



Stowupland Consultation Booklet

**The School Organisation
Review in Suffolk**

www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations

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If you need help to understand this information in another language please call **08456 066 067**.

Se precisar de ajuda para ler estas informações em outra língua, por favor telefone para o número abaixo.

Portuguese

بەم زانیاریەشینی ئەب ت گەییەتی دە یارمەر پ ویستیەت بەگەئە بکە، وە ی خوارەم ژمارەندی بەیو بەزمان کی تترتکایە

Kurdish

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji w swoim języku zadzwoń na podany poniżej numer.

Polish

如果你需要其他語言來幫助你了解這些資訊，請撥以下電話。

Chinese

এই লেখাটি যদি অন্য ভাষাতে বুঝতে চান তাহলে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন

Bengali

اگر شما نیاز دارید که این اطلاعات را به زبان دیگری دریافت کنید لطفاً به شماره زیر تلفن کنید.

Farsi

If you would like this information in another format, including audio tape or large print, please call **08456 066 067**.

1. Background

The School Organisation Review in Suffolk

In 2006, Suffolk County Council started a review of school organisation in the county. This asked whether the current situation, involving a mixture of two-tier and three-tier schools, was providing the best possible education for children in the county.

In 2007, after carrying out public consultation and considering research evidence which compared Suffolk children's progress in the two-tier and three-tier systems, the county council adopted a preferred model, based on the two-tier system, of primary and secondary schools across Suffolk.

A set of principles were developed to help guide the process of developing options for schools in different areas. Given the number of schools affected, the county council decided to carry out the review in stages. Changes to schools in Lowestoft, Haverhill, Forest Heath, Beccles, Bungay and Leiston have now taken place. In Sudbury, Great Cornard and Thurston changes have been agreed and are being implemented. This leaves only a small area of Suffolk with a three-tier system.

Stowmarket and Stowupland are part of the remaining three-tier area. We would want to reorganise them at the same time because the two groups of schools overlap. Information about the proposals for schools in the Stowmarket pyramid can be found at:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations

Reorganisation in Stowupland

Proposals for reorganisation in the Stowupland area have been developed by headteachers, governors, the Church of England Diocese and the county council. This booklet explains why we would like to move to a two-tier system, how we propose to do it and how you can let us know what you think about our ideas.

Please read the booklet carefully before replying. Details of how you can give your views are on page 10.

While planning for the future we are committed to making sure that the achievement of children currently in the system is not disadvantaged. It has been possible to do this in the first groups of schools that have been reorganised.

2. Why we are proposing change

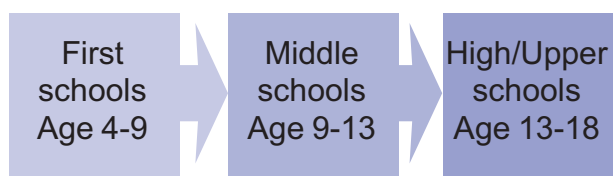
Our children are growing up in a world that is changing all the time. They will do jobs which do not exist today, using technology that has not yet been invented. We must make sure that the school system in Suffolk prepares our young people to achieve high standards and obtain the skills and qualifications they need to be successful in the future.

Raising attainment at every level in our schools remains one of the county council's key objectives.

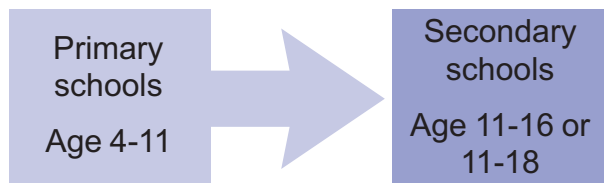
While many young people in Suffolk do very well at school, others do not do as well as they should, particularly when measured at the age of 11 and 16. We have carried out extensive research into children's progress in Suffolk. Our findings show that where children change school at age 9 and then again at 13, their progress is not as good as it is when there is the single change of school at age 11.

