

Appendix 2 - Consultation Feedback

In support of proposal

Response 1

Dear Ms Youngman,

It's great to hear that Peterborough Diocese will be managing the new primary school in Daventry.

As a latecomer to belief, I'm very aware of secular concerns about religion in general. I'm relieved to know that for the children that will attend this school, feeling divorced from this country's Christian heritage and religion in general will not be an issue.

Personally I'm concerned about how religion will be viewed, a decade or two from now. It is extremely challenging for those who have never set foot in a church, to grasp let alone accept, the realities of modern faith. The perspective that religious belief is synonymous with mental instability is a myth that should be disqualified in childhood, and the same reinforced throughout life, whatever an individual's personal preferences may mature into.

The impression we form of our own culture during our school years, stays with us far longer than facts memorised in class. I don't recall a single mention of religion from my later schooling, outside of a lacklustre R.E. section of Humanities class. But I am grateful that I was taught the Lord's prayer in junior school. What is not-normal is easy to fear, and having recently learnt about the existence of all-faiths Christian schools, I would now strongly advise anyone with a choice in the matter, to enrol their child in such a school.

I hope in future to see more emphasis on religious awareness in senior schooling. The importance of good grades is debatable, but good social skills and cultural values are priceless. For God's sake don't let the next generation grow up thinking that Christianity is some hangover from the dark ages, and religion is only for scientifically-ignorant people in strange, foreign cultures and third-world countries. To measure one's sanity by how far one can divorce oneself from anything that requires faith instead of scientifically proven-fact, is a dangerous trend.

Response 2

Dear Ms Youngman,

I am so happy to hear that the Diocese of Peterborough has been appointed to manage the new Monksmoor Park Primary School in Daventry.

This is because children in primary education are taught British values but Monksmoor school will have a distinctive Christian emphasis on those values. I think this is needed.

Response 3

Dear Ms Youngman

I am delighted that the Diocese of Peterborough has been appointed to manage the new Monksmoor Park Primary School in Daventry because

*The Church of England has a 200 year history of providing all-round education for children of all faiths and none.

*90% of schools run by the Diocese of Peterborough are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted proving that the education and school life for their pupils is of the highest quality.

*None of the schools in Daventry are Church managed (VA) and there is a high demand for places in such a school from families from all areas of the town.

*Children in primary education are taught British Values but a VA school will have a distinctive Christian emphasis on those values.

*While children are not selected on the basis of church attendance, the churches in Daventry welcome the opportunity of having strong links with a Diocesan-managed school where education includes exploring, supporting and respecting the spiritual dimensions of life within a Christian environment.

*Children from Christian, other-faith and non-faith background will be welcomed and taught to the highest standards from the full National Curriculum including the agreed syllabus for Religious Education.

Response 4

Dear Miranda and Liz,

Although on sabbatical at present I was delighted to read the above proposal this morning and write to express my strong support for this initiative.

As an experienced and knowledgeable provider of high quality education with a proven track record of meeting the needs of local communities the PDBE is in my view uniquely placed to provide this key element of community infrastructure and to serve the new community Monksmoor Park.

I wish you every success with this proposal.

Response 5

Dear Ms Youngman,

We are very pleased to hear that the Diocese of Peterborough has been appointed to manage the new Monksmoor Park Primary School in our town.

With our growing population there is a high demand for primary places by families living in all parts of the town, especially by parents who want the choice of sending their children to a school which teaches British values, and will place a distinctive Christian emphasis on those values.

While children are not selected on the basis of church attendance, and other faith and non-faith backgrounds will be welcomed, the churches in Daventry welcome the opportunity of having strong links with a primary school where education includes exploring, supporting and respecting the spiritual dimensions of life within a Christian environment.

We look forward to the building and opening of Monksmoor Park Voluntary Aided Primary School and its future success.

Response 6

Dear Ms Youngman

I am delighted to hear that the new school planned for Monksmoor Park, Daventry is to be a Voluntary Aided school managed by the Peterborough Diocese.

