



Parent, Carer or Guardian

Please ask for: Colin Foster
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Fax no:
Your ref:
Our ref:
Date: 6 July 2015

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

Supporting schools in their transition to two-tier education

Last Friday, with Mayor Dave Hodgson, I met with schools to announce that we will work with them to design and deliver a transition to a two-tier system. This was the beginning of a conversation.

We let Head Teachers and Governors know that we will work with them, providing clear strategic leadership, to ensure that changes to schools are coordinated and coherent and offer certainty to parents, carers and guardians.

Having spoken to many parents, we are clear that our priority is for every school in the borough to be Good or Outstanding and for structures to enable you to understand clearly the route(s) your child/children could take through the education system.

We are working positively with all schools of all types to deliver this change to a two-tier education system.

It is important that you - as parents - are fully informed about possible changes to schools:

- **The earliest that change could legally start to happen is September 2017.** It is likely that this change would happen slowly, over a few years, causing the minimum disruption to your child's education. Some changes in some areas of Bedford may not even start until September 2018 or 2019. We have achieved this before for other schools in Bedford Borough.

- **Any changes would have to be consulted on.** The earliest time this consultation can legally happen is from 1 November 2015 to 1 March 2016.

- **Any consultation would have to last for at least 8 term time weeks.**

Over the summer and into the Autumn Term we will work with schools to develop their proposals for change, ensuring that we all work together in the educational interests of your child/children.



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Borough Charter granted in 1166



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Chief Executive: P. J. Simpkins

If you are concerned about these proposals or would like to talk to us about the proposals, you can discuss these with your school, or contact the Council at education@bedford.gov.uk

I wish you well as we near the end of term and hope you have a very enjoyable summer.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Henry Vann
Portfolio Holder for Education
Bedford Borough Council