



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Borough Charter granted in 1166



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Chief Executive: P. J. Simpkins

Please ask
for: Manj Bains
Direct line: 01234 276658
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Fax no:
Your ref:
Our ref:
Date: 10th September 2015

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

I hope you and your family had a lovely summer and that you are looking forward to this academic year!

I wanted to take a moment to update you on the plans to support schools in Bedford Borough to change structure.

Currently schools in Bedford Borough are working in partnership on their proposals, discussing what would make sense for the local communities and networks of schools in their area.

They will submit their plans to the council by 28th September 2015.

Then there will be approximately 6 weeks of assessment of the proposed schemes by school organisation specialists to make sure that proposals are cost effective and don't have unintended detrimental knock on effects to other areas or neighbouring schools.

In November there will be a consultation (starting in November and lasting for a **minimum** 6 weeks) which will outline the proposals that have come from schools, as well as the time-scales for any proposed changes.

This will include key dates you may want to know as a parent.

Changes will be phased carefully, starting at the earliest from September 2017.

EXAMPLE: a Lower School could expand upwards to year 5 in September 2017, year 6 in September 2018 and then children would enter a Secondary School at year 7 in September 2019.

There may be other approaches but changes will be made in a phased and planned way in order to minimize any disruption.

You will have already seen temporary classrooms being replaced with permanent buildings right across the Borough. This building programme will continue along with the two tier conversion works up to September 2020.

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The Government's Chief Construction Advisor has praised the work of the Council and local schools working in partnership to secure excellent school buildings for your children to learn in and we will continue this work.

I would also like to thank parents, parish councils, schools and school governors for being so engaged in the process. It is wonderful to see all schools, regardless of school type, galvanizing their efforts for the benefit of our communities.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please email:
education@bedford.gov.uk

Best wishes,

Henry Vann
Councillor, De Parys Ward, Bedford Borough