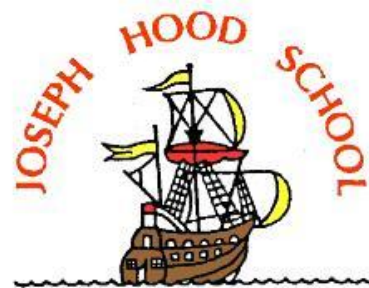


To: Scrutiny Committee Meeting (4 August)
From: Posey Furnish, Chair of Governors, Joseph Hood
Primary School



July 2016

Statement on behalf of the Joseph Hood Primary School Governors and school community regarding the proposed use of the Whatley Avenue Adult Education building

We were surprised to hear indirectly that a further, exceptional scrutiny panel had been arranged as none of the Councillors who called this in have had any contact with me or with our headteacher to seek our views. Indeed, two have never even been to visit our school as we are not in their ward and while we always welcome and appreciate councillors' interest in Joseph Hood, this call-in was generated without any reference to our school.

While obviously not ideal, we believe - at this point in time - that this is the best possible scenario for our school community in terms of what Merton plans to locate *a mere 3 metres from where over 300 children learn and play 5 days a week.*

To-date we have had 2 constructive meetings with senior Merton officials about their decision to repurpose the Adult Education building into Harris' temporary provision for 2 years. We have no reason to believe that the probity of the discussions is in question and we will continue to press for answers and, where necessary, solutions such as improved security fencing.

We remain optimistic that Merton will continue to work with us to provide open lines of communication in order to allow further discussion, both to resolve any queries and to provide early solutions in the interest of protecting our thriving school community.

We also invite all present this evening to visit our school from September to see for themselves how this work is progressing and to hear what, if any, concerns the staff or governors have.

This page is intentionally left blank