

Bury St Edmunds Area Consultation Booklet

The School Organisation Review In Suffolk

www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor

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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 ئە ب ت گەییەتی دە یارمەر پ ویستیت بەگەئە
بەگە، وە ی خوارم ژمارەندی بەیو بەزمان کی تر تکایە

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

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1 Background

The School Organisation Review in Suffolk

Raising levels of educational attainment is one of the county council's main priorities. Alongside "Raising the Bar", the School Organisation Review (SOR) is one of the main strategies to achieve this.

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 which compared Suffolk children's progress in the two-tier and three-tier systems, the county council adopted a preferred model of schools, based on the two-tier system, of primary and secondary schools.

A set of principles was 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, Leiston, Sudbury and Great Cornard have now taken place. In Thurston, Stowmarket and Stowupland changes have been agreed and are being implemented. This leaves only one small area of Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds and surrounding villages, with a three-tier system.

This consultation document contains proposals for schools within the Bury Schools Partnership. A list of Bury Schools Partnership schools can be found on page 17 within the consultation paper or go to www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor

The Catholic pyramid of schools will be consulting on proposals for their schools at the same time as schools in the Bury Schools Partnership. Details of their proposals can be found here www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor

Some schools within the Bury St Edmunds area have organised themselves into an academy chain. These schools are not included in these proposals. Details of these schools can be found here www.bseacademytrust.co.uk.

Reorganisation in the Bury St Edmunds area

Proposals for reorganisation in the Bury St Edmunds area have been developed by headteachers, governors, the Church of England and Catholic diocesan authorities 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 proposals.

Please read the booklet carefully before replying. Details of how you can give your views are on page 14.

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

2 Why 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 the Bury St Edmunds area 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 all Suffolk schools remains one of the county council's key objectives.

While many young people in the Bury St Edmunds area do very well at school, others do not do as well as they should, particularly when measured at the ages 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.

Three and two-tier systems

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 the three-tier schools in the Bury St Edmunds area, children change school at age 9 and again at age 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 with testing at age 11 and enables a single line of accountability to be established for each key stage.

There are over 20,000 schools in England, fewer than 200 of these are middle schools and very few teachers are being trained to work specifically in them. Having a different system to most of the UK can cause difficulties for families moving in and out of the Bury St Edmunds area.

Three tier structure

First schools
Age: 4-9

Middle schools
Age: 9-13

High/Upper schools
Age: 13-18

Two tier structure

Primary schools
Age: 4-11

Secondary schools
Age: 11-16 or 18

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 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 each key stage is in a single school. In the present system, children in the three-tier system are also faced with choosing the options they will follow from the age of 14 shortly after they start at their new upper school. Transferring to a secondary school at the age of 11 would allow more time for information, advice and guidance to be given by staff who know the children and will subsequently teach them throughout Key Stage 4.

The Bury St Edmunds Area

The structure of education in the Bury St Edmunds area is more complex than in other parts of the county which have moved to a two tier system. This means that there would be more diversity and choice for parents although the choices may be less straightforward. Information on the effect of the proposals to change to two tier on diversity and choice can be found in Appendix A.

Bury Schools Partnership

There are 19 schools in the Bury Schools Partnership. The Partnership comprises 1 upper school, 3 middle schools, 13 primary schools, a special school and a pupil referral unit (PRU). Go to www.buryschoolspartnership.org.uk for more details. Special schools and PRUs are not part of the reorganisation proposals. The aim of the Partnership is to take collective responsibility for raising standards for all children whatever the school or phase. Schools in the Bury Schools Partnership feel that a structure which is consistent with the vast majority of other schools in the UK makes educational and organisational sense.

These schools believe that a careful transition to a two tier system with one-change of school at age 11 would provide the best foundation for future education in the area. Their view is that standards in the area would be better if we could minimise the number of points of transfer.

The Partnership aims to make sure that if reorganisation is agreed, it is as smooth as it can be with teachers across the schools working closely together, keeping a focus on the progress and wellbeing of children whatever their age and background.

The Catholic Pyramid

There are three Catholic schools in the Bury St Edmunds area: St Edmunds Catholic Primary, St Louis Middle and St Benedict's Catholic School. These schools are part of a broader pyramid which has already made changes consistent with a two tier structure. This has meant that some children already join St Benedict's in Year 7 from Haverhill, Sudbury and Newmarket.

The Catholic schools in Bury St Edmunds have agreed to consult on a two-tier proposal at the same time as other Partnership schools in the town. Their proposals can be found here www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor

Schools in the Catholic pyramid often choose to work with the Bury Schools Partnership on joint educational projects.

The Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust

There are 4 schools in the 'all through' Academy Trust: 3 academies - County Upper (age range 13-18 yrs) and Westley and Horringer Court Middle Schools (age range 9 -13 yrs). Barrow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary (age range 4-9 yrs) is part of the Trust but is not an academy. The schools in the Academy Trust wish to retain the present age ranges and continue to work collaboratively to raise standards.

