

## Fw: Response to St Helen's School licencing application

Further to your submission of a “Representation Form from Interested Parties” in response to the above application, I am writing to respond to your concerns raised, as follows:

**1. Concerns around the proximity to your home:**

The proposed venue is in a building located within the centre of the school’s grounds comprising 22 acres. It is surrounded by other school buildings and vegetation and therefore, is some considerable distance from your home.

**2. Concerns around noise and disruption:**

The purpose of the facility will be to provide a relaxed, social environment for staff to engage informally with their colleagues and invited guests only, on Fridays in term time between the hours of 4.00pm and 8.00pm. Any guests will be limited to partners of staff and not wider friendship groups and so will not significantly increase numbers attending. No children will be allowed into the premises and the school day will have finished beforehand. We finish earlier on Fridays.

After a busy week, we know that only small numbers of staff will attend and those that do are unlikely to stay for the duration. I would also like to point out that many staff do not drink alcohol and those that do, will most certainly not be drinking to excess. Recorded music might be played as a background only and no live music will be undertaken. All those attending will be asked to respect the needs of local residents and leave the area quietly. The location that has been chosen and the buildings/vegetation surrounding the area mean that it would be impossible to hear small numbers of staff chatting over a drink from the location of your home.

Therefore, in respect of concerns that “teachers and their guests will get drunk and disorderly”, I can assure you that these are unfounded.

**3. Concerns around the school being used outside of school hours:**

The school runs a very active co-curricular programme and many of the “out of school hours” activities are for the school’s students as part of their wider education provision. Some of the school’s facilities are also available for hire at these times, limited to weekday evenings and daytime events at weekends and are hired by organisations running activity clubs for local children, which are closely vetted by the school and within strict operating guidelines.

The school is a registered charity and all of the monies raised from such activities are invested into the provision of Bursary Awards, enabling St Helen’s to continue its commitment to widening access to an exceptional education to all prospective pupils, irrespective of financial means or social circumstances. Therefore, the school will continue to use its facilities to fund this important initiative, whilst of course respecting its neighbours.

I will be happy to investigate any concerns you may have about specific dates and times, should you experience disruption outside of the above mentioned activities.

Yours sincerely



**Jackie Brinicombe | Assistant Business Director**

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