

NEW SHROPSHIRE VISION FOR EDUCATION

We have one aim: to maintain and continue to improve excellent education in Shropshire.

Children and young people in Shropshire will have the opportunities to achieve their best and develop a love of learning. Shropshire's schools will work together with parents, carers and the wider community to ensure we achieve better outcomes for our children and young people through collaboration than we would individually. We aim to prepare them for the next stage of their lives, in terms of learning and their social and emotional development.

The vision reflects the overarching statement of values and behaviours of Shropshire Council to:

1. Focus on meeting the needs of our customers
2. Value each other and achieve more by working and learning together
3. Use the resources we have responsibly
4. Recognise the value difference can make and treat everyone with respect
5. Build trust by expressing ourselves openly and honestly

Any **strategy for change** developed from this vision must:

- Be adaptable, and able to develop over time.
- Recognise the need for diversity, acknowledging that one solution is unlikely to meet the range of contexts, needs and aspirations within a county as varied as Shropshire.
- Above all, put the learners' entitlements at the heart of the decision-making.

1. To meet the needs of our learners we seek to:

- Reflect the benefits of learning, living and working in Shropshire, with all of its particular characteristics, and build on the existing strengths of our education provision.
- Ensure that wherever they live everyone feels they belong to the larger learning community of Shropshire, and that they have the opportunity and the aspiration to develop and achieve to their potential.
- Ensure that all children and young people in Shropshire: are healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic well-being.
- Ensure that learning is enjoyable because teaching is exciting and challenging, and that learners are happy and sustain their engagement in learning throughout their lives.
- Ensure that through a broad curriculum and extra-curricular activities they gain knowledge, skills and experience and develop creativity, thinking skills and social and emotional skills. Our aims are that they become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.
- Provide a journey through education, from pre-school to adult education, which is coherent.
- Develop individual learners' talents and interests and ensure that their needs are met. We will challenge the more able, meet the needs of those with particular talents and identify and tackle additional learning needs early. Our aim is to narrow the gap between those who achieve well and those who underachieve.

2. To value each other and achieve more by working and learning together we will:

Ensure effective partnerships between the council and all key partners. These will include:

- All learners and their families and carers.
- Professionals working within the early years, schools, colleges, Children's Centres and extended schools.
- Diocesan partners.
- Other agencies that support learning across the county.
- Representatives of the wider community of Shropshire.

We will also:

- Promote the importance of families and carers working together with providers in their communities to help their children.
- Actively involve learners in the design and development of education provision, including school buildings.
- Increase the use of information technology to support all learners, for example through the use of the Shropshire Learning Gateway and video conferencing.
- Encourage providers to innovate and develop models of excellence through extending links within and beyond the local authority, developing local, national and international links and working with higher education centres.
- Support the continued development of higher education in Shropshire.
- Encourage all providers to work in partnership, with different approaches being explored and developed.

Through, for example:

- Ensuring all schools are aware of the range of current partnerships, and enhance these where necessary.
- Developing further formal partnerships between, for example, small primary schools, larger and smaller primary schools, primary and secondary schools, between secondary schools, between schools and colleges, in order to build and sustain a viable network of provision across the county.
- Further developing models of sharing staff who work across a number of schools or providers, for example specialist teachers, teaching assistants, one-to-one tutors, learning mentors and school administrators.
- Linking up schools across the county to work on specific areas of development - e.g. developing curriculum innovation or the role of the school business manager.
- Considering alternative models of leadership (including governance) to secure sufficient and effective future leaders across the county.

3. To use the resources we have responsibly we will:

- Develop schools and other education buildings as centres within their localities, with assets that can benefit children, young people and the wider community.
- Provide flexible, high quality learning environments so that teaching and learning can be as effective as possible.
- Provide advice and support to develop further teaching, learning and achievement.
- Ensure that funding for all providers is sustainable, fair and transparent to all, including additional sources of income (for example, project or grant funding).

- Establish a sustainable and coherent network of provision to meet learners' differing needs at all stages.

