

Structural Changes to Schooling in Bedford Borough

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note this is a live document and will be added to throughout the process for change. A current version can be found on the consultations page of the Bedford Borough website www.bedford.gov.ukconsultations

What is this consultation about?

This consultation concerns proposed changes to school structures in Bedford Borough.

The details in the consultation document set out what is being proposed in each group of schools. Most areas of Bedford are seeking to become a two-tier cluster, with the exception of Bedford Academy (south Bedford) which is already two-tier and Wootton (which is remaining three-tier for the time being as it borders Central Bedfordshire Council's area).

Who is consulting on a change in school organisation?

Bedford Borough Council are consulting on overall changes to schools in Bedford in order to offer strategic leadership to the structural changes, as part of our commitment to raising educational standards.

Individual schools are also consulting on their own specific changes.

Why are some schools not consulting?

Some schools in Bedford Borough are already primary schools (for example Putnoe Primary).

Schools in the south of Bedford, in the Bedford Academy Cluster have already adopted a two-tier (primary and secondary) model.

Schools in the Wootton Upper School cluster are remaining three-tier for the time being as they border Central Bedfordshire which has not undergone a structural change.

When will the decision be taken?

Decisions will be made by individual Governing Bodies in January 2016 once the consultation period has concluded. The results of the Borough wide consultation will be considered by the Executive Committee on the 7th February 2016.

How will the proposed changes affect a child in year X?

In the Borough Council's consultation document we have provided an outline of every child's journey, whatever year group they are currently in, if the proposed changes take place.

Some children will only have two years in middle school before changing school again to secondary school. How will this affect their education?

Children who transfer to secondary school after two years in middle school will be supported and prepared for the transfer to secondary school. They will then have 5 to 7 years in their secondary

school without the need to change school again, and will be have longer to settle in the school before they have to make important decisions about post 14 options for GCSE and A level.

Would a change in structure be disruptive for the children going through the schools at that time?

No child would transfer schools more than twice. For those children who would stay in lower school for two more years to the age of eleven, there would normally be only one transfer and that would be at the end of Key Stage 2. They would transfer to a secondary school.

We recognise that some parents and carers are concerned about the children who would already be in middle schools when the proposed change took place. However, we have plenty of time to work with Head Teachers to plan the transition.

All the necessary accommodation would be in place for them in advance and there would be ample opportunity for pupils to get to know their new school before they transferred. Head Teachers are confident that the transition can be managed without disruption to learning.

What will happen about school transport?

Eligibility for home to school transport will continue to be assessed according to the Bedford Borough Transport Policy. The policy will be reviewed and amended to reflect any relevant changes in school circumstances.

When will schools be notified of details around proposed school building?

Schools have been written to and informed that they will be provided with the classroom space they need in order to become a Primary or Secondary school. Final details around the exact nature of the building works will be given to schools once the Executive Committee have made a decision in February 2016.

When will each school change?

School	Proposal	2017	2018
Castle	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Cople	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Willington	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Goldington Green Academy	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Great Barford	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Hazeldene	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Putnoe Academy	Already a Primary		
Ravensden VA	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Renhold VC	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Roxton VA	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
The Hills Academy	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Wilden VA	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Brickhill	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Edith Cavell	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Great Denham	Already a Primary		
Livingstone	Already a Primary		
Priory	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Queens Park Academy	Already a Primary		
Scott / Beauchamp	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the	Year 6 pupils remain in

		school	the school
St James' VA	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
St. Joseph's / St Gregory's	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
St John Rigby Academy	Already a Primary		
Balliol	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Bedford Road	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Camestone	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Kempston Rural	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Springfield	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Bromham	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Oakley	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Ursula Taylor	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Carlton	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Christopher Reeves	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Eileen Wade	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Harrold/Harrold Priory	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
John Gibbard	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Kymbrook	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Milton Ernest	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Pinchmill	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Riseley/ Margaret Beaufort	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the	Year 6 pupils remain in

		school	the school
St Lawrence	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Thurleigh	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Turvey	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Lakeview	Already a Primary		
Wilstead	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Broadmead	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school
Westfield	Already a Primary		
Wootton Lower	Primary	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school

School	Proposal	2017	2018	2019
Goldington Academy	Secondary	Year 9 pupils remain in the school	Year 10 pupils remain in the school	Year 11 pupils remain in the school
Newnham	Secondary	Year 9 pupils remain in the school	Year 10 pupils remain in the school	Year 5 pupils remain in the school
Mark Rutherford	Secondary	Year 7 pupils join the school	Year 8 pupils remain in the school	
Biddenham	Secondary	Year 7 pupils join the school	Year 8 pupils remain in the school	
St Thomas More	Secondary	Year 7 pupils join the school	Year 8 pupils remain in the school	
Daubeney Academy	Secondary	Year 9 pupils remain in the school	Year 10 pupils remain in the school	Year 11 pupils remain in the school

			school	school
Robert Bruce/ Hastingsbury	Secondary	Year 7 pupils join the school	Year 8 pupils remain in the school	
Lincroft	Secondary			
Sharnbrook	Secondary	Year 7 pupils join the school	Year 8 pupils remain in the school	
Marston Vale	No change			
Wootton Upper	No Change			
Wixams Secondary	Secondary	Year 7 pupils join the school	Year 8 pupils remain in the school	Year 9 pupils join the school

School	Proposal	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alban Academy	Primary+ Yr 7 and 8 for Central Beds Pupils	Year R Pupils join the school	Year 1 Pupils join the school	Year 2 Pupils remain in the school	Year 3 pupils remain in the school	Year 4 Pupils remain in the school	Year 5 pupils remain in the school	Year 6 pupils remain in the school