

Director: Mr Trevor Cristin

15 October 2019

Statement from the Diocese of Chichester Relating to the Task and Finish Group

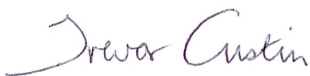
As the Director of Education for the Diocese of Chichester I am grateful for the opportunity to address this group. Unfortunately, I am unlikely to be able to be present at this meeting because I will be working alongside the Director of Education for West Sussex in a key recruitment process at this time.

As important stakeholders in many small schools in West Sussex we value the sense of partnership that exists between the Local Authority and ourselves. We view this as essential in the provision of high-quality education for our children. As partners in this role there may be times when we are not in agreement, but we would always seek to resolve conflict with dignity and an open mind.

In this situation we acknowledge the challenges that small schools face in the current funding climate. We also acknowledge that the responsibility to close schools, rests with the Local Authority. Nevertheless, we do have strong interests in the outcomes of consultations such as these and we can bring considerable value to this process.

My main point in writing is to acknowledge my gratitude to the Task and Finish Group for inviting me to attend. I have little more to add at this stage other than to emphasise that our conversations with our schools have led us to request that their individual cases are fully heard in this process. In addition, I would add that we will ensure that a member of our team attends each meeting to ensure we are fully informed.

Yours sincerely,



Trevor Cristin

Diocesan Director of Education

Learning with meaning and purpose: to know God and shape the world

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