

Crewkerne and Ilminster School Structure Change Proposals

Dear parent/guardian,

In 2019 the County Council did a review of how schools are structured in the Crewkerne and Ilminster area. I am now writing to tell you what is going to happen next.

The most important thing is that every pupil in the area receive an excellent education. Not just now, but for all their years in school. However, the number of pupils coming into schools in Ilminster and Crewkerne has been reducing for many years. This has caused budget overspends which are now very large.

The county council set up an independent review. The review recommended there should be changes to the structure of schools to protect the quality of education delivered to children and young people aged 4-16 in the area. We did a consultation on several different options. That consultation finished last year.

We have listened to the feedback we received on the first review and have identified a way forward. A **summary document** is attached which explains what changes we will be asking the Cabinet to consult on.

Before these proposals become a public consultation, we are sharing them with the leaders, staff and parents in schools affected by these changes. Because these changes could affect your children and family, we wanted to let you know what will happen next.

- Wednesday 14th October – Somerset County Council Cabinet papers on the new Crewkerne and Ilminster school structure proposals will be made public on our website: <https://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx>
- Wednesday 21st October – Somerset County Council Cabinet meeting will take place to discuss the proposals and decide whether to proceed with formal consultation.

We will be proposing to have a four-week consultation period when you would be able to give us your views through our website. We will also hold virtual public meetings when you can ask questions and give us your views directly. Then there will be a further four-week period when you can make representations to the Council.

If the formal consultation is approved on 21st October, I will write to you again shortly afterwards to update you on how you can have your say and so that you know exactly what you have to do if you want to give us your views about these changes.



When both four-week periods of consultation have finished, we will go back to the Cabinet to make a final decision on what will happen to schools in the area.

If you have any questions or comments at this stage, please get in touch by emailing our dedicated mailbox: SSE@somerset.gov.uk

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