



West St, Comberton
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E-mail: info@catrust.co.uk
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Dear Parents/Carers and the community

We are writing to update you on the situation we are facing at Gamlingay Gym which adjoins Gamlingay Village Primary.

The village primary has been a member of The Cam Academy Trust since 2016, and the ownership and management of the gym transferred to the Trust in April 2018.

Even before COVID-19, the gym had struggled to be financially sustainable given the numbers of members and the costs that had to be incurred to enable it to be open. The gym needs to be self-sustaining as we are legally not allowed to support, or invest in it, using government funding that has been given to the school for the education of young people.

As the gym is located on school premises there are significant additional challenges to reopening it safely for members, while ensuring the essential COVID-secure guidelines are followed for pupils and staff at the school. Our priority must be the health and wellbeing of the school's pupils and young people from our community as well as the staff who work at the school. Unfortunately, this means it is very difficult to allow visitors into the school site until COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed and means the gym has remained closed to the public since March and will be for the foreseeable future.

While we have been able to access support from the government's furlough scheme to cover some of the staff costs, we are now forced into the difficult position where the gym is unable to reopen but needs to generate income to sustain itself, making it unviable.

We have communicated this difficult position to the two members of staff, and we are now working with South Cambridgeshire District Council to agree a sensible way forward. Regrettably, as things stand one of these options will need to consider the closure of the gym. We know this is disappointing news for everyone. We certainly would not be considering this option unless we absolutely needed to.

Separately, the multi-use games area (MUGA) would not be affected by any decision and would continue to be maintained and financed by the Trust. This area would continue to be available for appropriate community use.

Pre-school consultation

While the timing of this consultation might appear to be linked to the gym, we want to reassure you that they are separate matters that do not impact on each other. The proposal to extend the age range at Gamlingay Village Primary from September 2021 is entirely based on identified local need for the provision which is planned to be located at an appropriate location towards the front of the school.





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The consultation to extend the age range closes on December 9 - please do engage with it if you had not had the chance to do so yet. Responses can be sent to the email address: consultations@catrust.co.uk.

We will write to you again as soon as our discussions with South Cambridgeshire District Council concerning Gamlingay Gym are completed, and a decision about the future of the gym has been confirmed.

Kind regards,

Stephen Munday
CEO, The Cam Academy Trust



The Cam Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07491945. The registered office is at Comberton Village College, West St, Comberton, Cambridgeshire, CB23 7DU