

18th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Greenfield Site

You may have seen recent press, social media posts and banners about the Greenfield site (the area of field opposite the school).

We understand that there may be some confusion from parents and local residents about the site and how the school would like to use it in the future. We thought that it would be best to explain the journey that the school has been on, and let you know our thoughts:

- Pupils at St. Bede have historically played on the Greenfield site, known as 'St. Bede Playing Fields'.
- Children can no longer play on the site safely as there is no fence, and we would be in breach of safeguarding protocol if we used this site regularly for playtimes.
- On rare occasions we use the site for planned activities such as Sports Day. However dog mess, rubbish and drug paraphernalia have made it increasingly hard to continue to use the site safely. We have also had occasions when dog walkers have walked across the running track, when children have been taking part in a race during a Sports Day.
- Pupils from our 'Eco School Council' expressed their interest in using the Greenfield site for break times, P.E. and outdoor learning, but understood that the site could only be used safely with a fence around the perimeter.
- From 2019 our pupils and staff have been in discussions with our local residents/council/councillors about obtaining a section of the field under a lease.
- The residents are happy for children to play on the site but are anxious about a fence being built, and also want to have access to the Greenfield site themselves.
- An article was published in the Bolton News a few weeks ago explaining that the site (along with other Greenfield sites) were up for auction.
- Local residents are concerned that that site will be sold for housing.
- The council would be interested in the school leasing some the land, but no agreements have been made formally.
- We would love to be able to lease a portion of the field to use purely for playtimes, P.E. and outdoor learning; we would not want to build on the site. We would look after the Greenfield site and ensure that a fence is covered with hedges/trees etc. to make it pleasing on the eye and encourage wildlife to live safely.

***PLEASE TURN OVER***

Learning, Caring, Growing Together

Head of School: Mrs S. Rostron

St Bede Primary Academy, Morris Green Lane, Bolton, BL3 3LJ

Telephone: 01204 61899 Website: [www.stbedeacademy.org](http://www.stbedeacademy.org) Company Registered Number: 07628909

Pupils from St. Bede have put together some presentations to explain why they would like to lease a portion of the Greenfield site. Please click on the links below to watch the presentations:

<https://youtu.be/SIFDTodibkA>

<https://youtu.be/1wPNGx3SN9I>

Our 'Eco School Council' are keen to know your questions about the Greenfield site, together with questions from our local residents. If you, or anyone you know locally has a question, please email it to: **greenfield@stbedeacademy.org**.

We thank you for your support as always.

Kind regards,

The Eco School Council  
Mrs S Rostron & Mrs A Black

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