



**Consultation on proposals for
the future of King Edward VII
School, Melton Mowbray**

Have your say



Why is the Local Authority consulting on proposals for King Edward VII School?

In March 2007, after extensive consultation with parents, schools and the public, the County Council took a decision to re-organise schools in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir.

These changes would see the development of four 11-19 secondary schools in the area, including King Edward VII School, which would work in partnership with a new Post-16 Centre.

The re-organisation aims to raise standards of achievement and attainment for all pupils in the area. This is being achieved by removing the barriers to pupil progress between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and by providing a wider curriculum choice through the development of a Partnership.

Since this decision, significant progress has been made by schools working closely together to enhance opportunities for young people.

On 10th November 2009 a report setting out the results of the latest admissions round and highlighting the impact on King Edward VII School was submitted to the County Council Cabinet. The report indicated that of 160 available places in September 2010, only 57 parents had chosen King Edward VII School as their first preference. This follows equally disappointing numbers in September 2009 when only 50 students entered Year 7.

Since the re-organisation began, governors, staff and the local authority have worked very hard to improve the performance and popularity of the School. Despite this, parental confidence in the School has remained a cause for considerable concern.

The Council has a responsibility to ensure that all pupils achieve the highest possible standards of education, most particularly at Key Stage 4. The low admission numbers will limit delivery of the national curriculum entitlement and the full range of high quality curriculum choices at Key Stage 4. The Council therefore has to consider alternative options for the future, and has a duty to consult upon these.

With this in mind, your views are now invited on the future of the School.

Listed opposite are five options for the future of King Edward VII School including the County Council's preferred option (1). You may indicate your support for one of these options by ticking the appropriate box on the response form or webpage.

If however, you do not support any of the options listed and would like to propose another for consideration please tick the 'Other option' box and provide details of your proposal.

What are the options for the future?

OPTION 1:

The closure of King Edward VII School. This is the County Council's preferred option.

In keeping with the changes agreed by the County Council in March 2007, the other two secondary schools in Melton, John Ferneley College and Long Field School, would jointly manage the Post-16 educational provision based at the Post-16 Centre. All of the secondary schools in the Partnership, including Belvoir High School, would remain as 11-19 schools. This offers the opportunity to remove surplus places in Melton and the potential for a long-term solution for learners and the Partnership.

Young people at King Edward VII School would transfer to the other schools in the partnership or elsewhere, subject to parental choice. If the Cabinet on 15th December agrees to the consultation, parents who have expressed a preference for their child to attend King Edward VII from September 2010 will then receive a letter to explain how the admissions process will be managed.

OPTION 2:

Maintaining the status quo, that is keeping the School as it is.

Unless it became much more popular or received substantial financial support, keeping the School as it is would seriously restrict its ability to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum for all students and a wide range of GCSE choices.

OPTION 3:

Reducing the number of pupils admitted to the other Melton secondary schools to encourage more students to attend King Edward VII School.

Whilst this may help to improve the pupil numbers at King Edward VII School it would have implications for staffing and delivery of the curriculum at the other schools in the Partnership.

OPTION 4:

Amalgamating King Edward VII School with another school (Long Field or John Ferneley)

This would most likely involve closing King Edward VII School and one of the other secondary schools, either John Ferneley College or Long Field School, in order to open a new school. Subject to the size of this new school it may have to operate on two sites. When opening a new school the local authority is legally required to hold a competition and to invite proposals from providers to run the school.

This may offer the potential to remove surplus places and lead to a more efficient and effective way forward for the two amalgamating schools.

OPTION 5:

Federating with another school or schools to increase the support to King Edward VII School.

Federations are a way of bringing two or more schools together under one governing body and possibly one headteacher with the aim of sharing resources and expertise in order to operate more efficiently and effectively.

What will happen next?

STEP 1

A wide range of people, including: staff; governors; parents and carers; students; schools within the Partnership area; community users; and others with an interest in King Edward VII School will be consulted on these proposals. The consultation period will end on **12th February 2010.**

You may respond by writing your comments on the form attached to this booklet and returning it to:

**Consultation on King Edward VII School,
Room 120, Children and Young People's Service,
Leicestershire County Council, County Hall,
Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF**

or you can respond online at:
www.leics.gov.uk/meltonkevii

Please note that it will not be possible to reply to individual respondents.

