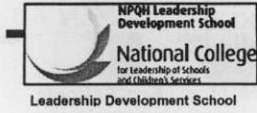




9861.  
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*'A caring school where every child matters' (OFSTED)*



14<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Councillor Caborn,  
 Warwick District Council.

Dear Councillor Caborn,

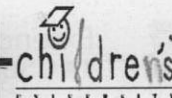
I am writing to you to express my extreme concern at the proposal for the installation of a gypsy and traveler site in the catchment area of Newburgh Primary School.

The reasons behind my concern are numerous:

- Firstly, as a school we are completely full. We have 272 children on roll currently and will have 307 on roll from September as we are phasing in two forms across the school. We do not have the teaching capacity to take in a number of new children in one large group as would come from a gypsy or traveler site. The alternative would be to fund more teachers for Newburgh at a minimum cost of £27,500 per teacher from the Local Authority. Bearing in mind that we already receive £55,000 per annum as a result of our expansion project, I do not think that it would be feasible for the Local Authority to provide any more.
- Secondly, as you will be aware, class sizes in infants can not exceed 30 children. We have very few spaces in either Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for September. In fact, we have a waiting list for Reception at the moment. I would presume that you would want gypsy or traveler children to be able to go to their local schools and that would not be possible at Newburgh.
- Our projected numbers for the forthcoming years do not alter our current position. Data provided by Janet Neale shows that we have many more births in our catchment area than places for the next three years:
  - 2014 101 births in catchment will be looking for school places in Reception
  - 2015 106 births in catchment will be looking for school places in Reception
  - 2016 104 births in catchment will be looking for school places in Reception.

As you can see, pressure to accept children born in catchment at Newburgh for the foreseeable future will be extreme without taking on even more children from a gypsy or traveler site. This does not consider the impact of the new housing currently being constructed on the Chase Meadow site at the present moment.

- This year we have taken in over 70 children since September. This is a huge increase in numbers and we have been stretched to breaking point at times. It would not be fair to expect us to take in even more children in a single go.
- We currently have 23% of our children eligible for Free School Meals. Again, this number would undoubtedly rise were we to be forced to accept children from a gypsy or traveler site. It would place even more stress and pressure on teachers, management and Governors in managing this.





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Healthy Schools



Eco-Schools  
First 'Green Flag'  
Second 'Green Flag'  
Third Green Flag

- Following frequent discussions with Janet Neale at the Local Authority over the year we both agree that we have absolutely no spare capacity to take in any further large numbers of children. I would also like to point out the John Harmon, who authorised the considerable expenditure to expand Newburgh, intended that the expansion would take seven years to complete. We are now full in all year groups apart from current Year 1 and therefore do not have the capacity to accept lots of new pupils as would come from a gypsy or traveler site in our catchment.

Whilst I understand that there is the need for thousands of new homes in the Warwick District and sites for gypsy or traveler communities, I would strongly urge you not to consider those in the catchment of Newburgh Primary School, particularly adjacent to the Chase Meadow development.

I trust that the reasons I have outlined above communicate my reasons why in detail. However, should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Smith,  
Headteacher,  
Newburgh Primary School

