

Consultation on the proposal to close boarding provision in Winchester secondary schools



Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views about the proposal to close the boarding provision at The Westgate School and Kings' School.

The consultation will run until **Friday 15 June 2012**.

A report will then be prepared to take into consideration all of the consultation responses, set out the issues and make recommendations to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at his decision day in July 2012.

For further information, go to www.hants.gov.uk/boardingreview



Hampshire
County Council

www.hants.gov.uk

Consultation on the proposal to close boarding provision in Winchester Secondary Schools

Summary

Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views about the proposal to close the boarding provision at The Westgate School and Kings' School.

The proposal has come about because of a significant drop in the number of children of service personnel, for whom the boarding houses were originally provided, now seeking a place in Hampshire's boarding provision and concerns about the viability of the boarding provision at The Westgate School in particular.

Maintained boarding provision in Hampshire is currently available at The Westgate School for up to 34 girls and Kings' School for up to 32 boys.

The number of girls accessing boarding provision at The Westgate School has been a concern for several years. Of the present twenty seven boarders, 17 will have left the school by the end of July 2013 with low numbers in the lower year groups (see table below). As at January 2012, of the 27 girls boarding at The Westgate one is a member of a service family. Two girls are from families resident in Hampshire, six are from families resident in the United Kingdom and 19 are from overseas families.

Boarding numbers at Kings' remain at a level to make the provision economically viable and as at January 2012, of the 29 boys boarding at Kings' five are members of service families. 11 boys are from families resident in Hampshire, seven are from families resident in the United Kingdom and 11 are from families living overseas.

The forecast number of boarders for each school

The table below gives the actual and forecast number of boarders (as reported by each of the schools in January 2012):

Westgate School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Total
2011/12	2	4	4	7	9		1	27
2012/13	1	2	4	6	7			20
2013/14		1	2	4	6			13
2014/15			1	2	4			7
2015/16				1	2			3

Kings School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Total
2011/12	6	5	5	6	4	2	1	29
2012/13	6	6	5	5	6	2	2	32
2013/14	6	6	6	5	5			28
2014/15	6	6	6	6	5			29
2015/16	6	6	6	6	6			30

Frequently asked questions

What would happen to the pupils?

Any pupil currently using the boarding houses will be entitled to remain on the school roll until the end of their Year 11 education. Should the boarding houses close earlier than the end of pupils' Year 11 education the Local Authority and school will work with pupils and their families to identify appropriate alternative arrangements.

I have a child in Y7 in boarding and a younger child I would like to board starting in September 2013. Is this possible?

The proposal is that no new boarders will be accepted with effect from the September 2013 admissions round.

My children were considering continuing their education at Peter Symonds College but remaining in the boarding house attached to Kings and Westgate. What happens if closure is approved?

If boarding provision at Kings and The Westgate schools is closed Peter Symonds College has its own boarding establishments and your children will be able to apply for a boarding place at the appropriate time. Once they have closed the boarding houses at Westgate and Kings School will not be available for post-16 pupils.

Why hasn't this consultation covered the provision of additional primary places in Winchester?

There is a separate consultation on the provision of additional primary places in Winchester. You can find the consultation document at: www.hants.gov.uk/winchesterprimaryplaces

Is this consultation just about closing Rotherly boarding house to allow the site to be used to provide additional primary places in Winchester?

No, the boarding situation at The Westgate School has been the cause of some concern for a number of years given the significant drop in the children of service personnel seeking a boarding place. The proposals to close the

boarding provision, were drawn up before, and independently of the proposals for the new primary provision. However examination of the closure proposals revealed the possibility of the Rotherly Boarding House on the Westgate School site providing the opportunity for the new primary provision.

Until recently it had not proved possible to identify an appropriately located new site within the existing built up Winchester area which could accommodate significant additional primary school places. The site of the boarding provision at The Westgate School (Rotherly House) is large enough to create a 420 place primary facility as an expansion to an existing school and is located at the heart of the residential areas which are showing the greatest pressure on school places.

