

23 September 2008

Dear Sir

I am writing to formally object to the closure of Penhill Primary School in order for it to be included into Swindon Academy. My reasons are based on my experiences of Headlands School and the Academy in the past two years.

I do not think children are given enough 1:1 attention, meaning that staff do not know individual children, for example, I received a phone call complaining of my child's behaviour and attitude to work - only to be told later, sorry, it was the wrong child.

Also, as a parent, if you want to speak to someone, it's really hard to find the person you want, messages aren't passed on, people do not return calls. I have been to meetings with my child's tutor and head of learning which have not been followed up.

Many times my child's class has been kept in at lunchtime, with no prior warning, resulting in my child being unable to collect the free school meal voucher and therefore having no lunch and coming home starving at the end of the day.

Even though my child is in Year 9, the school has failed to help her reach her expected level in English, even though a learning plan was agreed between me, her tutor, head of learning skills centre, head of English and her English teacher. Extra work was to be sent home but it didn't happen. When I mentioned this at the end of year parent meetings, the tutor was unaware that it hadn't happened. My child's Maths and Science levels are good.

I think these problems are due to the size of the school and communication problems. I am sure that I do not want Penhill Primary School to become part of school which will then be even bigger. These children will just be a name, it will be impossible to keep the personal touch when the Principal is at Beech Avenue and there are hundreds of pupils in the school.

What I like about Penhill Primary School is the feeling that every teacher is approachable, Mrs Rankin is very approachable and knows all the children in the school. I've never had any problems here, it's easy to talk through any worries. My children are doing really well at Penhill. They are very happy here and I will have to move them to another primary school if Penhill is taken into the Academy.