



North Tyneside Council

Jean Griffiths
Head of Children, Young People and Learning
North Tyneside Council

Quadrant West, The Silverlink North
Cobalt Business Park
North Tyneside, NE27 0BY
Tel: (0191) 643 8782
Fax: (0191) 643 2408

Jean.Griffiths@northtyneside.gov.uk

6th March 2014

Dear parent/carers

We know there has been some publicity around North Tyneside Council's plans to work with all schools to review the borough's education system. We wanted to provide you with some facts about that review and what it aims to achieve.

We should be proud of our education provision in North Tyneside. We have a proven track record of high attainment that has risen steadily over recent years.

Our young people achieved their best ever GCSE and A-level results last summer - an achievement which placed North Tyneside in the top quarter of all local authorities nationally. Attainment of our primary-aged pupils also continues to improve, with almost 80 percent of 11-year-olds achieving level 4 or above in English and maths last year - above both the regional and national average.

North Tyneside Council has always offered close support, scrutiny and challenge to all its schools, to ensure these high standards are maintained, and to ensure that the borough's school system is in excellent shape.

Why carry out a schools review?

Our borough is changing, and some of those changes are affecting our school system. These include changes to the birth rate and where families live, as well as the introduction of the Kings Priory Academy. Our school system needs to be able to adapt to these changes so it can continue to offer the excellent provision that our young people deserve.

Already, some of our schools have almost a quarter of their places unfilled, whereas others are over-subscribed. Both of these situations can have a negative impact on school finances, and the ability to deliver excellent provision.

Through this review, schools are working together and with the council in an open and honest dialogue to successfully shape a solution for the next five to ten years. Any proposals will always put learners first and seek to ensure our school system meets the needs of the borough and its children.

We wish to reassure you that no recommendations have been made and reiterate that this is a review of all schools, not about one particular area and its systems.

The review will involve every local authority-maintained school in North Tyneside, and look at a wide range of elements including population change, buildings, facilities and financial factors. Its purpose is to ensure that school provision across the borough is stable enough to stand up to future changes and challenges, and remain excellent.

What happens next?

Officers from North Tyneside Council will work with head teachers on a detailed analysis of the issues the borough needs to address and possible solutions for the future. Detailed proposals will be put forward by summer 2014. Once they are put forward, parents and schools will be invited to take part in the consultation to inform decision-making.

Yours sincerely

Jean Griffiths
Head of Children, Young People and Learning