

20 April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As CEO of the BePART Educational Trust and Executive Head of the school, I work on a daily basis with the Head of School, Mr Mee and his senior team. When we put this new management structure in place our objective was to deliver to you and this community a school with the highest standards, a school that will give your children the opportunities to learn and grow and so be best equipped to take on the challenges of life beyond education.

We really appreciate that 95% of parents are on-board with us, we are in this together and we will work to achieve this together.

We want an excellent school, not for us but for the community of Birkenhead. In recent weeks and months we have been subject to some criticism for putting actions in place to achieve these high standards. It does seem odd to me that when Grammar schools put high standards in place they are praised for ambition and roundly applauded. However, when we put different but equally high standards in place we are criticised by some.

Is the narrative here one that says, as Birkenhead Park School is non-selective and draws largely from a good traditional working class area then we should not aspire to have the best opportunities for our children, should we know our place and keep to it!

To those who criticise from a lack of understanding, we want to explain to you our approach, to those who criticise because they believe we are being too ambitious and that this community should lower its expectations, well, shame on them.

Your children will get the best education we can provide, that will take place in a calm, disciplined and safe environment. We are not yet where we want to be but each day we are working to get closer to it. We will not be blown off course, we will listen to constructive criticism and we will listen to our community, but we will not listen to those who do not believe that the children of this school should be encouraged and supported to grow, excel and succeed.

Yours sincerely

Mike Kilbride
CEO BePART Educational Trust