3 The change process

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

Step **Developing ideas**

1

In the Bury St Edmunds area, discussions about school reorganisation have been led by the Bury Schools Partnership. Partnership schools have worked with the council and the Church of England Diocese to draft the proposals set out in this consultation paper.

Step **Public consultation**

2

From 7 October to 13 December 2013, parents, teachers, other school staff, young people, governors and all other interested parties will have the opportunity to say what they think about the proposed new organisation of schools. 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 14. 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 **Statutory proposals**

3

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 next step in the statutory process of making any changes to schools by publishing statutory notices will 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 After notices have been published there will be a further six-week period in which anyone can comment on the final proposals for each school.

Step **Decision making**

4

In most cases, the final decision on the proposals will be made by the county council's Cabinet. However, in some cases the law states that the Schools Adjudicator must make the final decision. One example would be if the Council cannot make a decision within the time limit set by law. The Secretary of State for Education appoints the Schools Adjudicator.

A final decision for the Bury St Edmunds area is expected by April 2014.

Step 5 Implementation

If the proposals are approved, the first changes would happen in September 2015 when children currently in Year 3 would not transfer to middle schools when they reach the end of Year 4 but would stay as Year 5 in their primary schools. The following year, September 2016, these pupils would become Year 6 in their primary schools.

Middle schools would close at the end of the summer term 2016 and in September 2016 their pupils would transfer to secondary school.

We intend to keep to this timeframe. However, it will be kept under continuous review in the light of consultation responses and any unexpected events. Parents will be consulted if any change in the timeframe is needed.

The diagrams in Appendix A show how the proposed changes would affect individual children as they progress through the school system.

Support for change

Suffolk County Council provides support for schools during the period of change. This includes training and a process for all staff to help them find jobs in the new system of schools. Advisers are available to help schools prepare for their new age range.

Bury Schools Partnership – statement from member schools

The Bury Schools Partnership is a group of 19 schools who are working together to create exciting new opportunities and to raise standards for children of all ages and from all backgrounds. Our schools cover the age ranges of four to nineteen and we are completely inclusive – working with special schools and a pupil referral unit - to achieve the very best for pupils.

The Partnership developed because we recognise that the landscape of education is changing rapidly – within Suffolk, but also across England. We believe that as teachers we can learn lots from each other and that collaboration will bring higher standards than competition between schools.

The county council’s proposal to move to a two-tier model of education would offer opportunities for high quality primary provision, strongly focused on ensuring that the basics of reading, writing and mathematics have been secured by every child by the age of eleven, followed by a single transition to their secondary school.

We believe as school leaders that we should take shared responsibility for the development of more than 3000 children from their very earliest years until they become ready to take their place as twenty-first century citizens. We are therefore studying the very best two-tier schools in the country and building their principles into our approach here in Suffolk so that we are well placed should the move to a new structure be agreed.

Our aim is to work together to develop exceptional opportunities, with older students working with younger pupils, teachers working across each other's schools, and a series of special projects that will excite and stimulate children of all ages.

At the core of our work is a commitment to the highest quality of numeracy and literacy for each child. But we are also creating a range of special projects in music and the arts, in sport, and to provide enrichment and challenge for gifted and talented pupils.

Our schools include Howard, St James and Hardwick Middle Schools: their headteachers and teachers are crucial to the development of education in Bury St Edmunds and its surrounding villages in the coming years. If reorganisation is agreed, our aim would be to keep the very best of the current educational provision, to retain and recruit great teachers to our schools, and to work collaboratively to make sure that we keep raising standards.

These are early days for the Bury Schools Partnership, but even one term on from its formation, we are seeing an extraordinary range of benefits for a huge number of children.

While the proposal to move to a two-tier system is bound to worry children and their parents, if it is agreed we will do all we can to make sure that the process is as smooth as possible and that it results in the kind of high quality primary and secondary education that our young people deserve.

Impact of reorganisation

The reorganisation process is now complete in Haverhill and Lowestoft (Group 1 schools) and Beccles, Bungay, Leiston, Mildenhall and Newmarket (Group 2 schools) and since August this year in Sudbury and Great Cornard (Group 3 schools).

There is evidence that children's results in reorganised schools is improving and it did not fall during the process of change.

During the SOR process to date, Key Stage 2 results for pupils in Group 1 have seen significant, sustained improvements in Writing (L4+ and L5+) and Maths L4+. These increases in both attainment and progress have exceeded improvements across the LA.

Results for Group 2 schools this year also saw significant improvements in Writing and Maths.

During the SOR process we have seen an improvement in Ofsted outcomes across our middle schools where 54% of our current middle schools have maintained their Ofsted grading and 39% have improved their Ofsted grading.

The improvement in Ofsted outcomes is down to the commitment of staff in middle schools to managing the change process effectively so that disruption is minimised and pupils' needs are kept at the heart of the process.

4 Map of the area

Map of the area showing all schools



- Partnership schools
- Academy Chain schools
- Catholic Schools

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5 Proposals for primary schools

In the preferred pattern of schools set out on the following pages, all thirteen partnership first schools would increase their age range to take pupils until the end of Year 6, aged 11. This would begin with the current Year 3 pupils staying in their primary school in September 2015.

