

# School Organisation Review

**Building a world class education system for Suffolk**

**Public Consultation in Lowestoft and the surrounding area**

29th October 2007 – 18th January 2008



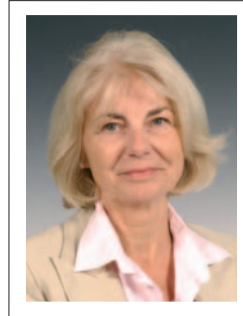
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# A world class education system for Suffolk

**Our vision for children and young people is to:**

*“Enable all children and young people in Suffolk to aspire to, and achieve, their full potential, giving them the basis for a successful life as active members of the community.”*



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Schools are at the heart of delivering that vision. Outside of the family, nothing else offers greater opportunities and responsibilities for making sure children stay safe and healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to their communities, and are able to get the most out of life now, and into the future.

We want the very best for Suffolk's children, starting with early years through to their transition into adulthood. We are working with our partners in Suffolk's Children's Trust to ensure that all agencies and efforts are harnessed to that common aim. Achieving a great start in life for all our children will do a great deal to contribute to the wider aspirations for Suffolk to have a prosperous and sustainable economy and to ensure community well-being.

There are many challenges for schools and the local authority to ensure we can deliver the very best education now and into the future, to respond to the changes ahead of us, and to make the best use of the huge investment which will come to Suffolk over the next few years under the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Expectations of schools are high, both locally and nationally, to deliver a modern and relevant curriculum and to achieve even higher standards. There needs to be a thread of learning and continuity from when children first start school to when they leave. There will be more choices available from the age of 14, and schools are being encouraged to work together with colleges and others to ensure all young people remain within education or training up to the age of 18. Information technology offers new ways of learning and to deliver individual programmes tailored to the needs of each child.

Schools are also increasingly expected to provide a range of extended school opportunities for their children, their parents and the wider community, and to ensure there is support for every child to achieve their very best. Our school leaders, governors and staff are responding magnificently to these challenges. It is the local authority's role to support them and to ensure we have a school system, and structure, which can meet future needs.

We carried out a review of school organisation in 2006 which developed a policy framework and principles to deliver against the vision, aims and challenges for the future, as part of our overall "Transforming Learning with Communities" programme.

Based on these principles, which are set out in this leaflet, the County Council has adopted a preferred model of primary and secondary schools across the county, rather than the current mixed provision which includes middle schools. We are now testing these principles through area based reviews, starting in Haverhill and Lowestoft.

We have worked with local schools and other stakeholders to develop the options set out in this consultation document. Their views have been invaluable, and we now want to know what you think. Any change finally agreed will then be carefully planned over a number of years to ensure continuity of education and care for all children.

We hope that you will find the information in this leaflet useful and that you will be able to respond to the consultation. There will also be a series of meetings for each individual school. Please ensure you have your say.

**Thank you for taking the time to get involved.**

October 2007

## Why are we proposing change?

**During 2006, Suffolk County Council carefully examined the structure of schooling. The reasons that were discussed then still remain valid. These include:**

### **Pupil Achievement**

Children and young people in Suffolk generally perform well compared to national averages. However, the results for 11-year-old pupils have been below the national average for a number of years. Also, we do not have enough young people staying on after the age of 16 and students in some of our sixth forms do not make the progress we would expect given their good GCSE results.

We need to improve performance for all age groups, but particularly at age 11 and after the age of 16. This is part of our aim for world-class education within Suffolk. This will help ensure that our young people have the skills they need to compete in an increasingly global and competitive economy.

### **14 to 19 Education and Training**

The government is introducing radical changes to the curriculum for young people aged 14 to 19. This includes entitlements for young people to access a wider range of courses, including a greater emphasis upon vocational learning. It is also proposed to raise the age for compulsory participation within learning from ages 16 to 18 within the next ten years. These changes require close collaboration between schools, colleges, and other organisations if they are to be implemented successfully. Suffolk County Council and the Learning and Skills Council in Suffolk are committed to meeting these challenges, including ensuring entitlement for people living in rural areas.

To do this we need to think carefully about how we organise our schools because this will affect what our students can do after the age of 16. We have the opportunity to develop our schools and post-16 provision at the same time as developing a new university for Suffolk. Doing this at the same time will enable us to get all these things right.

