



EDUCATION SPECIAL



Broadstone's schools are excellent. Our congratulations and thanks must go to all staff, governors and students for the very high standards of achievement attained at all levels and for the effort put in to maintain these year on year.

When Poole announced its "Schools for the future" programme considerable concern was expressed and the main question being asked by parents was "Why change what is so good?"

Almost 18 months on, and after three phases of consultation, Cllr. Graham Mason and I are still being asked "What is happening?" and "Should we be concerned?" So.....



What is "Schools for the Future"?

"Schools for the future" is the re-organisation of **ALL** Poole schools so that there is a single structure and age of transfer across the whole of the Borough. In addition it is planned to bring all school buildings up to current National Standards. The benefits are: simplification of choices for parents and assumed improvements in educational achievement.



What will this cost? Who pays?

The total cost is estimated to be in excess of **£189 million**. For Broadstone Schools the figure is put at between **£25 and £50 million**. Inevitably the council tax payer will pay through Government grants and contributions from the local council. The first grant of £12 million has been achieved and the council are match funding with £4 million. This still leaves a short fall of £9 million for the proposed first phase.

What about consultation?

There have been 3 stages to the consultation process. The first phase sought opinion on preferred structures. Broadstone respondents favoured retaining a three-tier system based upon transfer at 9 and 13. 75% of respondents from the rest of Poole wanted to change to the two-tier system with transfer at 11.

The second phase involved an educational debate as to which was the best structure. Poole Council Officers argued for a two-tier system with age of transfer at 11 whilst a number of teachers, parents and governors argued that a three-tier system with transfers at 9 and 13 was best.

The final phase, completed on April 7th, addressed two-tier and three-tier models for each individual school and pyramid.



Was this consultation valid?

We have received many complaints that the process was flawed. From the very beginning it was assumed any changes would take place across the Borough at the same time. Only with the final phase of consultation was it revealed that any changes to Broadstone's structure would be delayed for more than 10 years until 2017. Furthermore some funding decisions have been made which affect Broadstone Schools but those schools were not consulted about those decisions. As a resident you only had access to a summary document which gave incomplete information about the Broadstone Pyramid. We also discovered that the full document was not available in Broadstone Library.



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Did you identify the fact that implementation of Poole's preferred option - the two-tier model - would result in the **closure of one school in Poole: Broadstone First School. Broadstone Middle School becomes a 4 - 11 Primary School and loses secondary status.** In addition **Springdale School would become one-form entry** instead of two as at present. Furthermore, Broadstone does not have a falling rolls issue.

Have any decisions been made yet?



We are being told that no decisions have been made but it is clear they have, and some of these were made **behind closed doors**. The Government grant of £12 million pounds is based on a transfer age of 11 and goes to both Grammar Schools and Poole High. The application for this grant was made **without** reference to all members of the Project Board and more significantly, **no discussions took place with Corfe Hills School before the application was made**. To have excluded Poole's largest and most successful comprehensive school from the debate is clearly **unacceptable**. So a point has now been reached where **Broadstone is to be excluded from any changes until 2017**. Irrespective of their standpoint on transfer at 11 or 9/13, **all Broadstone's schools** have expressed serious concerns over the impact this will have upon our children's education. It creates a "period of limbo" which will impact upon capital funding and staffing. It also raises a number of wider community issues.



Will catchment areas change?

More than likely. In the full "Schools for the Future" document the Council commits itself to a review of all catchment areas, and to the protection of schools with falling rolls. It is also proposed to make Springdale First School, currently a two form entry school, into a **one** form entry Primary school. The review of catchment areas will take place once the decision to change to a two-tier system has been confirmed. There could be significant implications for parts of Broadstone.

We would therefore like to know your views and would be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire below, returning it as soon as possible to: Cllr. Mike Brooke, FREEPOST, Liberal Hall, 14 York Road, Broadstone, BH18 8BR

1. We/I support no change for Broadstone Schools until 2017 Yes No
2. We/I support Broadstone Schools changing at the same time as the rest of Poole Yes No

Any other comments:.....

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Address:.....

3. Signature 1.....
- Signature 2.....
- Signature 3.....
- Signature 4..... Email:



Cllr Mike Brooke 01202 696549
e-mail: m.brooke@poole.gov.uk

Surgeries in Broadstone Library
1st Saturday in the month
from 10.00am till 12.00 mid-day
with Annette Brooke MP



Cllr Graham Mason 01202 695507
e-mail: g.mason@poole.gov.uk

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