Annex 7

David Corinne

From: Julian Penfold [redacted]
Sent: 30 October 2007 22:12
To: David Corinne
Subject: ILC consultation response

Dear Corinne

Please find below my response regarding the ILC proposals

best wishes

Julian Penfold

Moselle and William C. Harvey are very successful schools. To justify making major changes to them requires compelling reasons.

Opportunities for mixing with mainstream learners already exist; the main obstacle to mixing is that it is very often simply not appropriate. I deliberately haven't used the word "inclusion" because it implies exclusion. I have never felt my daughter was being excluded from anything by being at Moselle, simply that she was happy and receiving a first-class education that was right for her. I am not aware of any convincing evidence that mixing or co-location improves educational outcomes.

Issues with premises could very easily by addressed without any reorganisation so this argument is not relevant.
The proposals bring with them a number of significant dangers.
Firstly the two special schools will lose their focus as far as the range of needs they deal with. Moselle already deals with a fairly broad spectrum of needs and this will be greatly widened with the inclusion of the WCH learners. I have yet to see an explanation from an educational standpoint of why it was necessary to merge the special schools, beyond a general desire to limit the number of schools for financial or ideological reasons.

Secondly the continuity provided by offering primary and secondary education in one school will be lost and the separate schools will have to work much harder to make this happen.

Thirdly the proposed co-location with Woodside looks very risky if the hoped-for improvements in what was something of a failing school do not materialise.

I believe the consultation is fatally flawed because the LA has chosen to include the BWF "campus" in it but has failed to provide any information at all about the proposed accommodation. In fact when the proposals were first published funding had not even been obtained and even now it is a very small amount in comparison to the secondary. How can it be fair to ask people to agree to something that they cannot see plans for? The LA must undertake to re-consult as and when funding is secured and the primary project starts. While Woodside have been positive and welcoming, we have heard nothing from BWF (indeed the headteacher has recently moved on) as the focus has understandably been on Woodside as those plans are now well advanced.

The LA has chosen to pursue this proposal despite the fact that a majority of the respondents during the informal consultation were not in favour. A number of teachers and governors viewed it as inevitable that the proposals would be moved forward and decided to try to get what they saw as the best deal for Moselle without necessarily thinking that the proposals had great merit. Furthermore staff have been and will continue to be under huge pressure because of the need for them to be involved in the transition process as well as their day-to-day duties. I have not seen any proposal that funding be made available to cover staff involvement in planning and transition.

I do not feel that other options have been properly investigated and the wider group of stakeholders has never been presented with serious options, for example improving the buildings but retaining the current school organisation, or co-locating a special primary AND secondary school with a mainstream school.

If the proposals do move forward, as seems inevitable, I regard it as essential that:

- The staff of both Special schools are guaranteed to keep their jobs
- The Special schools retain their own identity, leadership, governing bodies and funding
- The buildings provided for both schools provide as a minimum the same level of facilities as currently, including a safe home base for vulnerable learners
- The level of funding and facilities provided for the Woodside campus build does not change from the current level
- The LA undertakes to fully consult when detailed BWF proposals are available
- Sufficient additional funds are made available to all the schools involved to cater for the additional effort required from staff both during the transition where they will be required to provide input into all aspects of the process and once the new arrangements are in place at which point more effort will presumably be required to promote inclusion.

Julian Penfold
Parent Governor, Moselle School
N.B. Though I am a Governor of Moselle, the views expressed here are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Governing Body as a whole.

Annex 7

David Corinne

From: Julian Penfold [redacted]
Sent: 31 October 2007 10:56
To: David Corinne
Subject: ICL consultation proposal

Dear Corinne
this is my response to the proposal

best wishes

Anna Rita Fiorentini

I always feel that changing something that works is not a good idea.
Moselle School and WC Harvey are very good schools so I don't see the need to reorganize them and merging them into one Special Need School, they work perfectly fine the way they are.

I also do not agree in locating the secondary schools with Woodside High which is an under achieving school.

Ultimately I think the money should have been spent to make improvements to the existing buildings and to provide more specialized staff like speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and so on.

Anna Rita Fiorentini
Parent, Moselle School