

## Joanne Bond – Statement to Cabinet, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010

Thank you for the chance to show my support for Culverhay School. I am an active member of the parent action group that was set up following the decision of the council to recommend the closure of Culverhay. I am a parent of a current Year 8 boy. Since attending Culverhay my son has blossomed and matured. In many of the subjects he is achieving above his Year 9 targets. The school provides the boys with a sound academic learning environment. In addition to this it provides the children with opportunities to enrich their lives through the extracurricular activities. Challenge days provide the boys with the chance to go out into the community and lend a helping hand. The boys are subjected to many varied and challenging opportunities to learn and are given the support and guidance they need to rise to them.

I feel as a parent that my son is valued within the school and because of this he has the utmost respect for the teachers and staff of the school. They have taken the time to get to know him as an individual and have used this knowledge in order to push him further. The communication that I have had between the school and myself has always been a positive experience and I am able to approach the school if I feel the need arises. At regular intervals throughout the school year I am kept up to date on my son's progress. I firmly believe that the school ensures that every child really does matter.

If this school were to close the communities that it serves will suffer greatly. The school provides a hub for the learning community, they provide for the children of many local primary, infant and junior schools by giving them the use of their swimming pool in which to teach the children. The schools also have sport festivals at regular times throughout the year. Many of the boys at Culverhay go into the local schools and engage the children in sporting activities as part of their sports leadership program.

The school delivers courses for the adult community that help to improve life chances in the workplace; they also help develop social skills for adults in need. The school works with organisations and agencies on site to provide a wide range of activities. The school provides a base for parenting and family support workers.

The school also runs a holiday club during school holidays. All of these services are provided under the umbrella of extended services, Culverhay has excelled at this government initiative. The extended schools provision is excellent and is available to all children who wish to attend. The services provided at the school ensure that children and parents are given more opportunities and support; this in turn ensures that the every child matters programme is breaking down barriers for the underprivileged children of the area.

The local community would also lose their leisure centre; this is a fantastic alternative to having to travel into the centre of Bath. The consultation document of 2009 states that the guiding principles in their vision are that 'each secondary school becomes a learning campus where sport and cultural facilities and extended services are located together for the benefit of young people and the wider community.' The fact is that Culverhay School fulfil this requirement extensively. It is classed as a community school in your admissions booklet. To lose Culverhay school would be a devastating blow to the communities it provides for. The school plays a vital role in community cohesion and it encourages everyone to become involved.