### **Every Child Matters**

Our priorities for Suffolk's children and young people are directly linked to our vision. They are grouped into five main areas based on the government's national initiative 'Every Child Matters'. These are:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution and,
- Achieve Economic Well Being.

'Every Child Matters' aims to bring together all the services needed to support children and their families. This includes education, social care, health and young people's services.

We are looking at ways to use our school buildings better – to enable clubs and other activities to flourish for children and the wider community outside school hours (known as extended schools). We are also building children's centres around the county, where a range of services for families will be based. To succeed, we need to plan where these services should be and we can only do this if we are clear about the way schools are organised.

### **Population Changes**

Population changes in Suffolk mean in some areas, where the number of pupils is falling, we have more school places than we need. In other areas, particularly where a large number of new houses are being built, we do not have sufficient places.

## High Quality Staff

With very few middle schools now left in the country, we needed to decide whether we could successfully maintain the current arrangements in Suffolk. It was our view that we would find it increasingly difficult to continue to attract and keep highly qualified head teachers, teachers and other specialist staff.

## Building Schools for the Future

An investment of around £600 million could be available for Suffolk schools through the Building Schools for the Future programme. This is a significant, and possibly unique, programme of investment for secondary schools. We need to make sure we spend this money effectively. The money is for rebuilding and modernising school buildings. This will not only benefit young people but also parents and the wider community, as it will help to increase opportunities for extended activities in our secondary schools. Extra funding for primary schools is also being provided from 2009/10 onwards.

The Government will not give us this money unless we have a clear vision for the future and detailed plans about how we will improve our schools.

# Suffolk County Council Policy Framework

During 2006, the County Council carried out a review of school organisation in Suffolk. This review was focused on three key themes:

- How well pupils perform in school
- How well we use our resources
- How we can build a successful school system for the 21st Century.

At the end of this process, in March 2007, the County Council agreed a series of principles for the future organisation of schools in Suffolk. The options within this document have been developed to meet these principles. Cabinet will make a decision about proposals for the future, based on these principles and taking your views into account, when it meets in March 2008. The principles are outlined below:

- The County Council has adopted a preferred option to move to a 2 tier system of primary schools covering the 4 to 11 age range and secondary schools covering the 11 to 16 or 11 to 18 age range and it intends to:
  - Provide engaging and enjoyable learning experiences that deliver the highest possible standards for children and young people
  - Ensure a single line of accountability for each Key Stage and minimise the number of points of transfer from one school to another within the statutory age range.
  - Ensure all schools have the capacity, by working together with our key partners, to deliver a broad range of learning opportunities
  - Develop Suffolk as a centre of professional excellence for all staff
  - Ensure that schools provide suitable support for all children and young people, including those with additional educational needs
  - Ensure that schools are able to develop a range of services, working together with our key partners, that meet local needs, including where applicable, integrated early years and child care
  - Ensure that all our schools promote social cohesion and harmony
- The County Council also intends that:
  - Priority be given to safeguarding the position of village schools, recognising their place at the heart of their communities, with the possibility of federation or other measures where their viability is at risk

- The preferred size for secondary schools should be in the range of 6 to 10 forms of entry, with an optimum size of 1200, excluding sixth form. The size of the sixth forms should be no less than 200 in number in 11 to 18 schools.
- Consideration should also be given, where there are compelling local reasons, to the option of all-through schools. This would be subject to the principles established for school structures, and a clear consensus of support within the local community arrived at by thorough local consultation. It may also require majority support from the governing bodies involved, and consideration of the effect on other schools.

**The full list of principles can be found on our website at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor)**

At their meeting in March 2007, the County Council agreed to proceed to a second stage of the review. At this second stage, specific proposals for schools in the county would be considered in detail in the light of the principles criteria referred to above. Because of the number of schools potentially affected, the County Council decided to carry out the review in three phases:

**Phase 1: Lowestoft and Haverhill**

**Phase 2: Beccles, Bungay, Leiston, Mildenhall, Newmarket**

**Phase 3: Bury St Edmunds, Thurston, Sudbury, Stowmarket**

## Special Education Needs Provision

The County Council also decided that the opportunity should be taken to review special education provision at the second stage. This review is underway and will build on the County Council's vision for the future arrangements for special educational needs, in particular that:

- The majority of pupils with Special Educational Needs should continue to be educated in mainstream schools;
- All pupils should access some inclusive experience, some pupils having dual placements between mainstream and special settings;
- Special schools should be supported to become centres of excellent practice in special educational needs, operating outreach on a county, locality and cluster basis to support both individual pupils and staff; and
- The review should reflect the aim to co-locate all special schools on mainstream sites, wherever possible, by 2016.