I have lived in the town for many years during which time the town has expanded sevenfold and thus had many new schools but I don't believe any of them have achieved this status other than the long established Abbey CofE Primary School, which I attended. So it is long overdue that a further one is made available for parents to have the option of selecting. We also desperately need a new primary school in that area of the town after the one planned for another new estate in that area was ditched to the dismay of the families who had moved in on this assumption. The fact that it will be CofE is a big bonus.

Holy Cross Church has excellent links with the Abbey Primary and provides governors from its congregation and I am currently involved with taking Christ's message once every half term to the Parker Academy (11-18 year olds).

The new school will provide an excellent opportunity for the church, parents and pupils of all faiths and none, to share the values and spiritual dimensions of life within a Christian environment. I believe this will form a good foundation from which the pupils concerned will be able to draw throughout their lives.

Response 7

Dear sirs,

My wife and I are very pleased to hear that the Diocese are to manage the above school, as we understand that the vast majority of schools managed by the Diocese are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted, and the new school will have a distinctive Christian emphasis. Our church here in Daventry, Holy Cross, will welcome the opportunity of having a strong link with the new school.

Response 8

Good morning

I fully support the proposal for a new VA school in Daventry.

Response 9

Dear Ms Youngman

I am delighted that the Diocese of Peterborough has been appointed to manage the new Monksmoor Park Primary School in Daventry because

*The Church of England has a 200 year history of providing all-round education for children of all faiths and none.

*90% of schools run by the Diocese of Peterborough are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted proving that the education and school life for their pupils is of the highest quality.

*None of the schools in Daventry are Church managed (VA) and there is a high demand for places in such a school from families from all areas of the town.

*Children in primary education are taught British Values but a VA school will have a distinctive Christian emphasis on those values.

*While children are not selected on the basis of church attendance, the churches in Daventry welcome the opportunity of having strong links with a Diocesan-managed school where education includes exploring, supporting and respecting the spiritual dimensions of life within a Christian environment.

*Children from Christian, other-faith and non-faith background will be welcomed and taught to the highest standards from the full National Curriculum including the agreed syllabus for Religious Education.

Response 10

I am writing in support of the proposal for a new Church of England Primary School in Daventry. At present there is no choice at 5 for children to be in a Church of England School in the town. This proposal will help alleviate the situation.

The Diocese has a proven track record of opening new schools, most recently Hayfield Cross in Kettering. My grandchildren attend this school - it is a caring school with high standards

Response 11

Dear Ms Youngman

I am delighted that the Diocese of Peterborough has been appointed to manage the new Monksmoor Park Primary School in Daventry because in our meeting the other day we discussed how necessary a church of England school is, among the other community schools in Daventry.

We know that the quality of education, particularly in our Peterborough Diocese schools, is of a very high standard with 90% achieving a Good or Outstanding Ofsted rating.

The strong link between the Christian faith and British values is so important for children of all faiths and none to understand in this country and this will be taught in a church school.

The churches in Daventry look forward to building strong links with a new school that is so desperately needed in a growing town with a rapidly increasing population and a high demand on primary places.

Let's hope all goes to plan and the first children will come skipping through the doors next September.

Response 12

To Whom it may concern:

Having carefully read "Proposal for a new Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School at Monksmoor Park, Daventry. I wish to say:

It would be a very good addition to the infrastructure of this new community, and would be welcomed warmly across this development.

I see very positive benefits to both children and families generally within both this community and the town of Daventry. These benefits, as I see it, accrue in the form of the educating of our children in a well structured Christian ethos, while respecting the secular nature of our national curriculum (i.e. all children will benefit), at this a most important time of their (child) development.

For me, I would wholeheartedly support this proposal.

Response 13

I write to say how delighted I am that the new school at Monksmoor Park is to be a Church run school.

