

CABINET

THURSDAY, 24TH JUNE, 2021

At 7.00 pm

in the

GREY ROOM - YORK HOUSE, RBWM YOUTUBE

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
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Agenda Item 6viii)

Members of Cabinet thank you for allowing me to speak on the petition.

I have two young daughters, one at first school and one at middle school and this autumn term will be the time for us to apply for the subsequent schools for both of them.

I recognise that we are lucky to have several middle school options here in Windsor.

Our eldest daughter asked where she could look around for her upper school choices and was disappointed when she realised that the only option available to her is Windsor Girls' School.

Her circle of friends is predominantly male, so along with that came the realisation that moving schools with her best friends will never be an option.

I recently received a survey related to the proposed expansion of Windsor Girls' School.

It got me thinking, why are we making our existing schools bigger rather than building a new, co-educational Upper School in Windsor?

Princess Margaret Royal Free School closed in 2000, meaning an entire generation of children in Windsor has lost their right to chose a co-educational school in which to learn.

The advantages to co-education are vast.

In a workplace, all genders will work together.

After being in a co-educational environment, students will be used to working in collaboration with people of a different gender;

A mutual understanding occurs, and pupils learn how to respect each other.

Pupils are more aware of each other's strengths and weaknesses and, therefore, develop the ability to accept people as they are.

They will be better prepared for the diverse world they will enter when they leave school. Gender stereotypes are broken down, and they would be given the opportunity for team building with both boys and girls, allowing them to recognise the importance of co-existing.

Learning within a mixed class allows the opportunity to be taught without bias towards their gender, and school becomes a safe place to challenge sexism.

As we come to the end of Pride Month, I challenge you to consider how a transgender child would feel going to a single-sex school.

Whilst I am sure Windsor Girls' School and The Windsor Boys' School would adequately support a transgender child, wouldn't it be better that the option of a co-educational school was there for them?

Cllr Neil Knowles responded to my petition, saying that Churchmead School in Datchet is a co-educational school in Windsor catchment.

Churchmead School starts in year seven which is not in line with the Windsor three-tiered system.

A child from Windsor would either have to leave middle school early or join the school in year 9.

Both options are unsettling for the child as they would either leave a school before their peers or join a school as a teenager when firm friendship groups have already established.

Churchmead's criteria for entry also places children from feeder schools, of which over 2/3 are in Slough and Buckinghamshire, above catchment. With catchment being so low down the order of allocation, I challenge the likelihood of a child from Windsor even being eligible for a space.

With wavering public transport options, how would you expect a Windsor child to get to Datchet?

They should not have to rely on getting a lift from a parent juggling work commitments or younger siblings.

Schools should be within walking distance or in a place where there are reliable and frequent public transport options.

If Windsor is going to be insistent on having a three-tier school system, then the Borough should provide good options -

without a co-educational upper school IN WINDSOR, you are failing the children of our town.

Children should have a choice, and currently, there is none.

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