4. To recognise the value difference can make and treat everyone with respect we will:

- Encourage all providers to develop their own visions and characteristics.
- Celebrate diversity both within and beyond Shropshire.
- Support providers to look outside their own communities, and Shropshire's particular context, so that learners come to understand their place in the wider world.
- Invest in the development of all professionals, continuing to develop the full workforce.

5. To build trust by expressing ourselves openly and honestly we will:

- Build on our shared values, beliefs and aspirations.
- Ensure that decision-making is as inclusive, open and transparent as possible.

Principles which underpin the review of Secondary school provision (15.11.10 – 14.01.11)

1. Any change to current network of secondary schools must ensure breadth of opportunity and access to high quality education is maintained and standards and performance may be improved at the best possible value, taking into account the revenue and capital resources available at local authority and school level.
2. Sufficient capacity must exist to accommodate displaced pupils in the area taking into account overall supply and likely future demand for school places.
3. Any pupil displaced from their current school will continue to have access to extended services, opportunities for personal development, access to academic & vocational training, measures to address barriers to participation and support for young people with SEN & disabilities.
4. 16-19 education will be organised to ensure that in every area Shropshire learners will have access within reasonable travelling distance to high quality learning opportunities across schools, colleges and work based training routes.
5. The review will take into consideration how current and future school provision within a local area meets the needs of the wider community set out in the Core Strategy and Local Development framework.

Criteria for reviewing secondary schools

1. Standards & school improvement

- a) New governance and management solutions for any school entering Ofsted category of concern.
- b) Consideration of any school performing below these standards of performance at GCSE 5+ A*-C including English/maths falls:
below 30% for more than 1 year or significantly below LA average over 2 years
- c) value added measure falls on average significantly below LA average over 2 yrs

2. Effective use of resources

Shropshire's local funding formula considers any secondary school with less than 600 or 120 pupils per year group on roll as small (41% of Shropshire secondary schools).

Schools forecast to attract less than 120 pupils per year group over period of 3+ years will be reviewed since they may find it difficult to afford to employ sufficient staff to deliver full curriculum without significant curriculum funding (currently approximately £25000 at Lacon).

3. Access to education

- a) No individual pupil's travel time to school should exceed 60 minutes or be over 17.5 miles from a secondary school.
- b) Sufficient capacity exists in alternative local secondary schools to meet current and future demand for school places taking into account available capital investment and need to enhance & increase participation rates in post 16 education and training.

Proposal to close a secondary school must take into account

- effectiveness of school in meeting needs of different groups and whether or not this would be affected by any closure
- effectiveness of alternative structures in meeting the needs of the area to provide broad 14-19 entitlement and increasing post 16 participation
- consideration of effect on families and community especially where school is providing access to extended services, including leisure facilities & family support services
- the number of pupils being prevented from travelling sustainably in terms of health and safety and any impact on the carbon footprint

Criteria for reviewing primary schools

1. Quality of education

- a) New governance and management solutions for any school entering Ofsted category of concern.
- b) Consideration of any school performing below one or both of these standards:
In schools with cohorts of 10+ 55% achieve level 4+ in English & Maths for 2+ yrs
Value added measures fall significantly below LA average over 2+ years
- c) Difficulties in recruiting a Head/other staff due to falling rolls and workload pressures

2. Effective use of resources

- a) Surplus capacity exceeds 30 places and/or 25% of agreed net capacity over 3 years
- b) Condition of school and if it fails to meet minimum carbon efficiency standards
- c) Where continuance of school building is impossible without disproportionately large capital investment

3. Access to education

- a) No individual pupil's travel time to school should exceed 45 minutes and that alternative primary schools are available within 6 miles of a pupil's home.
- b) Sufficient capacity exists in alternative local secondary schools to meet current and future demand for school places taking into account available capital investment

Any change to the current network of Shropshire schools must ensure that opportunity and access to high-quality education is affordable within the funds allocated to Shropshire and its schools and every learner has access within reasonable travelling distance, to high-quality learning opportunities across schools, colleges and work-based training.

February 2nd 2011 Cabinet meets to receive/evaluate consultation/review and consider strategy