

The Governing body of St. Andrew's C of E (Aided) Primary School

Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 7NA

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'Learning together what is good and right.'

Job 34: 4

23rd June 2022

Dear Katherine,

I am writing in response to your letter of 9th May, written on behalf of the Buckland Monachorum Parish Council.

We have now had a Full Governing Body meeting, and we discussed your letter and its contents at length.

Making the school field public land as was suggested is not an option, as we have to think of the future school leaders, and we cannot make a decision that will affect them. As Governors we have a responsibility to protect the future of the school for its pupils, staff, Governors and maybe even a new Academy Trust at some point. It would be unfair to change such a fundamental issue of land ownership and responsibility.

Also, the idea of a fence was discussed, and this would, we felt, have a negative effect on what the school is offering the pupils. It would have an impact on teaching and learning, staff rotas and duties, the general ambience and feel of the school, and the health, safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils in our care.

These discussions were unanimous, and represent the views of all those in the Governing Body. I know the BMPC have different feelings on this long running issue, but as Governors we have to focus on our fundamental priorities of pupils, staff and parents. We have to put the interests of these groups above anything else. So, the Governors are 100% in agreement with the Headteacher to keep the school grounds sacrosanct for the pupils of the school.

We would continue to encourage and facilitate local community uses of the school field and facilities, going through the procedures in place. This policy is in line with every other school we are aware of.

I hope this clarifies the position of the school over the long running issue of the school field.

Your sincerely

Martin Sanders

(Chair of Governors, and on behalf of the Governing Body)