

Schools Forum 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Gorse Hill Primary School Funding- School Governors Response

*Regarding the decision about funding for Gorse Hill School for 2012/13 the Governors wish to make the following clear.*

*During the consultation for amalgamation we were promised additional support funding for the years 2011/12 and 2012/13. Without this promise we would not have supported the amalgamation. We have taken financial decisions based on this promise and spent money on essential IT upgrades and moved classrooms in order to help deliver the longer term expected benefits of amalgamation, which of course includes savings to the LA.*

*The promise of additional financial support enabled us to take decisions which would not have a short term detrimental impact on the children currently at school. We have a number of challenges to achieving the quality and outcomes we wish to deliver and need to invest in teaching resources. If the promise is not met, we will not be able to make that investment and the children will suffer as a result.*

*We all know that other schools have received considerably more financial support for their amalgamation. We all know that amalgamation incurs costs and without support that inevitably means the school's budget available to support current teaching will be reduced. That isn't fair to the children at school now. It isn't fair to the parents who were minded to support the amalgamation.*

*The simple fact is that we took financial decisions based on a promise of funding, those decisions would not have been taken without that promise and, indeed, the governors would not have supported the amalgamation without that promise. If that promise is not honoured the children will suffer as that money is needed to invest directly in their education by way of extra resources and teacher training.*

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Ian Bickerton, Director, Access & Provision, on 465724 or email [ibickerton@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:ibickerton@swindon.gov.uk).