A review of special educational needs is underway. Although not referred to specifically within these consultations, there will be opportunities for communities to comment on emerging plans for special educational needs at a later date.

## Local Priorities for Lowestoft

As well as the principles agreed by the County Council, the local stakeholder forum, headteachers and chairs of governors, also identified things that were important to them. These have informed the review at a local level. The Lowestoft Stakeholder Forum wants to ensure the school organisation review will:

- Where possible the preferred size for a primary school (reception to year six) is 60 pupils a year (420 pupils in total)
- Improve the involvement of children, young people and parents

- Where appropriate consider 3 to 16/19 learning centres with extended provision
- Supporting multi-agency working as part of the Every Child Matters agenda
- Improving collaboration between schools within Lowestoft
- Enabling better direction of resources to where they will do most good for learning
- Promoting a positive image of learning within Lowestoft to help raise the profile and value of education.
- Improving facilities to enable greater community use and use by staff from partner organisations to support the local community

This list can also be found on our website [www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/lowestoft](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/lowestoft)

## How are Suffolk schools currently organised?

Suffolk currently has two structures for its schools, two tier and three tier.

### What are two tier schools?



In the two tier structure pupils complete Key Stages one and two at primary school before moving to secondary school for key stages three and four.

### What are three tier schools?



In the three tier structure pupils complete Key Stage one at primary school and begin Key Stage 2. During middle school, pupils complete Key Stage 2 and begin Key Stage 3. Pupils complete Key Stage 3 at upper/high school, where they also complete Key Stages 4 and 5.

**The diagram below shows the four possible options following the review that meet the principles agreed by the County Council.**

KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	KS5
Primary (ages 4 to 11)		Secondary school (ages 11 to 16 )		Post 16 provision
		Secondary (ages 11 to 18)		
All through school (ages 4 to 18)				
All through school (ages 4 to 16)				Post 16 provision

## When will the changes take place?

Until January 18, 2008 we will be consulting schools, their communities, and a wide range of other people, about possible changes to schools in Lowestoft and the surrounding area. We plan to present a report on these consultations to Cabinet in March 2008. Depending on Cabinet's decision, proposals will be published and a period of six weeks representation will follow. During this time comments or objections may be made. The final decision to proceed will rest with either the Cabinet or the Schools Adjudicator. If this happens we will plan the transition for pupils and staff and develop the necessary building projects during 2008/09 and 2009/10, leading up to the first changes in September 2010.

**The proposed timings of changes are given below.**

<b>September 2010</b>	The new Year 5 pupils (who are in Year 2 in 2007/08) remain in primary school rather than transferring to middle school
<b>September 2011</b>	The new Year 6 pupils remain in primary school, as do the new Year 5. Middle schools close. Pupils transfer to upper/high school and form the new Years 7, 8, and 9.

According to this timeframe, the current Year 2 pupils (age 6) will be the first year group to continue in primary school until the end of Year 6 and then transfer to upper/high school at the beginning of Year 7 (age 11).

More detailed information for each year group, including a timeline, is provided with this consultation document.

We intend to keep to this timeframe. It will be kept under continual review in the light of consultation responses and implementation planning. Issues that may affect the timeframe could include:

- a) If a new school is required, Government rules are likely to require us to run a competition to determine who will run the school. This process may take up to nine months. Where this is also followed by the need to build new accommodation, the combined impact could be a delay to the timeframes set out above.
- b) Some options may require phased implementation to minimise disruption to pupils, to enable building projects to be completed or to coordinate with implementation in neighbouring areas. This may cause some changes to the published timeframes.