The two-tier system

Some parts of the country introduced a three-tier system in the 1970s when the 11 plus exam was abolished across most of England. In Suffolk's three-tier schools, children change school at age 9 and 13.



Most parts of the country kept the two-tier system and since the introduction of the national curriculum most other local authorities have changed back to it.



This is because the two-tier system matches the key stages of the national curriculum and testing at age 11.

There are over 20,000 schools in England. Only about 1% of these are middle schools and very few teachers are being trained to work in them. Having a different system to most of the UK can cause difficulties for families moving in and out of Suffolk.

Standards in Suffolk

Although some children and young people in Suffolk perform well, compared to national averages there is room for improvement.

Standards need to rise for all age groups but, in particular, improvement is needed at Key Stages 2 and 4. Virtually all the key attainment measures show that children in the two-tier system do better than those in the three-tier system.

This is in no way a reflection on staff in three-tier schools, as they work hard for the benefit of their pupils. However, the three-tier system makes it more difficult for children to make progress. Research shows this may be because the two-tier system only has one point of transfer between schools and responsibility for children's progress through each key stage of the national curriculum is in a single school. In the present system, children are also faced with choosing the options they will follow from the age of 14 in their first terms at a new school. Transferring to a secondary school at the age of 11 would allow staff to teach, assess and monitor progress of children for two years before they advise them on options for Key Stage 4.

The same staff would then continue to teach those young people through their exam courses.

There is national assessment at age 11 and age 16, the end of Year 6 and Year 11. These assessments are published on the Department for Education (DfE) website along with background information about the group of children who took the tests. The latest published data is for 2011.

Figure 1

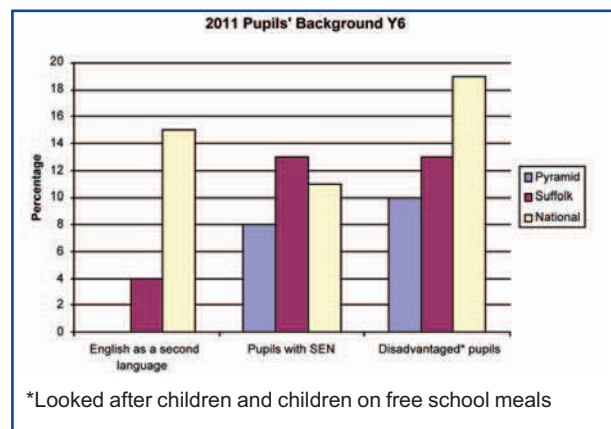
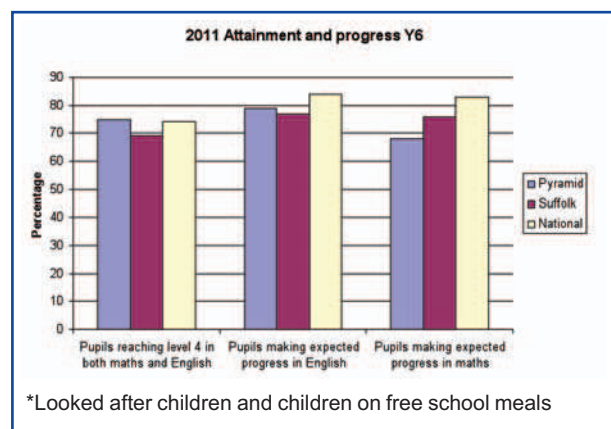


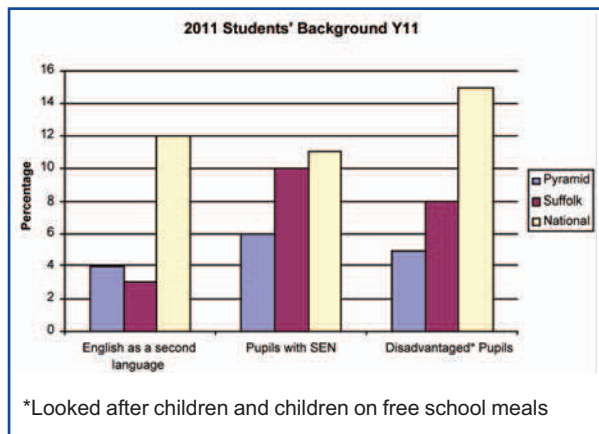
Figure 1 shows that the group of children in the Stowupland pyramid who took the national tests in 2011 were relatively well-off and had fewer learning difficulties than average.