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

The number of children admitted to each year group, 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.

Abbots Green Community Primary

In April 2013, there were 223 children at the school which currently offers 60 places in each year group. Data from the Health Authority on pre-school children suggests that continuing to offer 60 places in each year will be necessary to meet local needs. The school will need an additional four classrooms to be built. Any increase in demand for places at the school coming from new housing in the local area will be addressed separately.

All Saints CEVCP School, Lawshall

In April 2013, there were 103 children at the school which currently offers 21 places in each year group. Data on pre-school children in the area suggests that 20 places in each year group would be sufficient to meet local needs and allow a margin for parental preference. The school will need one more classroom to be built.

Great Whelnetham CEVCP School

In April 2013 there were 105 children at the school which currently offers 20 places in each year group. Data on pre-school children in the area suggests that 20 places in each year group would be sufficient to meet local needs and allow a margin for parental preference. The school will need one more classroom to be built.

Guildhall Feoffment Community Primary School

In April 2013 there were 262 children at the school which currently offers 50 places in each year group. Data on pre-school children in the area suggests that 45 places in each year group would be sufficient to meet local needs. The school has sufficient classrooms but will need a new studio, kitchen and provision for the pre-school.

Hardwick Primary School

In April 2013 there were 210 children at the school which currently offers 45 places in each year group. Data on pre-school children in the area suggests that 45 places in each year group would be necessary to meet local needs and allow a margin for parental preference. The school will need an additional three classrooms to be built.

Howard Community Primary School

In April 2013 there were 166 children at the school which currently offers 45 places in each year group. Data on pre-school children in the area suggests that there is a need to provide 90 places over the area covered by Howard and Tollgate Primary Schools. We propose that these places are distributed evenly across the two schools i.e. 45 places in each year group for both schools. We are proposing to relocate Howard Primary School to the current Howard Middle School

site. This will provide room to expand to meet demand from new housing in the area.

Ickworth Park Primary School

In April 2013 there were 175 children at the school which currently offers 40 places in each year group. Data on pre-school children in the area suggests that 30 places in each year group would be sufficient to meet local needs. The school will not need any more permanent classrooms to take up to 210 pupils but will need some extra classrooms for up to 4 years to accommodate the larger year groups until they leave the school.

Risby CEVCP School

In April 2013 there were 149 children at the school which currently offers 30 places in each year group. Data on pre-school children in the area suggests that 30 places in each year group would be necessary to meet local needs and allow a margin for parental preference. The school will need an additional two classrooms to be built.

Riverwalk School

Although Riverwalk School is not part of the School Organisation Review, younger children are currently educated with mainstream pupils on the Sexton's Manor Primary School site. We are planning to consult on proposals for co-locating some Riverwalk provision permanently on the Sexton's site. These proposals are linked to discussions about options for the longer term location of Riverwalk School on the Hardwick Middle School site if its closure is agreed.

Sebert Wood Community Primary School

In April 2013 there were 295 children at the school which currently offers 60 places in each year group. Data from the Health Authority on pre-school children suggests that continuing to offer 60 places in each year will be necessary to meet local needs in the future. The school will need an additional four classrooms and a studio to be built.

Sexton's Manor Community Primary School

In April 2013 there were 146 children at the school which currently offers 30 places in each year group. Data on pre-school children in the area suggests that 30 places in each year group would be sufficient for the area to

meet local demand and allow a margin for parental preference. The school will need an additional two classrooms to be built. The proposal for the school is linked to providing permanent accommodation on the site for younger pupils from Riverwalk School.

St Edmundsbury CEVAP School

The Governing Body is keen to maintain aided primary school places across the town of Bury St Edmunds during and after the SOR process and is developing a vision of how this could be achieved. The LA is committed to working with the Diocese to ensure the provision of aided places across the town. The school is committed to working with other schools in the Bury Schools Partnership both to meet existing demand and to plan for future growth, so that parents have the choice of a church school place if they wish it.

The school currently offers 60 places in each year group and has capacity for 300 pupils. If the school were to offer the same number of places in each year group, the school roll could grow to 420 places. This would be too many pupils for the Grove Road site.

A number of possible options have been considered. The Local Authority's preferred option is to remain on the existing site with a published admission number of 45 in each year group. This reflects the current level of demand for places at the school. One additional classroom space will be needed and keeps the capacity of the school close to previous levels. Governors would very much welcome comments, however, on the future size of the school and the possibility of providing more VA primary places on the St James site.

In the longer term, there will be a need for more school places in the town and both St Edmundsbury governors and the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich would very much like some of these to be Church of England places. The St James site would have the potential to be developed into a CE primary school and to grow as numbers increase. There are different ways in which St Edmundsbury might relate to the school on the St James site. However, the school is committed to serving the local area and wishes to develop long-term plans for the St James site in the light of anticipated future growth.