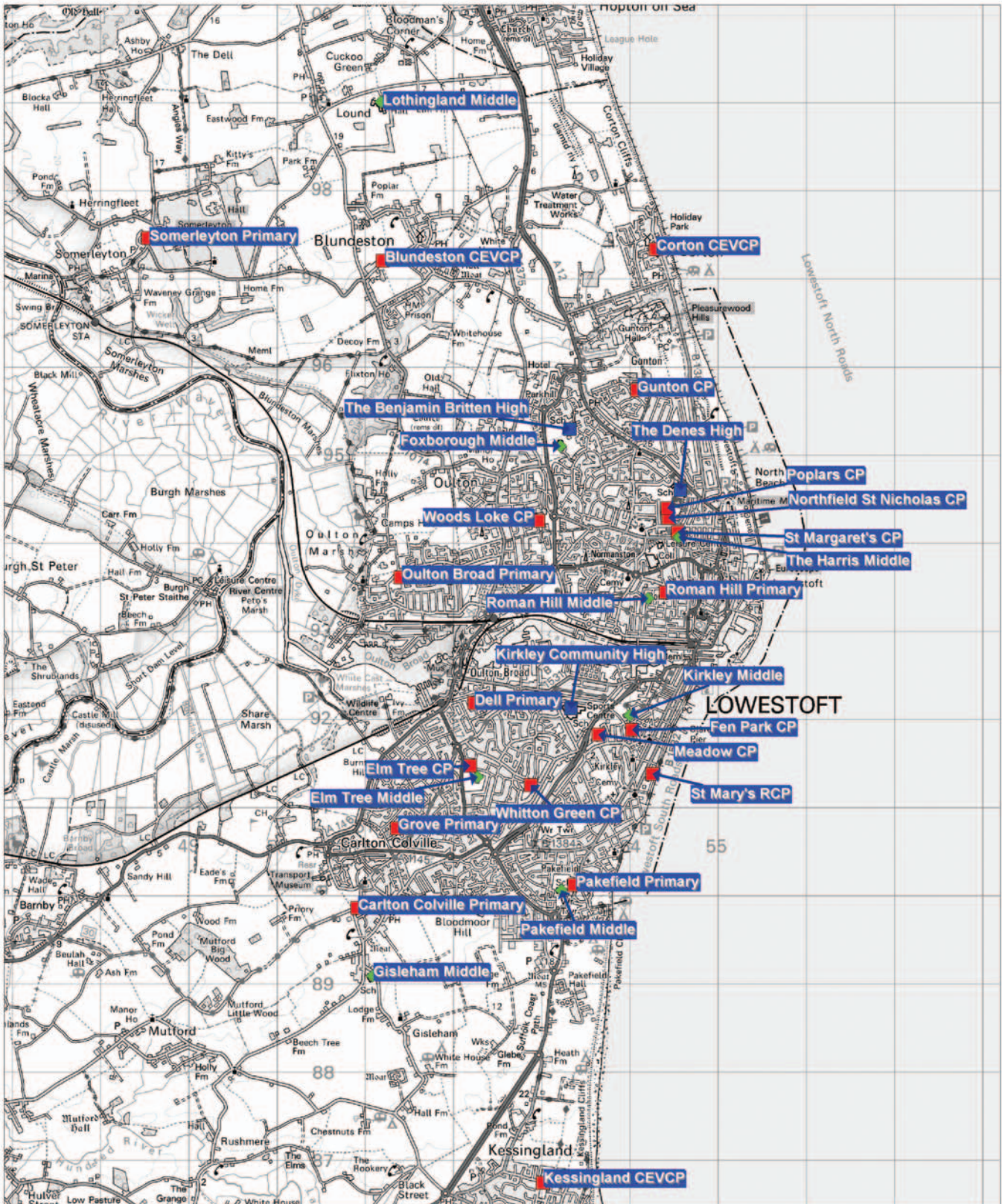
Schools and parents will be informed if any such issues arise.

### Managing Change

We are committed to managing change carefully and well, to minimise disruption and to ensure continuity of education and support for all children and young people. We have included a two-year period during which the changes can be planned with schools.

To manage change successfully we need support and commitment from high quality staff. Change can be unsettling for all those involved so we are working with trade unions, staff representatives, head teachers and governors on employment stability and professional development programmes.

# Lowestoft and the surrounding area



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The following sections provide you with information about all the schools currently being reviewed in your area. An overview of all the options is also included.

## Population Trends

There have been between 564 and 922 pupils starting school at the age of 4 since 2000 within the Lowestoft area. Taking account of trends in birth rates and forecasts for housing developments, we predict we will need space for 775 pupils per year over the next five years. We will continue to monitor proposed housing developments and birth rates to ensure that our forecasts remain accurate.

## Early Years

Suffolk County Council is committed to ensuring effective and local early years services are provided. Within Lowestoft, there are currently three children's centres open (The Ark, Kirkley and Riverside). Three more are planned to open within the next year. Several schools also have nursery classes or pre-schools on site. These proposals would maintain and enhance that provision. We would work with schools and pre-school providers while planning any necessary school building works.