Figure 2



In Figure 2, it can be seen that attainment was 1% above average, but fewer children made the expected progress in English and maths.

Figure 3



About half of the Y11 group at Stowupland High School come from outside the pyramid. They still appear to be better off and have fewer learning difficulties than average.

Figure 4

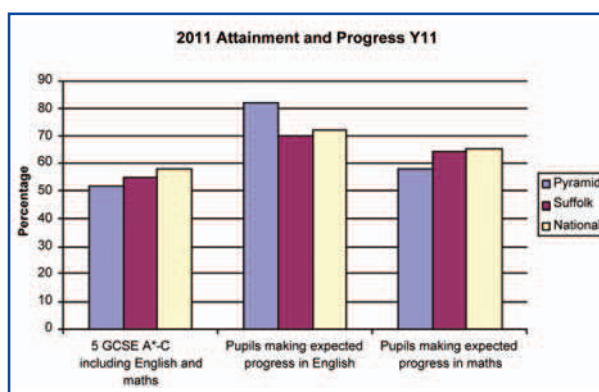


Figure 4 shows that more students had made expected progress in English, but fewer did so in maths. Overall attainment was below average.

While these graphs show a snapshot from one year, the pattern is similar in other years.

3. The change process

It is important that any changes to schools are the right ones and they are carried out carefully.

Step 1 – Developing ideas

In March 2011, Simon White, the Director for Children and Young People, wrote to all headteachers in the remaining three-tier areas of Suffolk. He explained that because of reduced capital funding and schools being able to take more control of their future, the previous model of school reorganisation could not be continued. In his letter, he stated that ‘the need to address children’s progress in three-tier areas remains’ and that ‘the local authority would be willing to consider ideas emerging from schools themselves which addressed the issues associated with a three-tier system.’

Since this letter, there have been discussions with headteachers and governors of schools in the Stowupland area. These discussions led to the proposals set out in this booklet.

Step 2 – Public consultation

From 10 September to 9 November 2012, parents, teachers, young people, governors and all other interested parties will have the opportunity to say what they think about the proposed new organisation of schools in the Stowupland area. We welcome your views on all aspects of the proposed change, including whether or not you agree that there should be a move to a two-tier system for a particular school or schools.

Details of how you can have your say can be found on page 10. All responses will be analysed and taken into consideration. In previous consultations, comments from people at this stage helped to shape the final proposals.

Step 3 – Statutory proposals

Once consultation has ended, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet and the governing bodies of voluntary schools will decide what the proposals should be for each school taking into consideration all consultation responses.

The legal process of making any changes to schools by publishing statutory notices will then begin. You will find these in the local paper and at schools and libraries. They will also be available on our website, www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor. There will be a six-week period in which anyone can comment on the final proposals for each school.

Step 4 – Decision making

In most cases, the final decision on the proposals will be made by the county council. However, in some cases the law states that the Schools Adjudicator must make the final decision. The Secretary of State for Education appoints the Schools Adjudicator.

A final decision for the Stowupland area is expected by March 2013.

Step 5 – Implementation

If the proposals are approved, the first changes would happen in September 2014 when children currently in Year 3 would not transfer to middle school, but would stay as Year 5 in their primary schools. The following year, September 2015, these pupils would become Year 6 in their primary schools.

Bacton Middle School would close at the end of the summer term 2015 and in September 2015 all its pupils would transfer to secondary school.

We intend to keep to this timeframe. However, it will be kept under continual

review in the light of consultation responses and any unexpected events. Parents will be consulted if any change in the timeframe is needed.

