



# St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School

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Headteacher : Mrs. G. Denham-Hale B Ed (Hons) MA



Planning Policy Team  
Maldon District Council  
Princes Road  
Maldon  
CM9 5DL

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write as the Chair of the Governing Body of St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School in Burnham-on-Crouch to express the response of the Governing Body to the consultation on the Local Development Plan.

The School Governors set apart a significant part of a recent meeting to discuss the proposed developments scheduled to impact on Burnham. During the course of that discussion we came to the unanimous conclusion that as a body we were not in a position to decide on what was an appropriate number of houses for any particular town or village. The Governors felt that a decision of that nature should best be left to elected councillors.

However, the Governors felt that they had a duty to consider the likely impact of any such development on the provision of education within Burnham. In the course of their deliberations it was noted that;

- Local Authority projections made in August 2013, plus a recent significant rise in roll indicate that St Mary's will have exceeded its current capacity by 2017.
- The School is, at present, a one form entry Primary School
- The Governing Body has already been working on plans to increase the physical capacity of the school to meet rising demand.
- The School is situated within a fairly large site which would provide opportunities to increase the building's capacity to a two form entry primary school, plus pre-school, without losing outdoor learning space, sports facilities and other amenities.
- The School site is owned by the Burnham United Charities who are supportive of the school and have been exploring ways to develop pre-school facilities on site, in response to needs identified by our current families.

- The School is a Church School and lives out its calling to be an inclusive School, offering education to all members of the local community.
- School leadership and governance is effective, involving key members of the local community and the Parish Church, which provides capacity to manage change and development.

It was clear to Governors that any expansion in the number of houses in Burnham would result in significant additional demand for school and pre-school places. This demand would be impossible to meet without some significant development in current capacity, as both local primary schools are near to capacity in terms of children on roll.

In light of the above, Governors were enthusiastic about exploring with Essex County Council, and other local councillors and officers; ways in which the School could be developed to meet the increasing needs of the people of Burnham. In particular, Governors were keen to consider the changes that would be necessary to enable the school to grow into a two form entry primary school, plus pre-school. Some discussion ensued about the potential of the site and its clear ability to support additional building.

In addition, the Governing Body acknowledged the capacity and experience that already exists within the current leadership team and expressed its confidence in this team to manage this transition effectively, leading to a significant, positive impact upon the education of our children. However, the Governors also recognised the challenges of project managing any sort of building programme and would be determined to use the resources that the Local Authority and other agencies could offer, to ensure that our current high standards are maintained.

Finally, the Governors were convinced that expanding current primary school provision, where space and capability exists, would be the most effective use of public money and provide the quickest way to meet rising demand for primary and pre-school places in Burnham-on-Crouch.

If you would like further information about the Governors' plans and comments, then please don't hesitate to contact me via the School's address or via my e-mail: [frmnorth@st-marys-burnham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:frmnorth@st-marys-burnham.essex.sch.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Fr Mark North  
Chair of Governors