## Extended Services

Schools within Lowestoft and the surrounding villages are already being used for before and after school activities by pupils and community groups. Our vision for the future is that this would continue to develop. We are working with schools to ensure we grasp opportunities to increase this provision.

## Special Educational Needs

There are currently no specific proposals regarding the specialist facilities within Lowestoft, but we do wish to ensure we maximise opportunities for all children and young people alongside the school review. If there are proposals to change the provision of specialist facilities they will be consulted on at a later date. Any consideration of redundant site sales or changes to buildings and facilities will take into account the outcome of the separate review of special schools.

## Education for pupils aged 14 to 19

Suffolk is committed to improving opportunities for young people aged 14 to 19. This will help to encourage more young people to choose to stay in education or training after they are 16. The options that are presented in this consultation reflect this aspiration.

## High Quality Staff

High quality staff are essential to realising our vision and to raising aspirations and the achievement of young people. Changes affecting staff will be dealt with fairly and sensitively. In partnership with Unions we have developed a Staffing Protocol that we are encouraging governing bodies to adopt. There will be opportunities during the consultation period for staff and governors to raise questions on employment matters. We will ensure that the appropriate level of support, professional development and training opportunities are available to staff throughout this process.

## School Sites

Some sites will stop being used for school purposes as a result of this review. Where land or buildings are potentially surplus, we will seek to maximise opportunities for investment within schools. Any sites that are sold will provide money to reinvest in schools to increase facilities for Suffolk's young people and the local community.

## The proposal for Lowestoft and the surrounding area

This proposal has taken into account the views of Lowestoft headteachers, chairs of governors, and the Local Stakeholder Forum.

The County Council's proposal for Lowestoft and the surrounding area is to:

- Create a structure of primary schools (reception to Year 6; age 3/4 to 11) and high schools (Year 7 to Year 11; age 11 to 16).
- Retain all village primary schools and expand all primary school age ranges to accommodate two extra year groups, for children aged 10 and 11 (years 5 and 6).
- Provide a new high school, south of the river, for young people aged 11 to 16 (Year 7 to Year 11)
- Provide a dedicated facility for young people aged 16 to 19 (Years 12 and 13). This facility could also offer vocational courses for young people aged 14 to 16 (Years 10 and 11) in collaboration with the high schools and Lowestoft College.
- Encourage close working relationships between all schools.

The implications of these proposals for each school are shown in the table on the following page. We have also produced dedicated information for each individual school, which has been sent to all parents and is available on our website.

School (A-Z)	Current Arrangement †	Proposed Future Arrangement †
<b>The Benjamin Britten High School</b>	Year 9 to Year 13 240 places per year (+ sixth form pupils)	Year 7 to Year 11 240 places per year
<b>Blundeston CEVCP School</b>	Reception to year 4 30 places per year	Reception to year 6 30 places per year
<b>Carlton Colville** Primary School</b>	Reception to year 4 60 places per year	Reception to year 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain 60 places per year OR</li> <li>• Reduce to 45 places per year</li> </ul>
<b>Corton CEVCP School</b>	Reception to year 4 15 places per year	Reception to year 6 15 places per year
<b>Dell Primary School</b>	Reception to year 4 58 places per year	Reception to year 6 58 places per year
<b>The Denes High School</b>	Year 9 to Year 13 267 places per year (+ sixth form pupils)	Year 7 to Year 11 240 places per year
<b>Elm Tree CP School</b>	Reception to year 4 60 places per year	Reception to year 6 60 places per year
<b>Fen Park CP School</b>	Reception to year 4 50 places per year	Reception to year 6 60 places per year Relocated to Kirkley Middle School site
<b>Grove Primary School **</b>	Reception to year 4 45 places per year	Reception to year 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain 45 places per year OR</li> <li>• Increase to 60 places per year</li> </ul>
<b>Gunton CP School</b>	Reception to year 4 45 places per year	Reception to year 6 45 places per year