Tollgate Primary School

In April 2013 there were 208 children at the school which currently offers 60 places in each year group. Data on pre-school children in the area suggests that there is a need to provide 90 places over the area covered by Howard and Tollgate Primary Schools. We propose that these places are distributed evenly across the two schools i.e. 45 places in each year group for both schools. The school will not need any more classrooms to take up to 315 pupils.

Westgate Primary School

In April 2013 there were 270 children at the school which currently offers 60 places in each year group. Data from the health authority on pre-school children suggests that continuing to offer 60 places in each year will be necessary to meet local demand and allow a margin for parental preference. The school will need an additional four classrooms to be built.

6 Middle schools

Hardwick 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 Hardwick Middle School would be closed.

If the proposed pattern of primary schools set out above is agreed, there would be no admissions to Hardwick Middle School in September 2015 when Year 5 pupils would stay in their primary schools.

This would mean that in September 2015 Hardwick Middle School would teach Years 6, 7 and 8. In September 2016, the three year groups remaining at the middle school would transfer to secondary school and Hardwick Middle School would close.

The potential future use of the site and buildings is being investigated to see if it is suitable for use as a new location for Riverwalk.school.

Howard 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 Howard Middle School would be closed.

If the pattern of primary schools set out above is agreed there would be no admissions to Howard Middle School in September 2015 when Year 5 pupils would stay in their primary schools.

This would mean that in September 2015 Howard Middle School would teach Years 6, 7

and 8. In September 2016, the three year groups remaining at the middle school would transfer to secondary school and Howard Middle School would close.

If the middle school closes, we are proposing that Howard Community Primary School would be transferred to the site and buildings

St James CEVA 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. St James is a Church of England school. If the preferred option is adopted then St James Middle School would be closed. The Diocese of Ipswich and St Edmundsbury supports this proposal.

If the pattern of primary schools set out above is agreed there would be no admissions to St James Middle School in September 2015 when Year 5 pupils would stay in their primary schools.

This would mean that in September 2015 St James Middle School would teach Years 6, 7 and 8. In September 2016, the three year groups remaining at the middle school would transfer to secondary school and St James Middle School would close.

Discussions are taking place with the Church of England Diocese about the future use of this school if the middle school closes. One option would be to retain the buildings and site for use as a voluntary aided primary school as the town expands.

7 High schools

We need approximately 750 places in each year group for students aged 11-16.

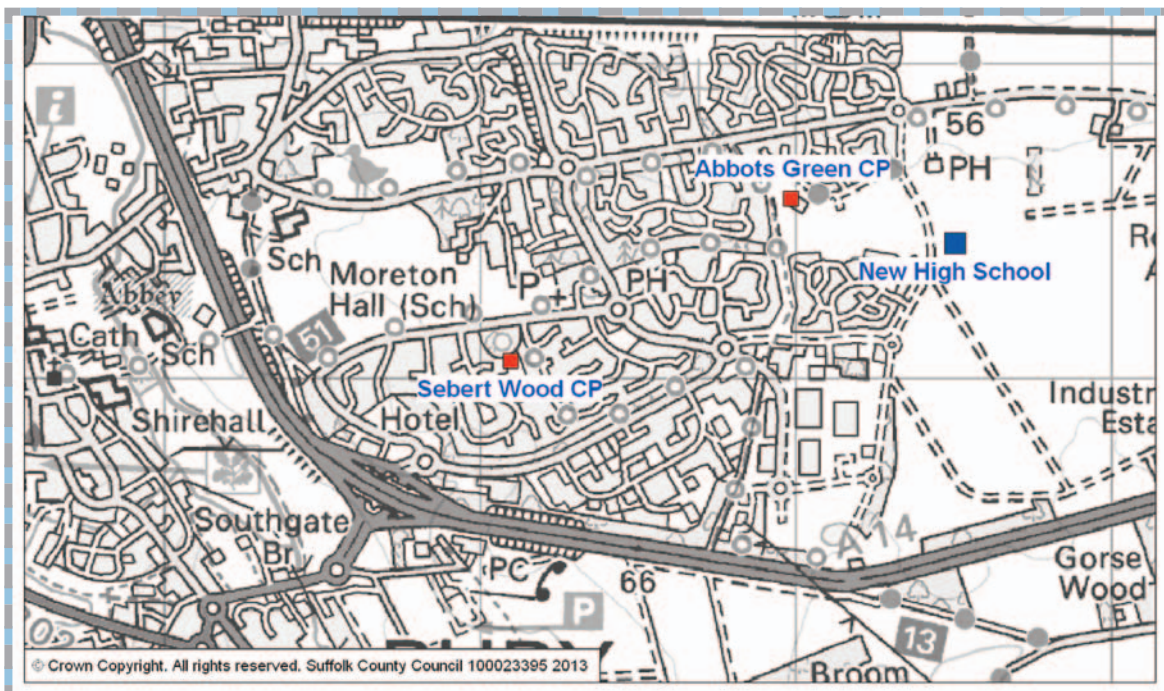
Currently, King Edward VI CEVC Upper School offers 350 places in each year group, St Benedict's Catholic High offers 150 places and County Upper School 260 places. All of this provision is located on the western side of the town. The King Edward VI school site is too small to maintain the same number of pupils in each year group if it extends its age range to include pupils in Year 7 and 8. We are proposing therefore to reduce the number of pupils in each group to 220. The school would need some internal refurbishment to create additional specialist facilities and temporary accommodation for two years as established larger year groups move through the school.

