

# Prospect School

PROSPECT SCHOOL, READING

14<sup>th</sup> May 2018

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Dear Parent and Carer

Headteacher: Mr Philip Davies

Our aim is always to ensure that we provide the best education, care and guidance and the best opportunities for our students. The Prospect Parliament (Student Council) have identified that the toilets in D Block are in need of refurbishment. As part of improvements to our provision for our students, we are planning to upgrade these facilities over the summer. As you may be aware, there is considerable change in toilet provision in the education sector, with more schools moving toward mixed or neutral gender toilets. We are actively considering a proposal to provide open plan mixed gender toilets in one block in school. Mixed gender toilets mean that male toilets will be on one side and female the other. We also intend to have a CCTV camera at the entrance, which will not be able to see into the cubicles but will have a view of the sinks and common area. I would also like to mention that traditional, separate gender toilets, will remain in the other blocks in school.

I show below an example of mixed gender toilets that a local school recently had built.



We now wish to launch a formal period of consultation about moving to mixed gender toilets. As a parent or carer of a child in our school, I would like to invite you to help inform our discussions and consultations on this matter. I hope you are able to find time to consider the content of this letter carefully and respond to help inform our decision.

The mixed gender toilet system has a number of advantages:

- Fewer points around school where students struggle to access toilets or where students find themselves waiting for a free cubicle.
- Mixed-gender facilities are becoming very common in new build schools, and those with these facilities have very positive feedback from both a staff and student viewpoint.
- Due to the change to mixed-gender facilities, all toilets will be in enclosed, lockable cubicles, with no urinal blocks. This will improve the cleanliness of the facilities and ensure the on-going safety of students using them.

## ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE

- Cubicles will have floor to ceiling doors to ensure privacy; further to this, the new cubicles will be more economical with the use of space than current facilities, allowing us to have more toilets than we do currently.
- The open plan nature improves safeguarding as the area can be easily monitored from the corridor

As a key partner with the school, we would like to have feedback on your views of the proposed changes and any implications you think they may have for you. If you would like to put your views forward, please email me [headteacher@prospect.reading.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@prospect.reading.sch.uk) by the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Yours faithfully



P Davies  
Headteacher

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE