

APPENDIX C
Notes from parents meeting at Gilbrook
24th June 2009

Present – David Armstrong, Sally Gibbs, Graham Mount

Headteacher – Two years ago the governing body began thinking about moving to larger premises. The Governing body wrote to the local authority to ask if we could be considered if a suitable site came up. Arrowe Hill closes on 31st August this year and was offered as an option. A group of staff, governors and parents made a visit earlier this year, the general consensus was that a move would be beneficial for many reasons. The governing body wrote to DA to say yes.

- We have 50 places, but have had more than 50 pupils for some time. Classes should be 8-9 children maximum, but we only have 6 classrooms. Staffing has increased, there is an impact on our limited car parking. Cars park on the playground.
- Outreach services have produced more admin and staffing requirements. We support 40 mainstream schools, and this means more visitors to school.
- The Exclusion base is very small, used to be a small library.
- We do loads of work with other agencies to meet childrens needs. There are meetings going on every day but we have no space for it, end up using the foyer, the kitchen, offices, it's not really appropriate.
- Although we've done our best, there is very little green space.

Q. Is the Arrowe Hill site secure?

A. It has only two ways in, and security fencing all the way round, overlooked by houses all the way round too. We intend to finish the window replacement scheme and extend the car park.

Gilbrook have asked for the alarm system to be relocated/reinstalled. The security at Arrowe Hill is probably better than here although we don't often have runners.

Q. Does it have more than one Hall?

A. Only one hall. Although no separate Sports hall, there is far more outside space, and more rooms inside that could be used.

Q. Will the number of places be expanded?

A. No, will stay 50 places but never say never. We also may have visiting children for various reasons.

Q. Could we get another Sports Barn?

A. There are plenty of sporting facilities in Woodchurch, so it would be unlikely to be approved.

Q. It seems like long term there is more scope for alteration at Arrowe Hill if we need to.

A. There is a substantial site, with more rooms and secluded safe facilities. Once settled in, you would have a better idea of what needs to be altered.

Q. Could we use the hall in the old Junior building?

A. Possibly, although the junior building is used by the LA for storage.

Q. What happens to staff?

A. All the staff can move en bloc to the school with no change to their contracts.

Q. Is the entrance way wide enough to get a minibus through?

A. Yes. We will also arrange for a drop-off area for the minibuses.

Q. Will the uniforms change? Fender (nearby school) has the same coloured jumper.

A. Not intending to change uniform, or the name as we have a good reputation built up with the name.

DA – During the gap between the decision being made and the move, we will do all building work while the site is empty. We are keeping the caretaker and a cleaner on to keep the building occupied until then.

Q. What happens to the furniture and equipment?

A. Schools taking pupils from Arrowe Hill will get first choice of the IT and other equipment, furniture. After this Gilbrook will get the opportunity to make the best of the two sets of equipment etc. and decide what to keep.

Q. Would the school get any special closure days to help with the move?

A. This is considered an unavoidable closure, would have to be agreed with parents due to childcare etc. We would normally ask schools to move during a school holiday, for example, Easter, but it is possible to get additional closure days by agreement with the authority.

Q. Can parents help with the move?

A. Yes if they want to.

Q. Are there likely to be any objections?

A. You can never make everybody happy. The Arrowe Hill site will not be sold and will remain a school, with fewer pupils, and less traffic due to minibuses so hopefully this move will not cause many objections.