As part of the reorganisation proposals, and as a direct result of reducing the number of pupils in each year group at King Edward VI, we are proposing to establish a new high school on the eastern side of the town – on the Moreton Hall estate. Initially, this new school could offer 120 places in each year group but would be able to grow later on as we expect more school places to be needed in the next 10 years or so following new housing developments in Bury. The new school would be an academy. The council has developed a specification for the new school which have been advertised to organisations which are approved to set up new schools. The specification asks proposers to tell us how they would give priority to pupils from the Moreton Hall estate in their admissions criteria. The site of the new school is shown on the map below:

The county council will short-list proposers on the basis of the expressions of interest received and invite them to deliver a presentation of their proposals during the consultation period to the council and to the public of Bury St Edmunds. Full details of selected proposers will be made available.

If reorganisation is agreed for the Bury St Edmunds area, the county council Cabinet will be asked to identify the preferred proposers at its February 2014 meeting, so that recommendations can be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) for final approval. It is hoped the decision would be available from the DfE by April 2014.

Proposed location of new high school



8 Next steps

All consultation responses will be analysed and reported to county councillors and governors. In February 2014, the county council’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 county council’s cabinet takes its final decision in April 2014.

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

9 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 local consultation events.

All meetings are for dates in 2013
 Meetings will run from 6.30pm to 8.00pm unless stated otherwise

At these events any comments you make will be recorded and will be part of the evidence considered by Cabinet.

You can also complete a questionnaire on-line at:
www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor

