

Tom Davies
Head of Development and Resources
Lifelong Learning Directorate
County Hall
MOLD
CH7 4EN

16th January 2013

Dear Mr Davies,

We are writing to you to express concerns that we have relating to the forthcoming merger of Hawarden Infants' and Rector Drew Schools. However, in doing so we would like to confirm that we fully support Flintshire County Council's stated policy of amalgamating infant and primary schools wherever the opportunity arises and is appropriate.

After attending the consultation meeting held at Hawarden High School (December 2012) we were concerned to learn that the proposal for the new school's status would be that of Voluntary Aided. As parents of two children - one in each school - our *preferred* school status would be one that would have no church or faith involvement at all. With our parental connection to Hawarden Infants over the last 4+ years, we have both been highly impressed with both its ethos and day-to-day working. However, at the same time we recognise that as Rector Drew school has been established for 100 years in Hawarden as a 'faith-supported' school, we realise that it would be very difficult to instigate a merged school with a fully secular character.

With this in mind, and having looked at the options that might be available, we would prefer to see the school established with Voluntary Controlled status. This would allow the Church in Wales still to have a close working connection with the school, and would also ensure the security of balance between 'faith' and 'state' involvement in both decision-making (including the employment of staff) and the daily provision for children, including the R.E. syllabus. (

pupils and parents from across the community understand the value of a wide-ranging R.E. curriculum that is free from bias and therefore allows dialogue across the theistic/ non-theistic spectrum.)

We hope that these observations help with the on-going process. Our greatest concern is, of course, that all that is best in both schools can be brought together to serve the full diversity of their community.

Yours sincerely