

Public Document Pack

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25 October 2019

Dear Member,

Small Schools Task and Finish Group - Thursday, 24 October 2019

Please find enclosed the following document(s) for consideration at the meeting of the Small Schools Task and Finish Group on Thursday, 24 October 2019 which was unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No	Item
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6.	Stakeholder Representations (Pages 3 - 4)
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This submission was unavailable at the time the agenda was published.

Yours sincerely

Tony Kershaw
Director of Law and Assurance

To all members of the Small Schools Task and Finish Group

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Written Representation from Kate O'Kelly, Member for Midhurst

- Stedham school is a small school but a good school – consistently rated as good by Ofsted over the last decade – 2014 and 2018
- Consultation is undermining confidence in the school this will affect pupil numbers, budget and reputation
- Consultation will add stress and anxiety to children, parents, staff and governors
- Flawed process - original documents full of inaccuracies and subjective comments
- The current consultation will have an impact on current choice of school for parents – 6 parents have said that the fact that the school is under consultation will affect their first choice
- Current school role is 88 – 84% of the total capacity of 105
- Headteacher vacancy – Head gave notice in Jan 2019 – in May 2019 Chair of Governors received instructions from WSCC Director of Education to not appoint a permanent head. The LA is responsible for there not being a permanent head.
- Stedham School are delighted with their appointment as Head of School and excited about the future development of the school – Stedham team regret the statement in the documents as pejorative and biased – *Although the latest inspection in 2018 judged the school to be good the headteacher has now left the school and the school is being managed through interim arrangements.*
- Recruitment of staff – recently appointed a premises manager – inaccuracies in documents claiming difficult to recruit eg cleaning staff
- Depth of teaching – comments regarding future Ofsted regimes – no factual basis for this. Stedham prides itself on depth of curriculum - as part of its school strategy over last 2 years with creative solutions for an exceptionally broad curriculum
- Stedham School at the heart of the community – situated in the heart of the village. Open for 140 years. The school plays a massive part in many community events throughout the year. It would be a devastating loss to the village and have a serious impact on its sustainability. It would affect attracting and keeping young families.
- Speculative references to school numbers and budget in documents.
- Air quality management area just announced for Rumbolds Hill in Midhurst – if Stedham closed there would be increased traffic movements in this area – this should be considered.

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