



Swallowfield Lower School

Weathercock Close, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8SR, Tel: 01908 582101

19th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of some proposed changes to the schools across our area, including our school.

For some time, we have been working together with schools in what is known as the *Fulbrook Pyramid*, this includes five lower schools Swallowfield, Aspley Guise, Husborne Crawley, Ridgmont and Woburn Lower with Fulbrook Middle School on a joint plan for future schooling. This is part of our wider *Schools for the Future* programme working across Central Bedfordshire.

The purpose of the *Schools for the Future* programme is to ensure we have the right schools, in the right locations, delivering the best education in the long-term, which is why the proposed plan for our school is so important.

In common with other areas across Central Bedfordshire, the proposed plan is for the schools in the Fulbrook Pyramid to move to a primary/secondary system. This will mean in the future that our pupils will be able to attend both primary and secondary school in our local area.

All of the schools in the Fulbrook Pyramid have signed up, in principle, to moving to the two-tier system and in fact Fulbrook have already consulted on becoming a secondary. Whilst this is a significant change, it's a very positive move that means we will be able to continue to provide a great education for our pupils in the future in our own locality.

The proposals for change are:

- Swallowfield and Aspley Guise lower schools to become primary schools in 2022, so pupils will join at reception and continue at the schools until the end of Year 6.
- Fulbrook Middle School to become an extended secondary school in 2022, so pupils can join the school at Year 5 or Year 7 and continue there until the end of Year 11. The school will become a secondary school in 2024 when pupils in Year 5 will stay in their primary schools.
- Husborne Crawley, Ridgmont and Woburn lower schools are to work together as soon as possible as a federation with the goal of coming together as a single primary school on one site. Options for the site for the new school are still being explored at this stage but is anticipated that this will happen in 2024. Until 2024 all three schools will remain open on their current sites and pupils will continue to transfer to Fulbrook at year 5.



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Whilst there is housing growth planned near Woburn Sands, the demand this creates for new school places will be met by Milton Keynes Council. There is also significant growth planned for Leighton Linlade which will eventually create demand for 3,000 new school places. When pupils leave Fulbrook Middle School, they currently go on to upper schools in the main in the Leighton Linlade area. So, the proposed plan for the Fulbrook Pyramid schools will not only enable our children to attend primary and secondary school locally but will also help the Leighton Linlade schools accommodate some of their housing growth.

I would like to stress that the plan is a draft plan at the moment and no decisions have been made.

The next step is that the plan is being considered by Central Bedfordshire Council's Executive Committee on 7 January, who will be asked to approve community consultation on it. If this is agreed, there will be a 12-week public consultation starting in January.

The report for this meeting is being published on the council website (www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) on 23 December and it will provide more information about proposals for our school and all the others in the area.

We want everyone to have their say on the proposed plan and responses to the public consultation will be welcomed from everyone with an interest in the future of education in our area.

As parents and carers of our current pupils, you obviously have an enormously important stake in the plan, and we would encourage you all to contribute to this important process. We will let you know when the public consultation is open and how to take part.

All the feedback from the consultation will be carefully considered by the schools and the council before any decisions about next steps are made.

I realise this proposal might raise questions for you and your family. I would like to reassure you that 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 and 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.

Yours faithfully,

Kim Brewer

Mrs Kim Brewer
Head Teacher
Swallowfield Lower School