You are also invited to attend one of the consultation meetings available to you. This will provide an opportunity to hear more about the options for the future of King Edward VII School, the opportunities and challenges ahead, and to ask any questions you may have. The meetings for parents and the public will take place as follows:

■ **Wednesday 6th January 2010**

King Edward VII School – assembly hall

6.00 to 7.00pm: For parents of Year 6 primary pupils who have expressed a first preference for their child to attend King Edward VII in September 2010

7.30 to 8.30pm: For parents of Year 10 and 11 pupils currently attending the School

■ **Thursday 7th January 2010**

King Edward VII School – assembly hall

6.00 to 7.00pm: For parents of Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils currently attending the School

7.30 to 8.30pm: For parents of Years 12 and 13 (Sixth Form) currently attending the School

■ **Monday 11th January 2010**

John Ferneley College

6.30 to 7.30pm: For parents of pupils at this school or due to attend this school in September 2010.

■ **Tuesday 12th January 2010**

Long Field School

6.30 to 7.30pm: For parents of pupils at this school or due to attend this school in September 2010.

■ **Wednesday 13th January 2010**

King Edward VII School – assembly hall

6.00 to 7.00pm: Open meeting for community users of the School and the public

■ **Thursday 14th January 2010**

Belvoir High School, Bottesford

6.30 to 7.30pm: For parents of pupils at this school or due to attend this school in September 2010.

Each meeting will comprise a short presentation followed by a question and answer session.

Please note that separate meetings will be held during the consultation period for students/pupils, school staff and governors

STEP 2

The results of the consultation will be reported to the County Council's Cabinet on 9th March 2010. The Cabinet will decide which proposal to act on and will, if appropriate, arrange for statutory notices to be published in order to make any changes. Following the publication there will be a six week representation period during which objections may be made to a statutory notice to the Director of the Children and Young People's Service.

At the end of this period the Cabinet will make the final decision on what is to happen. If the preferred option is approved as the best way forward further information will be sent to everyone to explain the next steps.

Your questions answered

What would happen to King Edward VII's current pupils?

If the preferred option (1) is approved by Cabinet, there would follow a phased transfer of pupils to the other secondary schools in the Partnership. This would be subject to: the availability of places at the other schools; and parental choice for these schools, through the admissions process. In the first year there would be no Year 7 entrants to King Edward VII School in September 2010, and students in Years 8, 9 and 10 would be transferred to the agreed alternative school. Year 11 students would remain in the school before transferring to the new Post-16 Centre the following summer. This would ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for those studying for their GCSEs.

What if I have applied for a place at King Edward VII for my child next year?

If the preferred option (1) is approved in March and you have applied for a place at King Edward VII School as the first choice preference for your child for Year 7 entry in autumn 2010, you will receive a letter after the Cabinet decision explaining what happens next. In general terms we will try to offer either your second or third preference.

Will there be sufficient places available in the area for King Edward VII children?

Yes, the year 7 admission numbers for the three other secondary schools in the Partnership would be increased to

accommodate pupils transferring from King Edward VII School. The availability of these extra year 7 places will be managed through the County Council's normal admissions procedures.

If your child is currently in years 7, 8, 9 at King Edward VII School, places will also be available at the other schools and you will be contacted to explain the process for transfer in autumn 2010. Parents should wait until they are contacted by letter from the Schools Admissions Team. There is no need for you to take any action at the moment other than to try and attend one of the consultation meetings.

What will happen to the teaching and support staff?

It is important to retain the knowledge and expertise of staff in King Edward VII School. Staff will be encouraged to move to posts at the other schools in the Partnership and in the Post-16 Centre. Consultation meetings will be held with teaching and support staff to explain more.

What are the plans for the King Edward VII site?

The Post-16 Centre is currently being built on the site. It is important to us that the community and other facilities are retained. There are presently no plans to develop the site further.

How can I find out more information?

Meetings will be held for parents, staff and governors and those with an interest in the future of the school. You are strongly encouraged to attend one of these meetings. Details of these meetings can be found inside this document and will be widely publicised through schools, on our web-site www.leics.gov.uk/meltonkevii, and through the local media.

If you require information contained in this leaflet in another version eg large print, Braille, tape or an alternative language please call 0116 305 6476, or email criddlesworth@leics.gov.uk

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ ઇચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 6476 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને અમે આપને મદદ કરવા બંધન છીએ.

જેવર તુવાનું ઈસ જાતકારી તું સમજત વિચ વુઝ મદદ ચાહીદી રી તાં વિરપા વરકે 0116 305 6476 નંબર કે ફોન કરે અટે અસીં તુવાડી મદદ છીએ તો પૂર્ણ કર દવાંગો।

এই তথ্য নিজেৰ ভাষায় বুঝাৰ জন্য আপনাত যদি কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 6476 এই নম্বরে ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں 0116 305 6476 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，請致電 0116 305 6476，我們會安排有關人員為你提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 6476, a my Ci pomożemy.



Children and Young People's Service,
County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RF

www.leics.gov.uk