If most responses suggest that the boarding provision in the schools should remain open, will the decision still be to close the houses?

The County Council has to question the reason for boarding in Hampshire and whether it now meets the main need, i.e. to provide boarding places for the children of service personnel. The County Council also has to consider the issues around the financial losses being made by The Westgate School on its boarding provision and the capital improvements needed on the Rotherly House boarding facility.

If there are reasons why the boarding provision should remain open then the County Council wishes to hear them through this consultation.

Why not make Kings House a mixed gender facility?

It might be possible to make the Kings Boarding house into a mixed gender facility. However, the fundamental reason for the consultation is to answer the question about why we have boarding in Hampshire. As a non-statutory provision and with a change in demography of the pupils now accessing the boarding houses, i.e. the pupils from service families are in a minority, should we continue with the boarding provision? Is it right that non-service pupils from outside Hampshire have places at these highly popular Winchester schools that would otherwise go to more local children?

What would happen to the staff?

Should the decision be that the boarding houses will close then consultations will take place with all staff and with trade unions. At the same time, and as numbers in the boarding houses fall, some staff will probably be in a redundancy situation. Those staff will be entitled to a redundancy payment based on length of service and grade. If over 55 and given redundancy those staff will be able to access their pensions.

If staff are not able to access their pension the County Council will support them to apply for alternative positions within Hampshire.

Where staff work in the school and in the boarding house their employment with the school will continue but their employment in the boarding house will cease.

If staff are to be made redundant will there always be a sufficient number of staff on duty in the boarding houses to keep my child safe?

The welfare and safety of pupils is paramount and will not be compromised. Staffing levels will reflect this.

When is the boarding provision likely to close?

The timing of any proposed closure of the boarding establishments will form part of the consultation process but would be no earlier than July 2013 and would not necessarily be the same at both schools. Closure could be several years later at Kings School where there are no financial losses or capital improvements to take into consideration. A decision to cease to admit boarders will be taken at the same as any decision to close the boarding establishments in keeping with the School Admission Code.

Is there any financial issues?

The closure of boarding provision at The Westgate and Kings' Schools will have revenue and capital implications which will be discussed in detail with the schools. A financial appraisal will form part of the report back on the outcome of consultations.

What happens after this consultation?

This consultation will run until 15 June 2012. Officers will then prepare a report which will take into consideration all the consultation responses, set out the issues and make a recommendation to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at his decision day in July 2012.

How long before we know for certain what will happen?

There will be uncertainty now until a decision is taken in July 2012. If the decision is to close the boarding houses public notices will be published in early September, setting out the County Council's intention. The notices will run for six weeks during which time any representations can be sent to the Local Authority. Any representations will then be reported back in December 2012 when a final decision about the boarding provision will be made.

Will I have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and ask questions?

Yes. Consultation meetings are arranged for parents, staff and other interested members of the community (see page 6).

Where parents/carers of boarders are unable to attend one of the meetings listed below then consultation will be conducted through other means, including the use of email.

At the meetings you will have the opportunity to hear County Council officers explain the reasons for the proposal and the process and timescales to be followed but, most importantly, they will want to hear your views. These will be reported back to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in July 2012.

Further questions

If you have further questions or would like more information which is not covered in this document please contact:

Martin Shefferd
School Organisation Officer
Elizabeth II Court East
Children's Services Department
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester SO23 8UG
Email: martin.shefferd@hants.gov.uk
Telephone: 01962 845746

And we will put your question and an answer onto this web site in the frequently asked questions section.

How can my views be heard?

We will listen to views at the consultation events.

We will also consider all electronic or hard copy returns. We urge you to use the response form and complete it in detail. A response using the electronic survey form would be the most efficient for our analysis.

www.hants.gov.uk/boardingreview

The closing date for responses is 15 June 2012.

This document is available in large print or other languages, on request.

