

Your ref:

Our ref: SH/ar

Tel no: 0300 300 4383

Email: Sue.Harrison@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 28 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on some significant developments relating to Sandy schools.

There are two issues being discussed; school places and the response to the Sandye Place recent Ofsted report. Both of which could have implications for the future of Sandye Place Academy.

As a Local Authority we have a responsibility to work with local schools, many of which are independent academies, to understand the need for school places now and in the future. Sandye Place is one of these independent academies. This means that it is not maintained by the Local Authority but is governed by its Trust and is accountable to the Department of Education, rather than the council.

In Sandy we have been working with all schools to analyse pupil numbers (including the new September intake) and the impact of changes that are taking place in local schools across the area.

This analysis has shown that there are more school places available in the Sandy area than are needed with this 'surplus' of places growing in future years. Such a surplus can begin to challenge the viability of schools in a local area if it leads to one or more schools not being full.

The biggest surplus in numbers is in the middle year groups and therefore in Sandye Place Academy particularly, there are concerns about the future viability of the school.

When considering the future of schools, a number of factors need to be considered including an understanding of any surplus in places, the impact on financial sustainability and crucially education standards for pupils.

As you may be aware, Sandye Place Academy was recently judged to be inadequate by Ofsted. As a result, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), Martin Post, is considering options for the future of the school.

The RSC, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has the option to issue a notice warning of termination of the funding agreement of an academy that has been judged inadequate. This could result in the academy closing or moving to a new multi-academy trust if it is unable to meet the requirements of the notice. The RSC may also

Central Bedfordshire Council

Priory House, Monks Walk
Chicksands, Shefford
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

Telephone 0300 300 8000
Email info@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

decide to implement other measures to improve the school, rather than terminate the funding agreement.

As a result of the above, we have been working with the DfE and the academy trust to consider options for Sandye Place Academy's future.

It is important to be clear that no decision has yet been taken. However, the possibility of closure may be important to you.

Whilst the school your child attends is not directly affected by this development, as Sandy parents and carers we felt you would want to be alerted to this development and will continue to work in partnership with all schools to keep you informed.

Yours faithfully



Sue Harrison
Director of Children's Services