The diagram below shows how the proposed changes in the preferred future pattern would affect individual children as they progress through the school system.

Support for change

The county council provides support for schools during the period of change. This includes training and a process for staff to

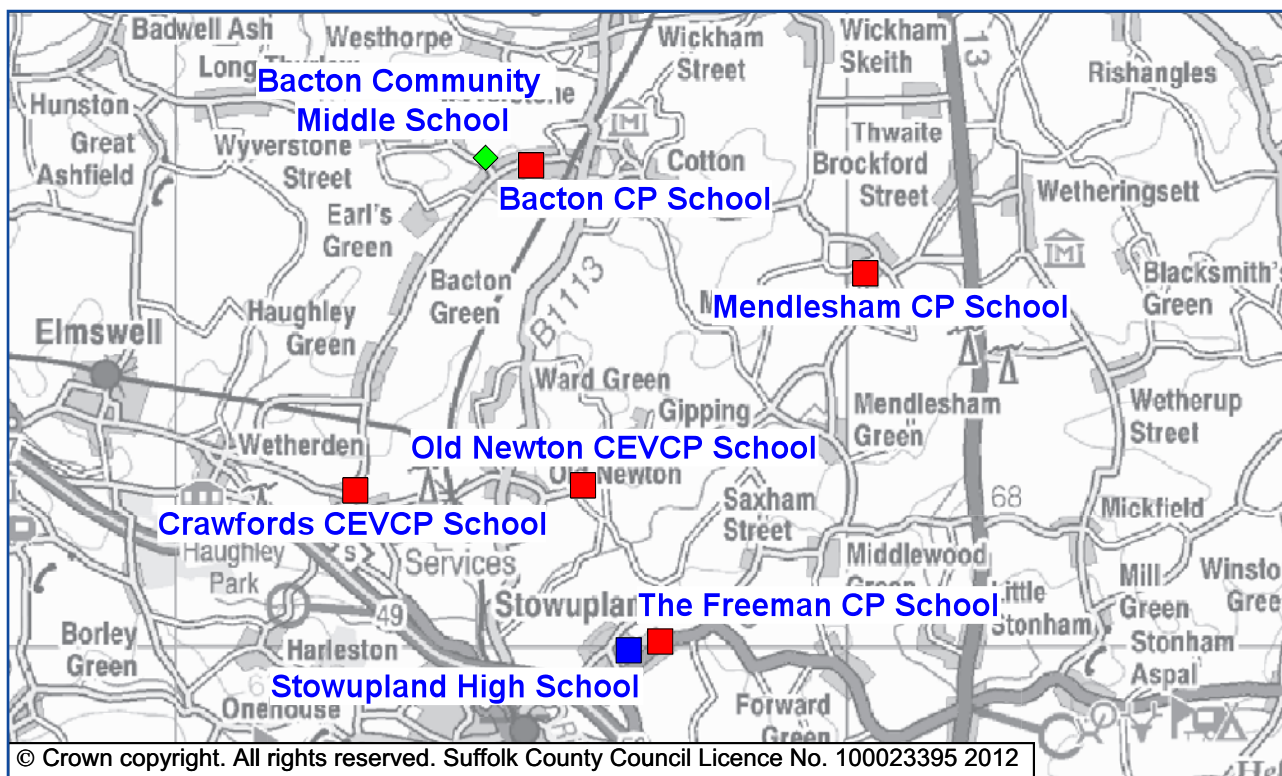
help them find jobs in other schools. Advisers are available to help schools prepare for the new age range.

Impact of reorganisation

The reorganisation process is now complete in Haverhill, Lowestoft, Beccles, Bungay, Leiston, Mildenhall and Newmarket. In these areas standards in middle schools did not drop during the reorganisation and the level of achievement by 11 year-olds in the primary schools is showing a significant improvement.

