



Sussex Gymnastics
Lisa Jestico
26 Sycamore Avenue
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 4TS

19th January 2018

Dear Sir or Madam

THE ACADEMY OF GYM - CHANGE OF USE APPLICATION

The Academy of Gym (TAG) is a credible gymnastics club and an asset to Sussex Gymnastics, with many dedicated gymnasts and coaches that provide impact towards the Woman's Artistic County squad. Having so many TAG gymnasts in the squad, it is clear that the club is a valuable asset within Sussex, with many TAG gymnasts that have represented the County and the South-East Region.

Unfortunately due to lack of facilities and constraints, the gymnasts have limited training time and use of equipment to enhance their skills further. With a permanent base this will, no doubt, enhance their already capable team of gymnasts and continue to grow and develop.

There are many clubs in West Sussex, but very few with a permanent facility. There is great demand in Chichester and the surrounding areas for a club to provide a professional and quality gymnastics programme. Having this type of gymnastic facility would hugely benefit the local community and will inspire children throughout the area, it will promote fitness, wellbeing and social skills and would encourage children/adults of all ages to enjoy the sport of gymnastics.

Sussex gymnastics fully support the club and wish the club every success in their new venture.

Yours faithfully,

Lisa Jestico
Sussex Gymnastics Women's Artistic Representative & National Judge

Claire Gibbins
South East WTC Committee Member & National Judge

Dear The Academy of Gym,



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While I cannot comment on the planning situation, etc., I do know that Selsey in particular suffers from a lack of access to facilities for sport and leisure for young people given its distance from the nearest facilities in Chichester. For some families in Selsey, the practicalities of travelling into Chichester for after-school activities becomes unmanageable, particularly where siblings have different interests which can often clash. The time taken to travel to facilities prevents some families from engaging in opportunities outside of school which would otherwise be available to them. Similarly, for the most disadvantaged families for whom the cost of activities such as gymnastics can already be a significant draw on income, the costs of travel can end up being prohibitive and result in depriving those pupils of access to opportunities which parents would very much like to support.

To this end, I am sure that a more local base for an organisation such as yours could help benefit the health and wellbeing of young people in Selsey, and could also provide important safe activities for young people to participate in outside of school hours.

I hope you are successful in finding a suitable location for your work.

Kind regards

Michael Tidd

Headteacher

Medmerry Primary School - Part of the Schoolsworks Academy Trust