
24th July 2008

Dear Cll Renard

As someone who lives in the ward that you represent I am writing to you re the proposal to incorporate Penhill Primary School into Swindon Academy.

I am Bursar at Penhill Primary School and have several concerns over this proposal. Equally I understand that you may have little knowledge of our school and therefore are taking guidance from the people who should have knowledge namely the LEA.

What concerns me is, if this is the right move for Penhill why did the LEA, in their report to Cabinet, take statements from the Ofsted report out of context and publish unvalidated SATs results, something they needed the schools permission for but did not seek.

I am enclosing a short copy of the school's Ofsted report together with a graph showing our SATs results for the last 4 years. In my opinion neither of these documents indicate the picture painted to Cabinet.

The school's academic results may not be as the LEA would like but from my position I see how hard the entire classroom based staff work to give all the children a rounded education.

The school does not have a PTA so staff actively fund raise to give the children that little bit more. Every year we take all of KS2 to the theatre, not always in Swindon. For many of our children this is the only opportunity they will get to see live theatre. Likewise KS2 was also taken to the Tutankhamen exhibition. Parents are asked to contribute towards the cost but no child is refused a place if their parents can't or will not pay. These can be very long days but staff give the extra time freely.