Date of Birth	Year Group September 2012	Effect of these proposals
After 01.09.08	Pre-School	Remain at primary school until the end of Year 6 and transfer to secondary school at age 11
01.09.07 to 31.08.08	Reception	Remain at primary school until the end of Year 6 and transfer to secondary school at age 11 in September 2019
01.09.06 to 31.08.07	Year 1	Remain in primary school until end of Year 6 and then transfer to secondary school in September 2018
01.09.05 to 31.08.06	Year 2	Remain in primary school until end of Year 6 and then transfer to secondary school in September 2017
01.09.04 to 31.08.05	Year 3	Remain in primary school until end of Year 6 and then transfer to secondary school in September 2016
01.09.03 to 31.08.04	Year 4	Transfer to middle school in September 2013 and then transfer to secondary school in September 2015 as Year 7
01.09.02 to 31.08.03	Year 5	Remain in middle school and transfer to secondary school in September 2015 as Year 8
01.09.01 to 31.08.02	Year 6	Remain in middle school and transfer to secondary school in September 2015 as Year 9
01.09.00 to 31.08.01	Year 7	Transfer to secondary school (Year 9) in September 2014
01.09.99 to 31.08.00	Year 8	Transfer to secondary school (Year 9) in September 2013
01.09.98 to 31.08.99	Year 9	Remain at secondary school
01.09.97 to 31.08.98	Year 10	Remain at secondary school
01.09.96 to 31.08.97	Year 11	Remain at secondary school

4. Map of the area Stowupland Schools



5. Primary schools

In the preferred pattern of schools set out on the following pages, all five first schools would increase their age range to take pupils until the end of Year 6, aged 11. This would begin with the current Y3 pupils staying in their primary school in September 2014.

Where primary schools need more classrooms for the extra children permanent stand alone accommodation will be built. The curriculum for children up to the age of 11 does not need any special rooms like science labs. The primary school approach to teaching and not having to change school at age 9 will lead to higher achievement at the end of Key Stage 2. This is already being seen in the first areas which have changed.

The number of children admitted to each year group, called the published admission number (PAN), is being set to help all children find a place at their local school and allow some flexibility for people moving into the area and to meet parents' preferences. However, we must also take into account the physical limitations of sites.

Across Suffolk and the rest of England

some of the most successful schools, both in Key Stage 2 exam results and in Ofsted judgements, are small village schools. Our ambition is for the five village schools in the Stowupland area to be among them.

Bacton Primary

This school currently offers 30 places in each year group and had 135 pupils on roll at the time of the school census in January 2012. We propose to keep the number of places in each year group to 30 as data from the health authority suggests this will be enough for future years. The school already has sufficient accommodation for 210 pupils which would be the maximum number on roll.

Haughley, Crawfords

This school currently offers 28 places in each year group and the school has a capacity of 120 pupils. However, in January 2012 there were just 60 pupils on roll. We propose to reduce the number of places in each year group to 15 as this will be sufficient to meet local needs in the future. The maximum roll would be 105 so the school would not need any more classrooms.

Mendlesham

This school currently offers 20 places in each year group and it has a capacity of 100 pupils. In January 2011, there were 66 pupils on roll. We propose to reduce the number of places in each year group to 15 places which is enough to meet future needs. The maximum roll would be 105 places and one new classroom would be needed.

Old Newton

This school currently offers 12 places in each year group and it has a capacity of 73 pupils. In January 2011 there were 54

pupils on roll. We propose to offer 15 places in each year group which would need one more classroom to be built, taking the capacity to 105 places.

The Freeman

This school currently offers 40 places in each year group and it has a capacity of 200 pupils. In January 2011 there were 162 pupils on roll including a number from outside the catchment area. We propose to offer 30 places in each year group which would need one more classroom to be built, taking the capacity to 210 places.

6. Middle school

Bacton Community Middle School

The County Council has a preferred option to move to a two-tier system with primary schools covering the 4 to 11 age range and secondary schools covering the 11 to 16 or 11 to 18 age range. If the preferred option is adopted then Bacton Middle School would be closed.

