



Mr J Freeman
 Director of Education
 Dudley MBC
 Westox House
 1 Trinity Road
 DUDLEY
 DY1 1JQ

Dear Mr Freeman,

On behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education I am writing to endorse the proposal for a new Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School in Halesowen.

The Board of Education has already formally expressed its thanks to you for the provision of two places on the Review Group and for the most professional way in which the Group went about making its proposals.

It is the Board's view that the existing Halesowen Voluntary Aided and Hasbury Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools enable large numbers of parents to choose a denominational education. With this new proposal the option for such a choice will remain a realistic one in the future.

The proposal to merge the two schools into one Voluntary Aided school in a new build is especially welcomed. The Voluntary Aided identity will enable the two parishes and other church and faith groups to play a leading role in the management and development of the new school. It will particularly enhance the contribution of St. Margaret's Parish Church as an on-site facility for school worship, performing arts and for other curriculum provision.

The new school will continue the excellent work both schools have prioritised for the support of new residents who come as asylum seekers, immigrants and separated families. This is particularly valued by the Diocese, which sees such work as a real expression of the Christian ethos of our church schools.

The Board also welcomes the new build aspect of this proposal. In providing a 21st Century setting for a church school in Halesowen we believe that as well as providing the best physical environment for learning the building will be extensively promoted by the local churches and faith groups as a community asset and resource. As a result it will be a building which will be much used and one which contributes to both children's education and community development.

On behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education we fully endorse this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Rev David Morphy
 Secretary to the Diocesan Board of Education
 And Diocesan Director of Education.



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David Morphy
 Director of Education

19 November, 2003

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