

BUTCOMBE - THE PRE-PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Response to ISI Inspection Report November 2001

We are very pleased with the Inspection Report's findings that Butcombe is a warm and friendly school that makes good provision for its pupils. We are particularly gratified to note the specific finding that strong foundations are laid during the Butcombe years.

The main findings indicate three areas in which the School could do better.

Accommodation

We are aware of the limitations of the accommodation. We are already looking at ways of optimizing space on the Butcombe site, and the acquisition of the whole Sharp's building will alleviate any overcrowding by providing extra cloakroom space, toilet facilities and overflow work areas in addition to new, larger classrooms. Phase One of this expansion was undertaken during the Summer holidays and has been a success. The particular problem of the unsuitability of the accommodation for the Foundation Stage suggests no immediate solution, but again, we are considering the specific needs of this age group as part of the Development Plan.

Time for Management

A Deputy Head has been appointed and the members of the Senior Management Team have new job specifications with reduced managerial workloads. The Deputy Head has now been given regular non-contact time to perform her managerial tasks, and provision to fund more non-contact for Senior Management and Curriculum Co-ordinators has been made in this year's financial plan. These changes had already been planned at the time of the Inspection.

Policies and Consultation across the College

Butcombe and the Pre regularly share and reflect on policies, but there is always room for increased regular consultation across all three Schools. Termly meetings between Heads of Department in the Pre and Butcombe Curriculum Co-ordinators are scheduled, and these can be extended to include Heads of Departments in the Upper School.

Dr W E Bowring
Headmistress of Butcombe