



21 September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

3G Pitch Consultation

I wanted to provide you with information with regards the potential 3G pitch which I am sure you will have heard about in the local press and also on social media. There appears to have been numerous conclusions made and I felt it important to outline the schools' position on this proposal.

The potential 3G pitch provides an enormous opportunity for the school to improve its current sports facilities, which are in urgent need of an upgrade. When speaking with Wokingham Borough Council, the school and Trust made it clear that the pitch should be multi-purpose to allow a variety of sports, including football, rugby, cricket etc. Some comments have been made about athletics. Currently, both track and field are taught on the school field, which is on a slope and does not provide a valuable space. Whilst the proposed 3G pitch will take up more of the field, there will be enough space to teach and take part in field events and running practice can be carried out on the new surface. We have also resurfaced our hard courts to ensure sports such as hockey, netball and tennis can be taught effectively. The new surface will also allow us to have more outdoor teaching space, as during the winter months the field is often not available for use due to inclement weather. Our current 3G pitch is not large enough to house fixtures but the new pitch will be sufficient to allow students to not have to travel to Sol Joel for home fixtures and reduce away fixture travel also. The council will allow the school to have access after school to fulfil practice and fixtures. The PE department are also fully behind this proposal.

I need to be absolutely clear, that, contrary to the belief of social media, the school nor Trust will benefit financially from this new pitch, leasing in the evenings and weekends will be via the council. The school will provide access to the pitch as a payment in kind and have full access to it before, during and after school until a specified time.

I understand the concerns of some local residents as follows and I am hoping my comments may address these:

- Increased traffic – we do not envisage any difference in traffic issues surrounding the school site as a result of the new 3G pitch. There are enough parking spaces on site for the proposed out of school use.
- Floodlights – Currently we use old lights which have a lot of 'leakage'. The proposed new lights have significantly less.
- Noise – we currently let out our pitch in the evenings and there are no noise-reducing fences. It is proposed that there will be a fence to reduce noise on the new pitch.
- The school is using this to make money – to reassure you, the school will receive no money from this pitch, nor use it after school. This will be hired out by Wokingham Council and the only benefit the school will receive is a significant upgrade to our facilities.

As a parent of a child in this school, you are a key stakeholder and I encourage you all to have your say at the link below, irrespective of whether this is a positive or negative view. It is vital that as many voices are heard in this process.

<https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/3g-pitch-proposed-at-maiden-erlegh-school-earley>><https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/3g-pitch-proposed-at-maiden-erlegh-school-earley>

Yours sincerely

Mr P Gibson
Headteacher