans Board of Education has been in discussion with the school governing body for a period of 18 months exploring what it would be like for Church End Lower to assume a religious designation and become a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School. The Board of Education is committed to providing community focussed schools that serve the common good where education is delivered in a caring context and through shared Christian values.

The purpose of this document is to seek your view on whether Church End Lower School should seek designation as a Church of England Lower School. Apart from this consultation letter, there will be the opportunity to attend consultation events where the process and implications can be explored in more detail. These will be held on:

Tuesday 7th November at Forest End at 2.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.

Thursday 9th November at Church End at 2.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.

It would be helpful if you could either email or return the attached slip in order for us to prepare appropriately. The meetings will last for approximately an hour.

We look forward to hearing your views,

Yours sincerely

Mr P Neale
Chair of Governors

Mr B Storey
Headteacher

It would be helpful if, when you have gathered all the information you require, you could respond to the following question:

'Should Church End Lower School seek designation, as a Church of England School, becoming a Voluntary Controlled Lower School?'

YES		NO		DON'T KNOW	
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Comments:

Please provide contact details only if you would like someone to contact you to discuss your query/question further.

Name:

Contact details:

Please return your response to the school as soon as you feel able to respond, but no later than Friday 8th December when the consultation period ends.

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Consultation on Church End Lower School gaining a designation as a Church of England School and becoming a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Lower School

It is our intention to attend the meeting as shown.
(Please circle/delete as appropriate and return to the school as soon as possible)

Tuesday 7th November at **Forest End** at either 2.00 p.m.
or 6.00 p.m.

and/or

Thursday 9th November at **Church End** at either 2.00 p.m.
or 6.00 p.m.

Name: Please reserve seats.