



Aiming High Together

DOVEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL Willows Academy Trust

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4th November 2019

Dear Parents,

I am writing with reference to the upcoming snap election on the 12th December.

As many of you are aware we are a designated polling station and as such can be commandeered by the council to be used as such.

Although I have attempted to prevent this I am told that under the representation of the people act 1983 this can be enforced.

Currently the school's position is that if the school is used as a polling station we have to close as we have no way of securing the grounds against the general public entering the school premises or playground during the day as the route in to the polling area must remain open at all times. This would necessarily be the side gate.

This would also mean that the gates would be open with the potential for children to leave the school grounds.

I am sure you appreciate that this is a safeguarding issue and could not be accepted. I am aware that there has been some social media discussion with regard to the school choosing to close or not on this day but would like to be clear that this is only done for the safety of the children. The teachers would be in school on this day regardless.

We are also aware that some schools may have facilities where one area can be fenced off so enabling the school day to continue as usual but at the present time this is not the case for our school.

I am currently in negotiation with the council planning office to see whether a temporary fence could be erected to secure a specific area on the school grounds. If this is possible the school will remain open on this day.

I will keep you informed of any progress on the weekly blog on the website and appreciate your understanding on this frustrating issue.

Kind Regards

Sarah Houseman

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Company Registered No. 9093035 (England and Wales)

Registered Office: Sawley Junior School, Wilmot Street. Long Eaton, Nottingham. NG10 3DQ