

How decisions are made

The School Organisation Committee will make decisions when proposals involve:

- Changes to a school's Standard Number of pupils
- Changes to which objections have been made

If it cannot reach a unanimous decision the proposal must be sent to the Schools Adjudicator for decision.

Decisions on any other proposals can be made by the organisation putting them forward so long as there are no objections.

School Organisation Committee meetings

Meetings of the School Organisation Committee are held in public. Members of the public can speak at meetings if they arrange this in advance. Details about this and dates of meetings are available from the committee's clerk, Helen Wayland, at County Hall in Aylesbury, telephone 01296 382015
or e-mail hwayland@buckscc.gov.uk.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
SCHOOL
ORGANISATION
COMMITTEE

Chairman of the School
Organisation Committee
Mr J A Loarridge



Secretary to the School Organisation
Committee
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This leaflet explains how Buckinghamshire County Council consults the public about proposals for big changes affecting schools and how local people can give their views to the School Organisation Committee.

As the Local Education Authority the County Council has a duty formally to consult local people whenever it is considering the following changes to a school:

- A different Standard Number of pupils
- Reorganisation
- Enlargement
- Closure
- Creating a new school

To do this the County Council publishes a legal notice in local newspapers which is also displayed in the school and the surrounding area for two months. During this time people can send comments or objections to the proposal to either the County Council or the independent School Organisation Committee. The Council has a duty to provide background information explaining why the proposal for change is being made.

School Organisation Committee

Decisions on proposals about changes to schools are made by the Buckinghamshire School Organisation Committee which is also responsible for approving the School Organisation Plan. It is a statutory body which works independently of the County Council.

Groups represented on the committee are:

- Buckinghamshire Local Education Authority
 - The local Church of England Diocese
 - The local Roman Catholic Schools Commission
 - The Learning and Skills Council (for changes affected education for students of 16 and over)
 - Schools (a group of school governors)
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Schools Adjudicator

School Adjudicators are appointed by the Secretary of State for Education and Employment to take decisions on:

- School Organisation Plans
- Individual proposes for changes to schools
- Issues relating to school admission or organisation arrangements where it has not been possible reach agreement at a local level. If, for example, it was not possible to come to a unanimous decision on a proposal to close two schools and create a new one, this would be referred to the Schools Adjudicator for decision.

Consultation on proposed change in school organisation

Buckinghamshire's approach to consultation starts with an informal phase which involves widely circulating a document setting out proposals and the reasons for them.

Staff, parents and other members of the community have a chance to meet governors and the County Council as well as representatives of the Diocese in the case of church schools.

A proposal may be made by the County Council or the governing body of a foundation—formerly grant maintained—school or a voluntary school. If there is widespread support in the initial consultation the organisation seeking change will then begin the formal consultation with a legal notice in the local newspaper.

Commenting on or objecting to proposed changes

Comments or objections should be sent to the secretary of the School Organisation Committee, Legal Department, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UA.