

I feel that the proposed amalgamation of Penhill Primary into Swindon Academy will create an inequality of opportunity for our children, due to the fact that we will effectively become a satellite site with the concomitant problems of accessing the Academy's state of the art resources. It also creates a division within the Penhill community, with the two primary schools (with very similar results in the past three years) following different approaches to the curriculum. To have an established Swindon Academy as an option for transfer at KS2, gives our children and parents the same options as those at Sevenfields and Gorse Hill.

In conclusion, as a staff, we do recognise that we need to continue to improve the life chances of our children, but we do not believe that this – the only course pursued by the Local Authority - is the most appropriate route to take.

An Expression of Interest to gain Trust status, was submitted by the Governing Body last June, because it offers us the timely opportunity to tailor our own solution, through innovative partnerships (particularly with successful primary colleagues in Swindon) so as to tackle the identified barriers to continued rising standards, particularly in core subjects.

Trust status will:

- enable us to use our knowledge of, and position within, our community to raise/influence aspirations of children to secure higher achievement at all levels and therefore enhance life chances. A particular focus will be to improve children's chances of economic wellbeing by widening their parents' and carers' access to education in their local primary school.
- give us the scaffolding to develop a strong community presence in the functioning of our school, from strategic level to day to day delivery, where all members of the community are valued.
- actively support the school to continue to develop at the centre of its local community. Community cohesion will be increased by sustained engagement both of the school within the community, and the community within the school.

Member of Penhill Primary Staff

24.9.08