

CHARLES DICKENS INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms N Brown

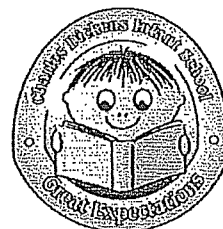
Deputy Headteacher: Mr C Duncan

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Jo Bennett, Leasehold and Commercial Services Manager
Portsmouth City Council Housing Service
Ground Floor, Chaucer House
Portsmouth
PO1 2DR

Dear Ms Bennett,

CHARLES DICKENS CENTRE

You will be aware that at present the Charles Dickens Centre is managed jointly by Charles Dickens Infants and Charles Dickens Junior Schools, with the day-to-day responsibility of the Centre being the responsibility of the Junior School.

The Governors of both schools have for some time, believed that the management of such a centre is not consistent with the delivery of education in the community and for the Centre to be fully utilised and be financially self-sufficient, it requires a more professional and dedicated approach, which the schools cannot provide.

Towards the end of 2010, the Governors, through the two Chairs, made an informal approach to Heartlands Community Voice to look at the possibility of them taking over the running of the Centre, and to propose how they might facilitate that. Their initial response was very positive and we looked forward to their involvement.

Shortly after, discussions took place about the transfer of the property itself from Education Department to Housing Department, a process with which the schools are largely uninvolved. We are however conscious that we are still managing the Centre several months on.

We are therefore writing to you to formally ask you to arrange appropriation of the Charles Dickens Centre to the Housing Service, and to let us know the timescale in which this might be achieved. We understand that you will have to negotiate detail with the Education Service and the Schools around the building, costs, staffing etc before the final agreement can be reached.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Kervin
Chair Charles Dickens Junior School

 Trefor Jones
Chair Charles Dickens Infant School

