

School Organisation Review

Your name
Your title

Date

“Securing the best opportunities for all”



School Organisation Review

What we will cover

- Our aims and why we're doing this
- Involving you in the process
- What we found out
- Our recommendations
- Next steps: what we need to do if change is agreed



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Why are we looking at school organisation?

- The way schools are organised in Suffolk hasn't changed much since 1974.
- Some children go to two schools (primary and secondary: 'two-tier') and others go to three schools (primary, middle and upper: 'three-tier').
- In January 2006, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet approved a two-stage review of the way schools are organised in Suffolk.
 - Stage 1 would decide in principle whether change was needed. A cross-party Policy Development Panel (PDP) led this stage to collect consultation responses and evidence on a range of issues.
 - If the recommendations are agreed, stage 2 will decide how this should be done. This would require further consultation.



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Background to the process

Research based on four key themes, plus the consultation results:

- Pupil performance
- Resources
- Sustainability
- 14-19 provision

Huge opportunity to improve educational achievement – and life chances - for all children and young people in Suffolk



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Findings

“Huge opportunity to improve and develop education”



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Findings: pupil performance 1

- Academic performance in two-tier schools is better than in three-tier schools (5+ A*-C GCSE results and GCE A-Level results). However, standards are not high enough in either system, particularly at ages 11 and 16-plus
- In no subject do three-tier schools exceed the performance of two-tier schools at GCSE, despite specialist subjects being taught for two extra years in the three-tier system.
- The number of pupils staying on in further education in the three-tier system is significantly lower than that in the two-tier.

Improving educational achievement and opportunities for all pupils



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Findings: pupil performance 2

- 85% of three-tier schools are significantly below the national average for pupil progress between ages 7-11 (compared to 12% of two-tier schools).
- 17 out of 18 three-tier school pyramids in Suffolk lag behind the national average for the progress of pupils aged between 7 and 11.
- Suffolk is in the bottom 25% of all authorities for mathematics at Key Stage 2 (119 out of 150 in 2005).
- The lower performance in three-tier schools at age 11 is never completely made good for all pupils.

Improving educational achievement and opportunities for all pupils



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Findings: resources

- The current system does not provide the best value-for-money
- The two-tier system is more cost-effective than the three-tier system. If adopted county-wide, more money would be invested in teaching and learning.
- No impact on Council Tax bill.

A two-tier system countywide would enable £4.4m to be re-invested in schools each year



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Findings: sustainability

- To deal with population change effectively, we need a clear policy on the future structure of our schools
- If we have different structures in Suffolk to the rest of the country, it will be harder to recruit and retain staff in the future.

Ensuring the best educational structures for now and in the future



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Findings: 14-19 provision

- Not enough pupils are staying on at school or college and getting good qualifications after the age of 16
- Larger sixth forms provide more choice, better results and better value-for-money
- Young people need more choices from age 14, including new diplomas in subjects like health care, engineering, construction and hospitality.

Giving young people more choice



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Recommendations

“Recommending a better future for children and young people”



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School improvement

- Take action to improve performance, expectations and standards in all schools.

School size

- Aim for secondary schools of about 1200 pupils (excluding sixth form)
- For schools with pupils aged 11-18, aim for sixth forms with at least 200 students.

Communication

- Clearly explain why changes are being made, when this will happen and how people can have their say.



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School organisation 1

- Move to a two-tier system of primary schools (4-11 age range) and secondary schools (11-16 or 11-18 age range)
- Make sure stage 2 looks at provision for 14-19 year olds and those with special needs



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School organisation 2

- Make sure any proposals deliver the **highest possible standards**, create **good support** structures, create **new opportunities** for learning, **bring local people together** in decision-making, and develop Suffolk as a **centre of professional excellence** for staff.
- Deliver a school system that is **affordable and accountable**, **minimises the number of times pupils move school**, and makes the **best use of resources**, has the **best staff** possible and helps all **children achieve** their best.



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Implementation 1

- Introduce any changes in three phases beginning in Summer 2007, and in line with the national Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme
- Decide how stage 2 of the review should be run and paid for



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Implementation 2

- Explain how current school training and transitional support for pupils and staff would be affected, and how human resource implications will be managed
- Make sure the best features of the three-tier system are kept
- Look at how passenger transport can be improved
- Look at the impact on the environment of any proposed changes.



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Next steps

“ Safe and secure education now and during any changes ”



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Next steps

- Local communities and parents will be consulted on the pattern of schools in their area
- Retain our good leaders, teachers and support staff
- Develop a programme of professional development for staff

Our plan is to develop a first-class school system



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More information

- Suffolk County Council website www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor
- Email sor@cyp.suffolkcc.gov.uk
- Phone 01473 264522

**“ Keeping you involved
in the process ”**