If the proposed pattern of primary schools set out above is agreed, there would be no admissions to Bacton Middle School in September 2014 when Year 5 pupils would stay in their primary schools.

This would mean that in September 2014 Bacton Middle School would teach Years 6, 7 and 8. In September 2015, the three year groups remaining at the middle school would transfer to secondary school and Bacton Middle School would close.

If the school closed and there was no other educational use identified, we would seek the Secretary of State's permission to dispose of the site. We would need to consult with the local planning authority on possible future uses which could include community facilities.

7. High schools

Across Stowmarket and Stowupland we need 480 places in each year group for students aged 11-16.

We are proposing to offer 300 places in each year group at Stowmarket High School and 180 at Stowupland High School.

Stowupland High School admits children from a wider area including the Stowmarket and Thurston areas. We are planning for this to continue and would like your views on admitting a small number of students

from the Thurston area in September 2014 when the school system changes there.

Stowupland High School has sufficient capacity on its site for about half the extra students it would take. We intend to build a new teaching block on the site to add the extra space needed.

Both Stowupland and Stowmarket High Schools would retain their sixth forms at the current size.

8. Alternative ideas considered

A number of alternative ideas were considered by head teachers and governors. These included alternative sixth form arrangements and an “all-through” model.

Alternative sixth form arrangements are not being proposed because it was thought that there should be local post-16 options in a rural area. The two schools already work in partnership with shared timetabling and transport to give students as wide a range of courses as possible.

The “all-through” proposal was based on the existing seven schools retaining their age range and forming a federation with a single governing body and an executive principal. This would be consistent with the

county council’s principles and would not need any investment in new classrooms.

After much careful consideration the majority of headteachers and governors were not convinced that the “all-through” proposal would lead to higher achievement as it did not address the additional change of school. Nor was it thought that it was compatible with neighbouring systems and could lead to problems for families moving in and out of the area.

While there are many examples of successful two-tier systems, there are few examples of “all-through” arrangements like that proposed. Federations of schools do have many benefits, but these could be realised just as well in a two-tier system.

9. Next steps

All consultation responses will be analysed and reported to county councillors and governors. In December, Suffolk’s Cabinet will decide what final proposals it wants to make. For voluntary schools, this is a decision for the governing body.

These final proposals will be published in the local paper, on school gates and elsewhere

in the community. People will then have six weeks to make their final comments on the proposals before the Cabinet take their final decision in February 2013.

If the proposals are approved, work will begin on building the new classrooms, training staff and all the other preparation that is needed.

10. How to have your say

Comments from parents and others have been very useful in shaping the final proposals for change in other parts of Suffolk.

You can learn more about the proposals by attending one of the consultation meetings.

At these meetings any comments you make will be recorded and will be part of the evidence considered by councillors. All meetings start at 7pm

	Date
Bacton Middle	17 September
Crawfords	18 September
Mendlesham	20 September
Old Newton	25 September
Stowupland High	2 October
The Freeman	11 October
Bacton Primary	24 October

You can also complete a questionnaire online at:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations

A paper version of the booklet and questionnaire is also available from schools.

If you prefer you can also email or write to us at

StowuplandConsultation@suffolk.gov.uk

or

**SOR Stowupland
Suffolk County Council
FREEPOST NAT 18364
Ipswich IP1 2BR**

Please make sure your comments reach us by 9 November 2012.

Stowupland Questionnaire

1. Are you a: parent/member of staff governor student other

2. Which school or schools are you associated with?

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3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Suffolk schools should change to a two-tier school system? agree disagree don't know

4. Please say why you think this

Primary Schools

Please tell us what you think about proposals for the following schools. Please say why you think this.

5. **Bacton Primary** agree disagree don't know

6. **Haughley, Crawfords** agree disagree don't know

7. **Mendlesham** agree disagree don't know

8. **Old Newton** agree disagree don't know

9. **The Freeman** agree disagree don't know

10. **Bacton Middle** agree disagree don't know

