

## AMALGAMATION----KINGSMEAD GOVERNORS RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION.

The governors of Kingsmead Primary School wish to make the following response to the consultation on a possible amalgamation of Kingsmead School and Diocesan Payne Smith School.

We support in principle the proposal to amalgamate the two schools. We believe a larger school, on the western side of the City of Canterbury, might offer the possibility of greater financial stability, and of staff being able to offer a wider range of skills.

However, this support is conditional. We are very clear in our vision of what Kingsmead School is striving to achieve for its children, and are totally supportive of the care our headteacher and staff provide for them, and their efforts, in difficult circumstances, to raise their level of educational attainment. We want to be sure that an amalgamation would add value to what is already being done in our school. Therefore we ask that a shadow governing body be formed immediately, which would articulate a vision for the new school. We believe this to be vital, as plans for its physical environment will very shortly begin to be drawn up. We understand that such a body would have no legal status. However, we cannot believe there is any legal bar to an equal number of governors from our two schools meeting as an integral part of the working party already in place.

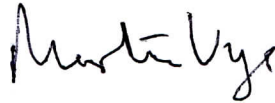
Our second condition is that support be provided by the local authority for the senior management team as they become increasingly occupied with participating in the planning of the new school. The number of meetings that our headteacher has had to attend already is considerable; and clearly this is going to increase since the planning is centred on the Kingsmead site. We look for commitment to provide us the equivalent of another teacher so that our Assistant Head can be liberated to share the burden of the planning.

Our third condition is that the maximum be done to minimise disruption that will undoubtedly be caused by the rebuilding and refurbishment works. Our parents and staff are understandably worried about the impact on the children's learning. We ask that the possibility of starting work during holidays earlier than this summer be seriously considered.

We believe that there must be complete transparency in the process of drawing up the plans for the new schools, and that parents and staff should be given every possible opportunity to have a meaningful input

into the plans. We ask that the question as to how this should be done be a main item on the agenda of the next steering group meeting. Finally, while recognising the legal framework within which we have to operate, we ask that the appointment of the first headteacher be made as soon as possible, so that she/he can play an important part in the development of the new school.

MARTIN VYE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Vye". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Chairman of Governors, Kingsmead Community Primary School