



MANOR COURT Community Primary School

incorporating Manor Court Early Years Centre

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage

Deputy Head Teacher Mr A Clode **Assistant Head Teacher** Mrs G Terry

Duck Lane, Chard, Somerset TA20 2ES

Telephone 01460 62350 • email office@manorcourt.ppat365.org

manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk • x @ManorCourtChard

Monday 20th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since the public announcement last week to build a new primary school and nursery at Holyrood in Chard, I have been working collaboratively with the Headteachers of the primary schools in Chard, Tatworth and Combe St Nicholas to review this recent decision. As a group of school leaders, we feel it is important to keep families informed about the potential implications of this proposal for the existing schools and our community. Alongside this letter I have attached the letter that we have sent to show our disappointment.

At present, we have raised a number of significant concerns. These include:

- The declining pupil numbers across the area, which do not suggest a need for an additional school or nursery.
- The lack of open and transparent consultation with those currently leading schools in the community. Not one of the local schools or governing bodies officially knew of this decision before it was announced in the Chard and Ilminster Newspaper and by Holyrood Academy.
- The financial strain currently faced by Somerset County Council, with up to eight million pounds being allocated to a project that is not necessary, demonstrates further fiscal irresponsibility.

If parents and carers feel strongly about this issue, we would encourage you to contact our local councillors and our MP to share your views and concerns. Hearing directly from local families helps ensure that decision-makers understand the strength of feeling within the community. The contact details of Chard County Councillors who have helped make this unnecessary decision, without appropriate and transparent consultation, are below:

Chard County Councillors

- Cllr Jenny Kenton – jenny.kenton@somerset.gov.uk
- Cllr Martin Wale – martin.wale@somerset.gov.uk

Please do also consider emailing our Member of Parliament - Adam Dance.

- Adam Dance MP – adam.dance.mp@parliament.uk

We as Headteachers have collectively requested a meeting with key representatives and decision-makers to seek clarity and to ensure that the voices of our schools, families, and wider community are properly heard before any final decisions are made.

Our shared priority remains to safeguard high-quality education for all pupils within our existing schools and to ensure that decisions made about future provision are both responsible and in the best interests of local children.

I will continue to update you as more information becomes available.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Mr Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Manor Court Community Primary School and Pre-School
(01460) 62350
www.manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk
@ManorCourtChard

ASPIRE

Ambition • Sincerity • Positivity • Integrity • Respect • Empathy