While the children will not be selected on the basis of church attendance, the churches in Daventry welcome the opportunity of having strong links with a primary school where education includes exploring, supporting and respecting the spiritual dimensions of life within a Christian environment

Response 14

Hello,

Just to let you know I am absolutely in favour of a new Church of England primary school for Monksmoor Park.

My only concern is that the resources of the currently already stretched Daventry Team Ministry will be stretched even further, although I hope and pray that new Christian helpers may be encouraged as a result to step up and work alongside the team clergy and lay teams already working with schools and young people in this area.

Response 15

Dear Ms. Youngman,

I was very pleased to hear that the new school in Monksmoor, Daventry is to be a Voluntary Aided School managed by Peterborough Diocese. My own sons benefitted from a Church School education where a Christian ethos pervaded all aspects of school life and I'm delighted that other parents will have the opportunity to have their children educated in a similar manner.

Response 16

To whom it concerns

It is good news for Daventry that the Diocese of Peterborough has been appointed to manage the new Monksmoor Park Primary School because with the growing population of Daventry, there is a high demand for primary school places. The churches in Daventry welcome the opportunity of having strong links with the school where education includes exploring, supporting and respecting the spiritual dimensions of life within a Christian environment.

Response 17

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to lodge my support for the Diocese of Peterborough to manage the new Monksmoor Park Primary School in Daventry.

A church managed school in Daventry would be an excellent addition to the current schools offered as none of the schools in Daventry are currently Church managed (VA) and there is a high demand for places in such a school from families from all areas of the town.

I believe that children in primary education are taught British Values but a VA school will have a distinctive Christian emphasis on those values which is an important addition.

As a member of a church in the town, I am aware that the churches in Daventry would welcome the opportunity of having strong links with a Diocesan-managed school where education includes exploring, supporting and respecting the spiritual dimensions of life within a Christian environment.

Response 18

Dear Miranda and Liz

I have read through the proposals for a CoE Primary School at Monksmoor in Daventry and fully support the case. The recent record of the Diocese (and PDET) in improving the Ofsted grades of the Schools in its care shows that the Diocese has the capacity and expertise to ensure that a new school such as Monksmoor would be successful. I hope the Authority will accept your proposal for the good of the families who will be moving on to the new estate.

Response 19

In view of increasing size of Daventry and all the new housing it will be so good to have a church voluntary aided school. I totally support the new School proposal.

Response 20

I would like to express my whole hearted support for the proposed new Church school in Daventry. More places are needed for primary school children as the population is growing . 90% of church schools in Northamptonshire are rated as good or better which would confirm that children attending a new church school would receive a high standard of attainment. The excellent pastoral care offered to pupils in church schools is well documented.

Objections to proposal

Response 21

Good Afternoon,

As a perspective parent I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to Peterborough Diocese proposal to establish a new Church school on the housing Development on Monksmoor Park Daventry. As a resident and the most likely closest parents I feel another CofE school within the Daventry area would be entirely inappropriate. The Daventry area is already saturated with faith based schools and I feel an addition would go strongly against the population move towards religion playing no part of a developed country in 2017.

My objections are bound by 3 key principles,

CofE school availability in the Daventry area is disproportionately offered

- 0.7 miles from the school site is a CofE school in Welton
- 4 of the 10 local primary schools within the catchment area of the site are CofE
- Addition of a CofE school on Monksmoor would further limit non religious parents options should they wish not for their children to be sent to a "christian education" school

Peterborough Diocese have not demonstrated a credible level of support for the school

