

Have
your
say...

on proposed changes
to schools in Shefford,
Stotfold and the
surrounding areas

This consultation is open from
29 October 2019 to 5pm 20 January 2020.

You can have your say online at
www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk
or through your local school.





Introduction

Central Bedfordshire is a great place to live and work. That's why we expect the number of local residents and homes to grow in the coming years. Across our area, some 43,000 new homes are expected to be built by 2035 and that means a lot more school places will be needed.

Specifically, for Shefford, Stotfold and surrounding areas we are expecting 5,400 new homes, requiring us to provide 3,500 new school places.

Because of the changes, our local schools have been working together, with Central Bedfordshire Council, on a long-term plan to make sure we have:

- **The right schools**
- **In the right places**
- **Delivering the best education**

This document outlines a draft plan to meet the future demand and we are inviting everyone who has an interest in the future of education in our area to have their say on what is proposed.

Schools in area now

There are currently 22 schools in the Shefford, Stotfold and surrounding areas. These are a mixture of council-maintained schools and academies (which are independent of the council).

In terms of the structure of our local schools, they are a mix of some operating in a three-tier system (lower, middle and upper schools) and others have changed their age range to become extended middle schools.

This mixture of different types of schools can be confusing for parents.

The table over the page shows the schools included in this area and their current school type and capacity (i.e. – 4-9yrs lower; 4-11yrs primary; 9-13 yrs middle; extended middle/secondary 9-16yrs; 13-16 upper; 12-16 secondary.)



School name	Current school type	Current school capacity
Campton Lower School	Lower	110
Clifton All Saints Academy	Lower	150
Derwent Lower School	Lower	150
Fairfield Park Lower School	Lower	450
Gothic Mede Academy	Lower	300
Gravenhurst Academy	Lower	75
Haynes Lower School	Lower	120
Langford Village Academy	Lower	225
Meppershall Academy	Lower	150
Raynsford Academy	Lower	150
Roecroft Lower School	Lower	450
Shefford Lower School	Lower	450
Shillington Lower School	Lower	150
Southill Lower School	Lower	75
St. Mary's Academy	Lower	300
St. Mary's Lower School	Lower	150
Stondon Lower School	Lower	150
Henlow Academy	Middle	560
Robert Bloomfield Academy	Middle	960
Etonbury Academy	Extended Middle**	1,260
Pix Brook Academy	Extended Middle**	1,260
Samuel Whitbread Academy	Upper	1,200

** Extended Middle schools and Extended Secondary schools cover the same age range.



Proposed changes

We have developed a draft plan which will deliver the following changes between 2021 and 2029:

- To change the age range of all 17 lower schools to become primary schools (so that children will enter the school at the start of their education and will stay at the primary until they are in year 6 at the age of 11).
- To build four new primary schools, two of which will provide new accommodation for two of our current schools (Campton Lower and Gothic Mede Academy).
- To change the age range of the upper school (Samuel Whitbread), two extended middle schools (Etonbury Academy and Pix Brook Academy) and two middle schools (Robert Bloomfield Academy and Henlow Academy) to become secondary schools (so that children will enter these schools at year 7 and will remain there for the rest of their school journey).
- To provide additional sixth form provision in Samuel Whitbread and, at a later date, at either Etonbury or Pix Brook.

These proposals would effectively move the schools to a primary/secondary model.

All of the schools in Shefford, Stotfold and the surrounding areas want to take this opportunity to move to the primary/secondary school model. While this is a significant change, it's a positive move that would increase the capacity of each school, allowing them to grow and accommodate additional school places and provide great education for all our pupils in the future.

The specific changes for each school are listed over the page along with proposed timescales.



School name	Current school type	Proposed school type	Future school capacity	Anticipated date
Campton Lower School	Lower	Primary (relocated to a new site at Hitchin Road, Shefford)	210 – 420*	Opening 2023
Clifton All Saints Academy	Lower	Primary	210	Opening 2021
Derwent Lower School	Lower	Primary	210 – 630*	Opening 2021
Fairfield Park Lower School	Lower	Primary	840	Opening 2023
Gothic Mede Academy	Lower	Primary (relocated to a new site East of Arlesey)	420 – 630*	Opening 2023
Gravenhurst Academy	Lower	Primary	105	Opening 2023
Haynes Lower School	Lower	Primary	210	Opening 2023
Langford Village Academy	Lower	Primary	315	Opening 2021
Meppershall Academy	Lower	Primary	210	Opening 2021
Raynsford Academy	Lower	Primary	210	Opening 2021
Roecroft Lower School	Lower	Primary	630	Opening 2023
Shefford Lower School	Lower	Primary	630	Opening 2023
Shillington Lower School	Lower	Primary	210	Opening 2023
Southill Lower School	Lower	Primary	105	Opening 2023
St. Mary's Academy	Lower	Primary	420	Opening 2023
St. Mary's Lower School	Lower	Primary	210	Opening 2023
Stondon Lower School	Lower	Primary	210	Opening 2023
New Primary school (Chase Farm)	N/A	Primary	630	Opening 2024
New primary school (East of Arlesey)	N/A	Primary	630	Opening 2028
Etonbury Academy	Extended Middle**	Secondary, plus possible sixth form provision	750 - 1,200*	Opening 2023
Henlow Academy	Middle	Extended Secondary** Secondary	1,050 750*	Opening 2021 Opening 2023
Pix Brook Academy	Extended Middle**	Secondary, plus possible sixth form provision	750 – 1,200*	Opening 2023
Robert Bloomfield Academy	Middle	Secondary	750	Opening 2023



Samuel Whitbread Academy	Upper	Secondary with sixth form provision	1,050 (excluding sixth form)	Opening 2023
* Where there are two numbers, this is to show that schools firstly change age range (adding two year groups) and, following that, eventually expand in line with growth to take an additional form of entry which, once this filters through, will see the school increase the number of pupils.				
** Extended Middle schools and Extended Secondary schools cover the same age range.				

Managing the change

Maintaining the quality of education provided to our children through the process of change is an absolute priority for all the schools in the area and for Central Bedfordshire Council.

Should the plan be approved, these organisations will work together to make sure that disruption is minimised and that both pupils and school staff are well supported through the process of change.

How to have your say

The future of our education system in Shefford and Stotfold area matters to our whole community and everyone who has an interest, for current or for future generations of children and young people, is invited to give their views on the proposals for change.

You can read more information and have your say by answering a questionnaire online at www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk or you can pick up a paper copy from your local school.

The consultation is open from 29 October 2019 to 20 January 2020.

What happens after the consultation?

The council and the academy schools will need to consider the feedback and make a decision on the final plan. The aim is for this decision to be made in March 2020.

Assuming a decision is made, the council are required to publish statutory notices for each school that will change. You will be able to comment on these for a period of a minimum of four weeks. The aim is to publish these for comment in April 2020.

Again, the council and academies will consider the feedback and make a final decision on the plans. This is likely to be later in summer of 2020.