

**EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

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Date 27th March 1992

Dear Councillor Hawton

KNOWL VIEW SCHOOL

Thank you for your letter of the 16th March 1992. I am glad that you found the meeting with Mrs Mellor helpful: I have always found her presentations both informative and thought-provoking.

I acknowledge the concerns that you have regarding the issue of staff involved but feel that perhaps it was a misapprehension because the situation was not fully explained. I know from Mrs Mellor that she has subsequently spoken to you about the invitation that was extended to staff and the fact that most of the staff took it up. As far as I am aware the only member of staff who did not take up the invitation (and it was not an instruction) will be leaving the school at Easter. I think the concerns about the level of responsibility given to staff and where there were appropriate lines of communication from more junior to more senior staff will be explored at the meeting with staff.

The other comment concerning the Caretaker was that he gave his evidence fairly late in the proceedings and his statement opened up a rather different line of enquiry. As I understand it this line of enquiry did not implicate anybody except the person making the statement so there was no reason for other staff to be directed to attend to interview. If I felt that the Caretaker was being put in the role of scapegoat I would be very concerned but this is definitely not my understanding of what Mrs Mellor was saying.

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