- The school build is funded from the profits of Monkmoor developments via Crest Nicholson - local residents whose money paid for the facility have not been consulted
- The Monksmoor community group, Crest Nicholson, Daventry Council, Newsletters and School Building communications have not been aware of the process to communicate to residents for the right of an opinion
- The survey results referenced in the proposal (questions and responses) are not listed, how can this be considered a credible source of support
- The Daventry Church group should not be considered an appropriate level of support for the school, an atheist group would equally condemn the proposal so should the needs/wants of the residents and parents be the primary driver over any interested minority groups
- Where was the meeting notice provided which resulted in 20 people attending a meeting - how many of the 20 were local parents with an active interest in the school and how many were local Church group members?
- In a call with Liz Youngman on 16th November she advised me that "they were asked by the council" to propose for the school - how many alternatives were considered? Who specifically made this request? Was this the councils position or a member of a Church group using advance knowledge?
- No evidence had been provided to suggest that a church school is wanted or required by the area
- 53% of the UK population now follow no religion (an increasing trend), there are sufficient schooling opportunities within the Daventry area to cater for this decreasing demographic, Peterborough Diocese have not proved evidence to support the minority requirements

Inappropriate awareness of the CofE school proposal

- As a local resident and parent I have been very interested and active to source information on any proposal or process for the school building I can see from my house. I have consulted Daventry Council, Crest Nicholson, Monkmoor Community Group to name a few with no active knowledge of this proposal. I raised a query with NCC and then had to chase 4 times to eventually source information on this proposal - is this appropriate?
- Lack of awareness should not be considered as support for the school proposal
- A full survey containing independent/non leading questions to the residents and likely catchment area would be an appropriate demonstration of support

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-people-atheist-no-religion-uk-christianity-islam-sikism-judaism-jewish-muslims-a7928896.html>

Response 22

Good evening

I am contacting you to oppose your current application to run the new Monkmoor Primary school as a Church school under the Peterborough Diocese Educational Trust. As a resident of Monkmoor and a parent of a young child nearing school age, I feel obliged to express my concerns about your proposals.

Firstly, the school building has been paid for entirely by Crest Nicholson. The residents of Monkmoor have paid for this school building. I have read numerous different documents from within your church community (all available online, albeit well hidden!) that explicitly state PDET and/or the Daventry District Council have funded, or partly funding the building of this school – this is not true. Why are you lying about this?

All Monkmoor residents received notifications of the planning application for the new school via newsletters posted directly through their door, plus there were hordes of news stories online and in the local papers. This is a great example of how a public consultation should begin. As residents, we all had the opportunity to pass our comments on the building site.

My issue around your “public” consultation is that you haven’t actually made any effort to communicate with the public, residents or people outside of the church. After hours of trawling the internet for information about your public consultations, it is clear that your Church community has been well informed of PDETs keen expression of interest to run the school. You’ve actively asked church goers to email yourselves expressing their support.

You’ve not contacted any of the residents on Monkmoor, nor put any information in the public domain about your desire to control the school. The only way any general member of the public can find information about PDET and Monkmoor School is if they are aware that you exist anyway. Yes, you have may have posted a leaflet on your website and yes you conducted a very one-sided survey back on February 2017 via your twitter account, but these are not exactly public consultations readily available if you haven’t heard of PDET.

The consultation processes you believe you have followed are simply inadequate. Why didn’t you send a newsletter to each Monkmoor resident informing them of your proposal? This would have ensured that you had feedback from the direct market you are appealing to. It would have provided a fair; accurate and credible representation of what people think of your proposal. I suspect you didn’t want to consult with residents because you didn’t want them to oppose your plans.

The survey you conducted for the general public response was shared via your twitter page in February – which you will only see if you follow PDET or if someone you follow retweets the link. I got wind of this survey because a member of the church shared it with a mutual friend. That was the first I had heard about your proposal.

Now, the concerning thing about your survey is that all the 7 questions were leading questions. You actively mislead the audience into thinking PDET were building the school and that a school could only be built if there was support for the PDET proposal. This is not true. The school was always going to be built whether PDET were involved or not. You have lied to the public. *“Question 5. The Peterborough Diocese Education Trust hopes to build a school in the next 2 years...”* These are your words and they are lies.

“Question 4. How strongly do you agree with this statement. I would like to see a Church of England Primary School in Monksmoor...” How is this even a fair question? Of course people agree that there should be a school.

