

Response ID ANON-EBB7-E8HD-9

Submitted to **School Organisation: St Mary's CE (B29) Final**
Submitted on **2019-03-08 16:21:20**

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

2 What is your e mail address?

e mail:

[REDACTED]

3 What is your interest in the proposal?

Parent

If other, please specify:

4 Are you in favour of the proposal?

No

Please give any comments:

Although I clearly understand the reasons for moving to 'VA' status, to give extra freedom from BCC and to provide the school with much needed extra money, I am concerned about the closer relationship with the church and how this will impact on my child's religious and wider education. I wanted my daughter to attend a Church of England school because I believe in the benefit of a school having a religious ethos- it is a solid foundation to work from and gives my child important moral values which I'm in favour of. However, since I am not Christian myself [REDACTED] which believes in tolerance of all faiths) I am concerned that there would be a forced over emphasis on Christianity and less room in the curriculum to study and give equal importance to the role of other faiths. My older son attended a Catholic primary school and I found this to be the case there which I was very dismayed about. I felt my son was not treated equally to Catholic children and it was very disappointing to witness. Even though head teacher Mr Smith has sought allay concerns in this area, he pointed me to a survey of staff 6 children who wanted MORE diversity in religious teaching, I feel that requiring for the governing body and diocese to be given control over curriculum teaching and staff decisions and admissions leaves the door wide open for exactly the opposite to happen. At a time when we need to teaching tolerance of other faiths, our systems are promoting practises which actually make this less likely to happen.

For this reason, I would be opposed to the proposal.

Subject:

FW: Proposal by St Mary's CE (B29) - response to your representation

From: Mary Lowe

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:04 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Proposal by St Mary's CE (B29) - response to your representation

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for making representation on the consultation by the Governing Body of St Mary's CE (B29) to change the status of the school from VC to VA.

I have shared your response with the Governing Body and Leadership Team anonymously, and they have sent this response which I am sharing with you.

Your representation will be shared with the decision makers (again anonymously), as will the school's response.

Kind regards,
Mary

St Mary's CofE Primary School - Response to Consultation Submission (March 2019)

We would not see any more emphasis on Christianity than we have at present.

The headteacher conducts annual exit interviews with Year 6 pupils during their final week at the school and follows up a sample of these in their first term of Year 7. In recent years, the feedback from these pupils has been that they wanted a Religious Education curriculum which focused more on a knowledge of other faiths and one which was broader in its approach. Our very strong desire is to create a Religious Curriculum that deepens understanding of world faiths and does not focus only on Christianity. The Birmingham Agreed Syllabus is majority Christianity led, and if we were to become VA, we would then be able to plan for these changes and ensure a wide and rich religious education for our pupils. This target was also given to us at our last Church School inspection.

The school would wish to address this in a way that we cannot do as fully as we would like at the moment. We would aim to balance this with the responsibilities we have as a Church of England primary school but we certainly do not envisage a narrowing of our Religious Education provision - we are proud of being a multi-faith school and wish to reflect that as much as possible in our curriculum.

Decisions regarding curriculum and staffing would remain operational ones to be taken by the senior leadership of the school and we do not see any circumstances where the diocese or governing body would seek to involve themselves in these areas any more than they do at present. Between them, both provide support, guidance and challenge to the school and our expectation (based on other local schools who have changed status in the same way in recent years) is that these relationships would remain unchanged.

Regarding admissions, the school would still adhere to the arrangements set out by Birmingham City Council as it does currently and there are no plans to change the admissions criteria for the school should the change of status go ahead.

Kind Regards

Bruce Warland