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

If you prefer you can also email or write to us at:
sorbse@suffolk.gov.uk

**SOR Bury St Edmunds
 Suffolk County Council
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 Ipswich IP1 2EB**

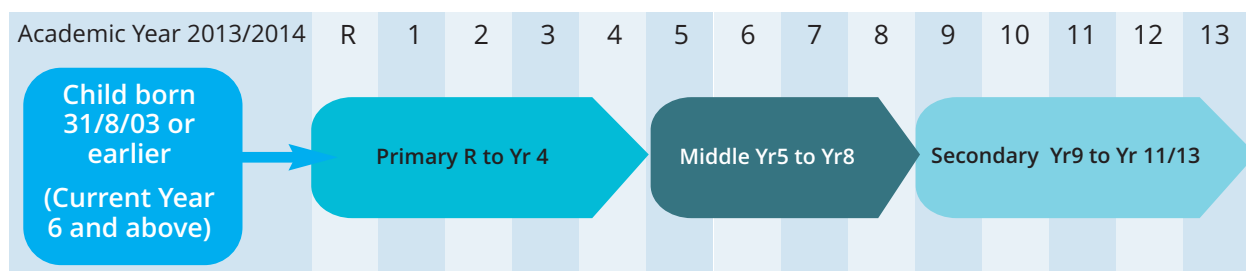
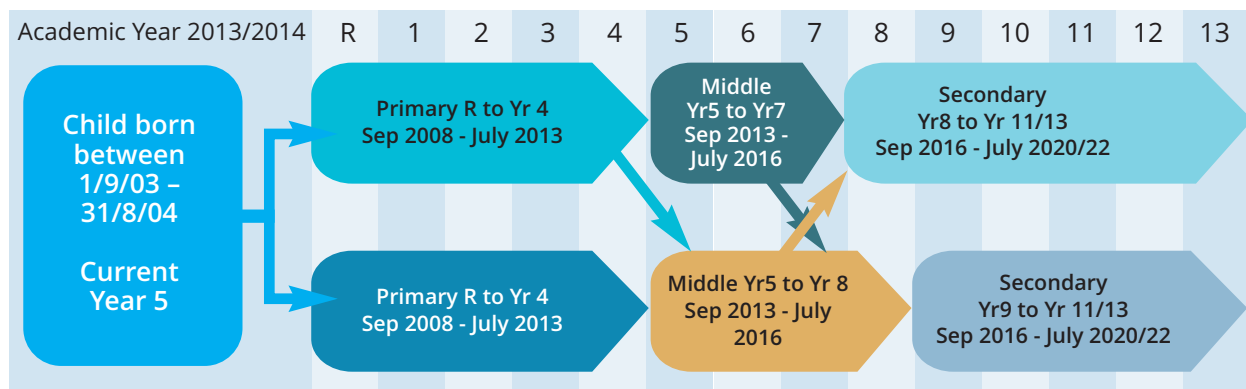
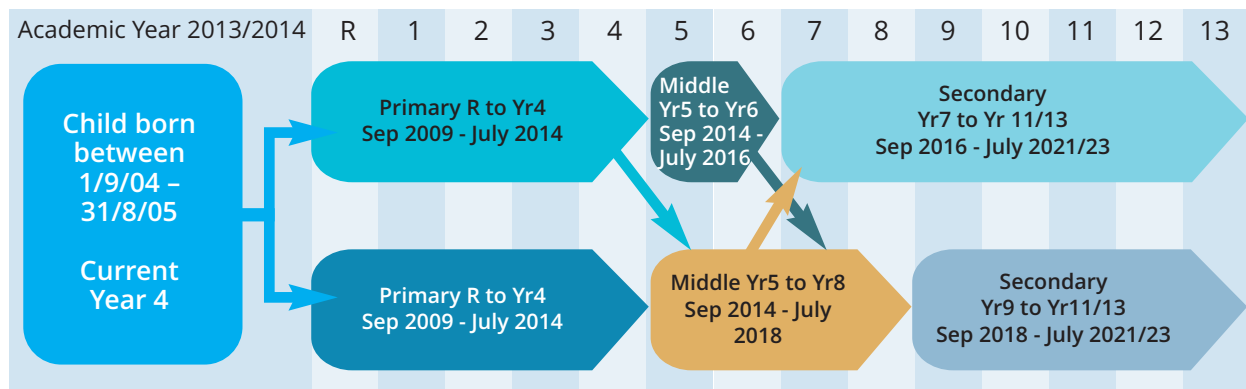
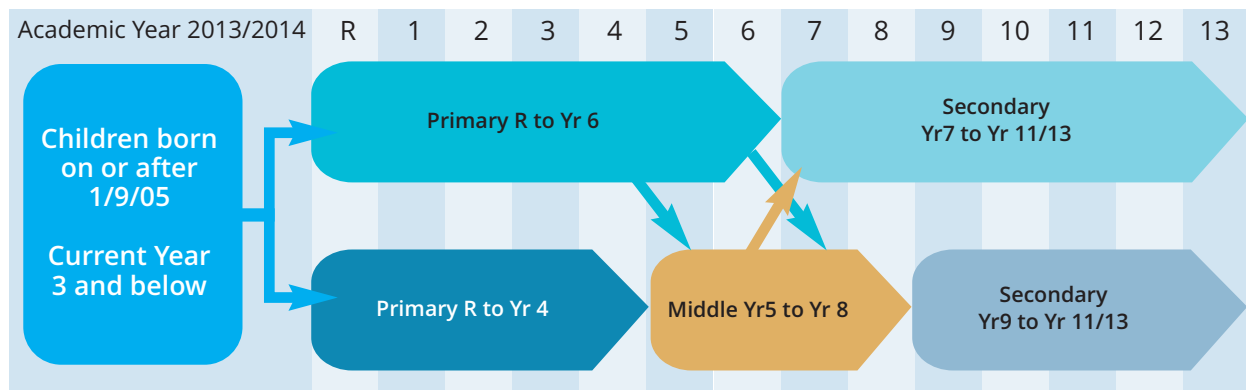
Please make sure your comments reach us by 13 December 2013.

School	Date
Abbots Green Community Primary (Joint meeting with Sebert Wood)	20 November
All Saints CEVCP, Lawshall (Joint meeting with Gt Whelnetham)	12 November
Great Whelnetham CEVCP (Joint meeting with All Saints)	12 November at All Saints, Lawshall
Guildhall Feoffment Community Primary	14 November
Hardwick Primary	4 November
Howard Community Primary	6 November
Ickworth Park Primary	26 November
Risby CEVCP	27 November
Riverwalk School	23 October
Sebert Wood Community Primary (Joint meeting with Abbots Green)	20 November at Abbots Green Community Primary School
Sexton’s Manor Community Primary	24 October
St Edmundsbury CEVAP	3 December
Tollgate Primary	19 November
Westgate Primary	13 November
Hardwick Middle School	15 October
Howard Middle School	17 October
St James CEVA Middle School	14 October
King Edward VI CEVC Upper School	7 November
New High School	Monday 25 November at the Moreton Hall Community Centre

Appendix A

School Organisation Review – Information for parents

If reorganisation is agreed for Partnership schools in the Bury area, parents would have a choice of two different patterns of schooling. This diagram is designed to help you understand the choices available, how your children might move through or between systems and help you respond to the consultation. There is an interactive version of this diagram at www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor



When should I apply for a school place?

Normal Admissions Round		
Applications for a September start in the normal year of entry to a school are dealt with as part of the Normal Admissions Round		
Normal Entry Years are		Closing date for applications
Primary school	Reception	Mid-January the same calendar year the place is required
Middle school	Year 5	Mid-January the same calendar year the place is required
2 tier secondary school	Year 7	End of October in the calendar year before the place is required
3 tier secondary school	Year 9	End of October in the calendar year before the place is required
During the transition from 3 tier middle to 2 tier Secondary for Sep 2016	Years 7, 8 & 9	End of October 2015
Transfer between 2 tier and 3 tier systems		
From 3 tier primary to 2 tier primary	Year 5	Mid-January the same calendar year the place is required
From 3 tier middle to 2 tier secondary	Year 9	End of October in the calendar year before the place is required
From 2 tier primary to middle	Year 7	End of October in the calendar year before the place is required
In-Year Applications		
Applications for a September start not included above and for all other times of the year		Applications can be made at any time but are processed 1 term in advance

Do I have a choice of Schools?