School (A-Z)	Current Arrangement †	Proposed Future Arrangement †
<b>Kessingland CEVCP School</b>	Reception to year 4 60 places per year	Reception to year 6 45 places per year
<b>Kirkley Community High School</b>	Year 9 to Year 13 375 places per year (+ sixth form)	Year 7 to Year 11 240 places per year
<b>Meadow CP School</b>	Reception to year 4 60 places per year	Reception to year 6 30 places per year
<b>New High School</b>	none	Year 7 to Year 11 240 places per year
<b>Northfield St Nicholas Primary School *</b>	Reception to year 4 66 places per year	Reception to year 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 places per year on current site OR</li> <li>• amalgamation with St Margaret's, the new provision with 90 places per year, relocated to either the Foxborough Middle School site or Harris Middle School site</li> </ul>
<b>Oulton Broad Primary School</b>	Reception to year 4 54 places per year	Reception to year 6 30 places per year
<b>Pakefield Primary School</b>	Reception to year 4 64 places per year	Reception to year 6 60 places per year
<b>Poplars CP School *</b>	Reception to year 4 75 places per year	Reception to year 6 60 places per year
<b>Roman Hill Primary School*</b>	Reception to year 4 85 places per year	Reception to year 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 places per year on the existing site OR</li> <li>• 90 places per year, utilising the current site and some of the Roman Hill Middle School site</li> </ul>
<b>Somerleyton Primary School</b>	Reception to year 4 10 places per year	Reception to year 6 8 places per year
<b>St Margaret's CEVCP School*</b>	Reception to year 4 30 places per year	Reception to year 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 places per year relocated to Foxborough Middle School or utilising some of Harris Middle School site OR</li> <li>• amalgamation with Northfield, the new provision with 90 places per year, relocated to either the Foxborough Middle School site or utilising some of the Harris Middle School site.</li> </ul>
<b>St Mary's RCP School</b>	Reception to year 6 30 places per year	No change – remains Reception to year 6 30 places per year
<b>Whitton Green CP School</b>	Reception to year 4 60 places per year	Reception to year 6 30 places per year
<b>Woods Loke CP School</b>	Reception to year 4 75 places per year	Reception to year 6 60 places per year
<b>Woods Meadow site Primary</b>	None	New school needed due to new housing development, Reception to year 6 }60 places per year
<b>16-19 centre</b>	none	Location for new post 16 provision to be determined

## Alternatives for primary schools

Our proposals contain some alternative options for certain primary schools and these are described below. We are keen to hear your views about these alternatives and the questionnaire focuses on some of these specific issues.

### \* Northfield St Nicholas, Poplars, St Margaret's and Roman Hill Primary Schools

Based on pupil projections, these schools need to accommodate 240 pupils per year between them. There are a number of ways this could be achieved:

- All four schools could take 60 pupils per year. The St Margaret's site could not accommodate this many pupils, therefore either the Harris or Foxborough Middle School sites would need to be used.
- St Margaret's and Northfield St Nicholas could amalgamate to form a new school on the Harris Middle or Foxborough Middle site to take up to 90 pupils per year. Poplars could take 60 pupils per year. Roman Hill Primary would then need to accommodate 90 pupils per year, and would need to utilise both the Roman Hill Middle and Primary School sites.

The amalgamation of Northfield St Nicholas and St Margaret's Primary Schools could be achieved either by the closure of one school and an increase in size of the other, or by the closure of both schools and the creation of a new primary school through a 'competition'. A 'competition' is where providers are asked for proposals to run a new school.

The use of the Foxborough Middle School site has a number of advantages:

- The use of a high quality site and good quality buildings continuing for educational use
- The ability to provide primary school places in an area currently poorly served by the location of existing primary schools.

### \*\*Carlton Colville and Grove Primary Schools

Based on pupil projections, these schools need to accommodate 105 pupils per year between them. Initial site analysis of the Carlton Colville site has suggested that it may not be able to accommodate 60 pupils per year for the seven year groups within a Reception to Year six primary school. Therefore we are consulting on two options at this time:

- 60 pupils per year at Carlton Colville (if this is possible) and 45 pupils per year at Grove.
- Reduce the number of pupils per year at Carlton Colville to 45 and increase the number of pupils at Grove to 60 pupils per year.

## Middle School sites

All middle schools would close as part of these proposals. However, some proposals suggest continuing to use particular Middle School sites for educational purposes. The following table describes the proposed future arrangements for these sites.