Your questions easily could have been worded –

“Do you think a school is needed at Monksmoor?”

“Would you support a school being built at Monksmoor”

“Monksmoor will have a School built by Crest Nicholson. If it were a faith School run by PDET would you want your child to attend?”

“Do you believe a faith school is the best option for Monksmoor?”

You have deliberately asked questions to ensure the outcome looks as if people want a faith school. By wording your questions fairly, which you should have done, I suspect most residents would agree that a school is needed but not that a PDET faith school is needed. I believe the survey results which may support the proposal to be inaccurate and not at all credible.

I believe the public should also see the results of the survey and see how many people completed it. Why are the results not available anywhere? Also, the survey is limited to allow for negative comments and I strongly believe that if there is a lack of objection, it doesn't then mean that there is support for the PDET proposal. It means you are not allowing residents the forum to have their say. I completed the survey and left my contact details as requested, to be kept inform of the proposal updates. It appears that I was deliberately left off of your mailing list as I haven't ever received any communications from you.

Apparently, there was a public meeting in March 2017 with 20 attendees. Who were the attendees? Where did you notify the public of this meeting? Why didn't you share the news of this meeting with Monksmoor residents? Why didn't you use Twitter to notify people as you did so to share the survey? Why didn't you contact the people who completed the survey and invite them to the meeting? As a resident who had expressed interest in the future plans of the school via the survey, I'm intrigued as to why I wasn't informed about the meeting.

In fact, I only learnt about this meeting in late October 2017. That was following weeks of trying to get hold of information from the council about where things stood with bid for the schools' management. Everything about the PDET proposal feels deceitful, underhand and sneaky – not exactly the type of people that I want teaching my little girl. No one seems to be able to tell me anything.

How can a serious proposal regarding the future of young children get to the point of reaching a decision at a cabinet meeting, on 12th December 2017, and have such little public participation and awareness? This has left me seriously questioning the integrity of both PDET and the Northamptonshire County Council.

I'm genuinely concerned about your motives. I don't believe you are acting in the best interest of the community. You haven't shown any respect to the local community and I wholly believe you are preying on the area to win your proposal. Had you have been acting in the interest of the community, you would have actively made contact with residents and properly consulted with them to establish an accurate representation of what we want. Instead you have been deliberately misleading, sneaky and fabricated facts.

I have serious issues with the lack of accountable facts, meeting minutes, documents and general public availability with your entire proposal. In truth, there is no way that I'd send my daughter to a PDET school as I don't agree with your moral code of conduct. You say that you are:

"Inclusive", "value each individual", "by working together we can achieve more", yet you haven't displayed any of these so far in the consultation phase, so why would I believe that you are capable of the day-to-day running of the school? Instead, the only proof I can see about this process is that your approach is very one sided, predatory, dismissive and deceitful by fabricating the truth to meet your needs.

The church faith is declining year on year and it's a faith that no longer plays a role in the upbringing of children. Your very own Reverend Sarah Brown quoted in her newsletter *"the church has numerically declined over the last 6 years and the congregation is predominately elderly with only one child who attends anything like regularly"* How can you said that a PDET church school is the best option for Monksmoor when clearly support in your own church is almost non-existent?

I have concerns over the conflict between the National Curriculum and the teachings of Christianity, and any other faiths that you say you will teach. You say you will follow the NC but what happens when it comes to teaching Science? Will children learn the truth – the big bang – the prehistoric age, etc.? Or will they be told that the fictional man called God created the world?

How can you, as a dedicated faith school, teach something as fact when you don't fundamentally believe it yourself. Faith should be optional and I'm concerned it will be forced upon young minds at a stage when they are so influenced. The role of a teacher is so important and I simply don't think a faith school is appropriate and therefore I am not in support of your proposal.

N.B - I have also sent this to Northamptonshire County Council as I can't trust you'll forward the honest feedback to them.