- In Suffolk all parents and carers can express up to three preferences when applying for a school place.
- You will be offered a place at your first preference school wherever possible. **However we urge you to apply for more than one school in case we cannot offer a place at your preferred school. We cannot guarantee your child a place at any school, including your catchment area school.**
- If the number of applicants is less than the PAN all applicants will be admitted. For any of your preferred schools, there may be more applications for that school than there are places available.
- Suffolk County Council make decisions about admissions for community and voluntary controlled schools. If the number of applications for a school is greater than its PAN, we use our admissions oversubscription criteria to decide who gets a place.
- In the case of voluntary aided schools, foundation/trust schools, academies (including those in the Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust) and free schools governing bodies determine the order in which applications should be ranked according to their oversubscription criteria. The offer of places is made on their behalf by Suffolk County Council.
- For in-year applications the governing body will also advise us whether a place can be made available in the relevant year group. We will use this information to make the offer of a place to parents/carers.

What happens if I am refused a school place?

If none of your preferences can be met, you will be offered the next nearest school with places in that year group. However, please be aware that if none of your preferences can be met, you could be offered a place at a school either in the 2 tier or the 3 tier systems. You have the right to appeal for places at all schools for which you have applied and been refused a place.

This information is for guidance only. For up-to-date information about closing dates, oversubscription criteria and comprehensive admissions & appeals information please go to www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissionstoschools

Should reorganisation be agreed, the following schools would complete a move from a 3 tier to a 2 tier system by September 2016

Partnership Schools	Current PAN	Proposed PAN	Normal entry Year
Abbots Green CP School	60	60	Reception
All Saints CEVCP School, Lawshall	21	20	Reception
Gt Whelnetnam CEVCP School	20	20	Reception
Guildhall Feoffment CP School	50	45	Reception
Hardwick Primary School	45	45	Reception
Howard CP School	45	45	Reception
Ickworth Park Primary School	40	30	Reception
Risby CEVCP School	30	30	Reception
Sebert Wood CP School	60	60	Reception
Sexton's Manor CP School	30	30	Reception
St Edmundsbury CEVAP School	60	45	Reception
Tollgate Primary School	60	45	Reception
Westgate CP School	60	60	Reception
Hardwick Middle School	100	-	Year 5
Howard Middle School	100	-	Year 5
St James CEVA Middle School	124	-	Year 5
King Edward VI CEVC Upper School	350	220	Up to Sept 2015 - Year 9 Sept 2016 Years 7, 8 & 9 Sept 2017 onwards - Year 7
New High School	-	120	Year 7

Catholic Schools	Current PAN	Proposed PAN	Normal entry Year
St Edmund's Catholic Primary School	60	60	Reception
St Louis Catholic Middle School	110	-	Year 5
St Benedict's Catholic School	260	260	Year 7
	150	-	Year 9

The following Catholic primary schools feed into Bury Catholic schools. Their age ranges have already been changed to accommodate Years 5 & 6

St Felix RCP School, Haverhill	45	-	Reception
St Joseph's RCP School, Sudbury	20	-	Reception
St Louis Catholic Academy, Newmarket	45	-	Reception

The following schools are not part of the county council's reorganisation proposals and therefore will stay as they are now.