<b>Kirkley Middle School</b>	Future location for relocated Fen Park CP School
<b>Foxborough Middle School</b>	Possible location for relocated St Margaret's / Northfield, possible future use by The Benjamin Britten High School.
<b>Elm Tree Middle School</b>	Site and buildings could provide improved accommodation for Elm Tree Primary, or for a second high school in the south of Lowestoft
<b>Lothingland Middle School</b>	No identified use for site – site sale possible
<b>Harris Middle School</b>	Possible that some of site used to expand St Margaret's, possible 16-19 centre.
<b>Gisleham Middle School</b>	Possible location for second high school in the south of Lowestoft
<b>Pakefield Middle School</b>	Site and buildings could provide improved accommodation for Pakefield Primary or a possible site for a second high school.
<b>Roman Hill Middle School</b>	Possible that some of site used to expand Roman Hill Primary, otherwise potential to use for special needs or sixth form provision.

## High school provision

If there was no new high school in the south of Lowestoft, the Kirkley Community High School would need to accommodate 1875 pupils in years 7 to 11, based on the current intake of 375 pupils a year. The proposal of a new high school in South Lowestoft would allow Kirkley Community High School to reduce to 1200 pupils in total, with 240 pupils a year.

All four high schools in Lowestoft (The Benjamin Britten High School, The Denes high School, Kirkley Community High School and the new school) would take 240 pupils per year, therefore 1200 pupils in total per school. This is Suffolk County Council's optimum size for a secondary school.

It is recognised that whilst Sir John Lemman High School in Beccles is not part of this review, there would be an impact on the school's intake as a result of the new high school. Currently around 120 pupils per year group are transported from the South of Lowestoft to Sir John Lemman High School. In this proposal, these pupils would be able to attend the new high school in Lowestoft. This would have the effect of reducing the size of Sir John Lemman High School to around 240 pupils per year (the Council's optimum high school size).

## Post 16 Provision

The view of the School Organisation Review, supported by stakeholders and the high school headteachers and college principal, is that post 16 provision in Lowestoft is best served by a single institution, not through school based sixth forms.

This will offer a wider range of courses and more specialist facilities for young people. The exact nature and governance of such a facility is not yet determined but the existing high schools in North Suffolk and Lowestoft College will play a major role in its development.

"The new Lowestoft post-16 centre would be a new facility which is independently led and managed but which works in partnership with Kirkley Community High School, The Benjamin Britten High School, The Denes High School, Lowestoft College, local special schools and other stakeholders, through governing body links. The aim of the new centre would be, together with Lowestoft College, to provide education and training for all young people in Lowestoft through to the age of 18 and beyond in a setting which has first class facilities and which provides world class learning opportunities."

**Statement from high school headteachers about their aspirations for post 16 provision in Lowestoft.**

## How the preferred option meets the School Organisation Review principles

The preferred option has been generated to meet as many of the Council's agreed principles as possible. In particular, this option would:

- Create a primary school and high school structure
- Create a structure that:
  - Ensures single line of accountability for each key stage
  - Minimises the number of points of transfer from one school to another
  - Makes best use of resources, including capital and revenue
  - Ensures that 14 to 19 provision is sufficient to meet the national entitlement and provides breadth and choice of subjects on offer
- Safeguard the position of village schools through their retention and age-range extension
- Create high schools that meet the Council's preferred size

### Alternative options / scenarios we considered

The option of creating an **all-through model** of schools in Lowestoft was considered by stakeholders. In practice this would mean joining together a primary and high school so that for the primary intake (say 60 pupils per year) they would stay at the same school from the age of 4 to 16. Additional Pupils would still join the school at age 11 from local primary schools. Stakeholders considered this model for Lowestoft, and rejected it on the basis that there were no compelling reasons to adopt it.

The option of all high schools retaining their 6th forms was discussed with stakeholders. The option of sixth form provision being provided separately, but in close collaboration with the high schools and college was preferred by stakeholders and therefore the review is proceeding on that basis. It is felt that separate 6th form provision would help improve post 16 participation rates, raise achievement, would provide a broader range of subjects for students to study and would meet the needs of all young people.

An option of one high school either side of the river was proposed where the existing **middle schools were federated with the high schools**. The middle school would be used for years 7 to 9 and the High School for years 10 to 11. This proposal would not meet the objectives of reducing the number of schools that pupils attend. It would also reduce parental choice by reducing the number of high schools, creating schools with vary large year group sizes.

The current three tier system does not meet the principles, adopted by the County Council in March 2007. In particular it does not provide a single line of accountability for Key Stages or reduce the number of school transfers for pupils within the statutory age range.