Consultation meetings

Meetings will be held at The Westgate School and Kings' School on the following dates:

Drop-in sessions	The Westgate School	10 May 2012	3:30-5:30pm	School foyer
	The Westgate School	15 May 2012	8:30 – 10:30am	School foyer
	Kings School	16 May 2012	8:30 – 10:30am	School foyer
	Kings School	22 May 2012	3:30 – 5:30pm	School foyer

Parent Meetings	The Westgate School	23 April 2012	6:30pm	School Hall
	Kings School	24 April 2012	6:30pm	Music/drama room

You are welcome to attend any of the above meetings.

Separate consultation meetings are being arranged for staff and governors.

Westgate boarding staff	30 April 2012	2:00pm	Rotherly boarding house
Westgate boarders	30 April 2012	3:30pm	Rotherly boarding house
Kings boarding staff and boarders	2 May 2012	tbc	Kings boarding house
Westgate school staff	9 May 2012	3:20pm	School Hall
Westgate governors	9 May 2012	5:00pm	School Hall
Kings school staff and governors	14 May 2012	3:30pm	School Hall

This page is left intentionally blank

Consultation on the proposal to close boarding provision in Winchester

Public Consultation
28 March - 15 June 1012

Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views about the proposal to close the boarding provision at The Westgate School and Kings' School in Winchester.

In recent years there has been a significant drop in the number of children of service personnel, for whom the boarding houses were originally provided, now seeking a boarding place in Hampshire. This has led to concerns about the viability of the boarding provision at Westgate school in particular.

If the decision is taken to close the boarding provision at the schools, this would be no earlier than July 2013 and would not necessarily be the same at both schools - for example, closure could be several years later at Kings' School.

The welfare and safety of pupils is paramount, and as such the County Council would work with existing pupils and their families to identify appropriate alternative arrangements.

Responding to the consultation is entirely voluntary. If you would like to respond, please read the supporting information on our web page [www.hants.gov.uk/boarding review](http://www.hants.gov.uk/boarding_review).

All responses to this consultation will be treated as confidential. This means that when the results are reported we may quote what you have told us but you will not be identified. The responses will be kept for one year.

The consultation results, and analysis of the findings, will be published and taken into consideration by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at his decision day in July 2012.

***In order to complete the survey, you must tick one of the proposals set out below (please select one option only):**

Do you agree with the proposals to close the boarding establishments?

- Option A - Yes, I agree with the proposal to close the boarding establishment.

- Option B - No, I disagree with the proposal to close the boarding establishments.

Please provide any additional comments here:

Please choose one of the following options:

Do you have a connection with:

- The Kings' School
- Westgate School
- Neither

Which of the following best describes your connection with the schools:
(please tick one only, this should be your main interest).

- Parent of child at the school
- Parent of a boarder
- Boarder
- Member of teaching/support staff
- Member of boarding staff
- Headteacher
- School governor
- Parent of pre-school age child
- Member of the community
- Other (please specify)

About you

The information you provide is voluntary and confidential. You do not have to fill in this section if you do not want to. If you complete this section you will be agreeing to us holding this information but using it for monitoring purposes only. Please tick the boxes that apply to you.

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Are you:

- Male
- Female

Please indicate your age range:

- 17 – 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 44
- 45 – 54
- 55 – 64
- 65 – 74
- 75 - 84
- 85 or over

Ethnicity

Please choose one section from A – E, then select the appropriate option to indicate your ethnic group

A. White:

- British
- Irish

Any other White background (please specify)

B. Mixed:

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian

Any other Mixed background (please specify)

C. Asian or Asian British:

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background (please specify)

D. Black or British Black:

- Caribbean
- African

Any other African background (please specify)

E. Chinese or other ethnic group:

- Chinese

Any other (please specify)

Where do you live?

- Basingstoke and Deane
- East Hampshire
- Eastleigh
- Fareham
- Gosport
- Hart
- Havant
- New Forest
- Rushmoor
- Test Valley
- Winchester
- Other (please specify)

Please submit this form electronically to martin.shefferd@hants.gov.uk or to the address below:

Martin Shefferd
School Organisation Officer
Elizabeth II Court East
Children's Services Department
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester SO23 8UG

by Friday 15 June 2012