



Consultation into the future of Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common

28 April 2017 – 16 June 2017

Chiltern Edge School has been placed in Special Measures following an Ofsted rating of 'Inadequate'.

The Ofsted report details serious concerns about the quality of education currently being provided at the school, and in these circumstances the government requires local authorities to consider the option of closure. The county council's top priority is to ensure good educational opportunities are available to local families as quickly as possible.

The county council is therefore consulting on the impact of potential closure and whether alternative solutions can be found to ensure good quality education in this part of Oxfordshire. In the meantime, the council is continuing to support the school in addressing the immediate areas of concern raised by Ofsted.

At the same time, the Department for Education will be trying to identify an academy sponsor to run the school, to enable it to stay open.

It is important to stress at this stage that no decisions have been taken. Everyone with an interest in the provision of good quality education for children in the local area is encouraged to take part in the consultation, to inform future decisions.

During this consultation, the county council will:

- Gather information and opinions on the impact of any potential closure of Chiltern Edge School.
- Identify how secondary special educational needs provision would be delivered, if Chiltern Edge School closes. (Bishopswood School's secondary provision is currently based at Chiltern Edge School.)
- Identify how other users of the Chiltern Edge site will be affected if Chiltern Edge School closes.
- Work with surrounding schools and neighbouring councils to develop plans for transferring pupils from Chiltern Edge School if a decision is later made to close the school.
- Seek views on whether there are other solutions to ensure good quality education in this area.

This consultation is about gathering information to inform any future proposal. At this stage, we don't have all the answers, but as more information becomes available it will be added to the consultation website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chilternedge.

About Chiltern Edge School

Chiltern Edge School is a secondary school for pupils aged 11-16. It has the capacity for 934 pupils. At the January 2017 school census, the school had 507 pupils on roll. This makes it the smallest secondary school in Oxfordshire, with less than half the number of pupils of the average Oxfordshire secondary school.

The school has a published admission number of 180 pupils per year. At the January 2017 school census, the number of pupils in each year group were:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
124	86	116	99	82

Because of Chiltern Edge's small size, it is more difficult for the school to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, and to balance its budget. The school has a significant budget deficit.

Chiltern Edge School serves part of Reading Borough Council as well as Oxfordshire. Of the children at Chiltern Edge School:

- 159 live within Oxfordshire
- 342 live within Reading Borough Council.

This level of cross-border flow has made it more difficult for Chiltern Edge School to predict how many children will join the school each year.

While there is some planned housing growth in the area, pupil numbers at the school are not forecast to grow.

What happens next?

28 April – 16 June 2017

Public consultation to gather information and views.

20 June 2017

The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Education will decide whether to publish a proposal to close Chiltern Edge School.

23 June 2017

If the county council decides to publish a closure proposal, it would do so on Friday 23 June 2017. This would include detailed information about the closure plan, including the timescale and transfer arrangements for current students at the school. Those details would be shaped by this consultation.

23 June – 21 July 2017

Four weeks' formal consultation about closure. During this period, representations could be made to Oxfordshire County Council. It would be important to respond to this stage, even if you had already responded to this consultation.

19 September 2017

The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet would decide whether to close Chiltern Edge School. This means that parents choosing a secondary school for September 2018 will know whether Chiltern Edge is to close before they need to submit their applications.

Since the aim would be for closure to take place at the end of a school year to minimise disruption, the council would not plan to close the school until July 2018 at the earliest.

Have your say

More details, and an online questionnaire, are available at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chilternedge

Further information will be added to this site as it becomes available, including answers to frequently asked questions.

If you would like a printed version of the information instead, please email chilternedge@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call **0345 241 2487**.

To respond to this consultation you can:

- Fill in the online questionnaire at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/chilternedge
- Email your comments to chilternedge@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- Hand in a written response at the reception office of Chiltern Edge School
- Post a written response to:

Education Sufficiency & Access
Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall
New Road
Oxford OX1 1ND

marking your envelope CHILTERN EDGE CONSULTATION