## Consultation – Have your say!

It is important that we have the views of as many people as possible. Your views will help to inform the County Council's decision on the future provision of education in Lowestoft and the surrounding area. We want you to consider the information included within this booklet and the separate page, which contains specific information about your school.

We have put together a specific set of questions. These questions are designed to help you give us a clear indication of what you think will work best at your local school and in your local area. It is important to remember that the County Council will make the final decision. What we need is your views to help inform the decision making process.

## How can I have my say?

To help as many people as possible to be involved we are using a variety of methods:

- Complete a paper questionnaire or,
- Log onto [www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/lowestoft](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/lowestoft) and complete the questionnaire on line or
- Attend one of the public meetings.

Details of public meetings are on the back cover of this booklet. Posters will also be displayed in your local school and adverts will appear in local papers.

## Who are we consulting?

Copies of this booklet have been sent to all parents of pupils within local schools, to staff, and to every school governing body. We are also seeking views from unions, professional associations, Catholic and Church of England Diocese, parish, town and district councils, and neighbouring local authorities. We have sent copies to local playgroups and other early years providers.

## How can I find out more?

If you want more information about the review you can log onto our website [www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/lowestoft](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/lowestoft). Further copies of this booklet and other material can be found at your local library, school, or by calling 08456 031 842.

## When does consultation finish?

The consultation period lasts twelve weeks, running from 29 October 2007 to 18 January 2008.

## What happens after the consultation finishes?

In March 2008 the County Council's Cabinet will carefully consider the responses to the consultation before making a decision about the options it wants to take forward.

Once a decision is made we will publish statutory notices detailing the changes we want to make to schools. You will be able to make representations about these notices during the six-week period after they are published. The notices will explain how you can comment on them.

Cabinet will then consider the options and the responses from the six-week statutory consultation. If the Cabinet cannot agree the proposals, they will be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

We expect a final decision during summer term 2008. Detailed planning for implementation will then be finalised for the agreed proposals.

If you need help to understand this information in another language please call the number below.

إذا تحتاج إلى مساعدة لفهم هذه المعلومات في أي لغة أخرى فالرجاء الاتصال على الرقم التالي.

Arabic

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

Bengali

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

જો તમારે આ માહિતી બીજી ભાષામાં સમજવા માટે જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરી નીચેના નંબર પર સંપર્ક કરો.

Gujarati

بەم زانیاری دەشتنی ئێه بۆ ت گەهی هتی هه یارمەر بۆ ویستیت بەگهیه  
بکە. وهی خوارم ژماره ندی بهی وه پهمان کی تر شکایه

Kurdish

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

Polish

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

Portuguese

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

# Public Meetings

**Education is changing –  
make sure you have your say.**

## **Lowestoft and surrounding area**

All meetings will run from 19:30 – 21:00 unless otherwise stated \*

Monday 12 November Pakefield Primary School  
Monday 12 November Grove Primary School  
Tuesday 13 November Pakefield Middle School  
Tuesday 13 November Oulton Broad Primary School  
Wednesday 14 November Northfield St Nicholas Primary School  
\*Wednesday 14 November Poplars CP School (17:45 – 19:15)  
Thursday 15 November Gisleham Middle School  
Thursday 15 November Corton CEVCP School  
Thursday 15 November Elm Tree CP School  
Thursday 15 November Whitton Green CP School

Tuesday 20 November The Harris Middle School  
Tuesday 20 November Meadow CP School  
Wednesday 21 November Roman Hill Primary School  
Wednesday 21 November Fen Park CP School

Thursday 22 November Woods Loke CP School  
Thursday 22 November St Margaret's CP School  
Thursday 22 November Dell Primary School

Monday 26 November Roman Hill Middle School  
Tuesday 27 November Foxborough Middle School  
Wednesday 28 November Lothingland Middle School  
Wednesday 28 November The Denes High School  
Thursday 29 November Carlton Colville Primary School

Tuesday 4 December The Benjamin Britten High School  
Tuesday 4 December Blundeston CEVCP School  
Wednesday 5 December Kessingland CEVCP School  
Thursday 6 December Somerleyton Primary School  
Thursday 6 December Kirkley Middle School

Monday 11 December Elm Tree Middle School  
Tuesday 11 December Gunton Primary School  
Wednesday 12 December Kirkley Community High School

**For more information about these meetings**  
**[www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/lowestoft](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/lowestoft)**  
**or call 01502 405333**