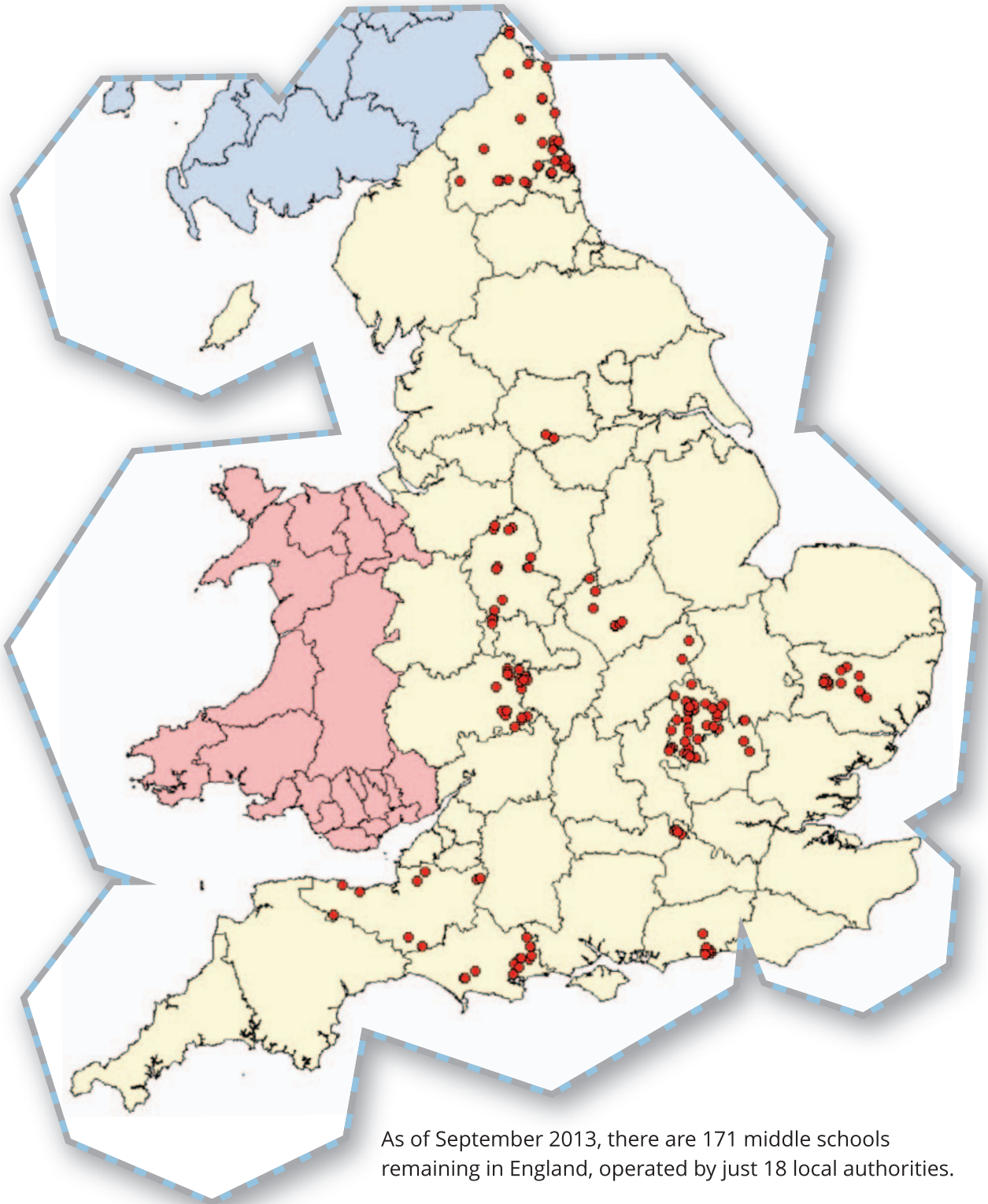
Academy Trust - 3 tier	Current PAN	Proposed PAN	Normal entry Year
Barrow CEVCP School	30	N/A	Reception
Horringer Court Middle School	117	N/A	Year 5
Westley Middle School	116	N/A	Year 5
County Upper School	260	N/A	Year 9

*PAN = Published admission Number

This is the number of places available in the Normal entry year for a school

Appendix **B**

Map of Middle Schools in England



As of September 2013, there are 171 middle schools remaining in England, operated by just 18 local authorities.

The adjacent map shows indicative locations and numbers of middle schools in England. It includes schools where closure has been agreed but not yet implemented.

Source: Edubase September 2013

Please return your questionnaire to: **SOR Bury St Edmunds**
Suffolk County Council
FREEPOST RTAC-HSKL-CSAY
Ipswich IP1 2EB

Bury St Edmunds Area Questionnaire

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

2. Which school or schools are you associated with?

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

Please say why you think this

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

Primary Schools

4. **Abbots Green Community Primary** agree disagree don't know

5. **All Saints CEVCP School, Lawshall** agree disagree don't know

6. **Great Whelnetham CEVCP School** agree disagree don't know





7. Guildhall Feoffment CP School

agree

disagree

don't know

8. Hardwick Primary School

agree

disagree

don't know

9. Howard C P School

agree

disagree

don't know

10. Ickworth Park Primary School

agree

disagree

don't know

11. Risby CEVCP School

agree

disagree

don't know

12. Sebert Wood CP School

agree

disagree

don't know

13. Sexton's Manor CP School

agree

disagree

don't know

14. St Edmundsbury CEVAP School

agree disagree don't know

15. Tollgate Primary School

agree disagree don't know

16. Westgate Primary School

agree disagree don't know

Middle Schools

17. Hardwick Middle School

agree disagree don't know

Please tell us what you think about the proposal to relocate Riverwalk School on the Hardwick Middle site should closure be agreed. agree disagree don't know

18. Howard Middle School

agree disagree don't know

19. St James CEVA Middle School

agree disagree don't know





High Schools

20. King Edward VI CEVC Upper School

agree disagree don't know

21. Possible New High School

Please tell us what you think about the need for the new high school as well as its proposed size and location.

Information on prospective providers of the new high school will be available at the consultation event on Monday 25 November. There will be opportunities to comment on the potential providers at and after this event.

22. Have you had enough information to comment? yes no

23. Have you had enough time to comment? yes no

Please use the space below to add any other comments. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

