

DRAFT SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2003-2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

1. The draft School Organisation Plan (SOP) 2003 –2008 is to be published for consultation with the local community. Following consultation during the autumn term the draft SOP, and any comments received on it, will be considered by Southwark's School Organisation Committee (SOC). It is then for the SOC to agree the final version of the SOP.
2. The SOP is to cover a period of five years and will be updated at least every three years.
3. The draft Plan sets out the strategic vision and provides the context and framework in which Southwark undertakes education planning to ensure, among other things, that there are sufficient school places.
4. It provides information about the numbers of children currently in Southwark's schools and projections of the possible future pupil populations.
 - For primary school planning the projections are for the whole borough and also by five smaller planning areas - in which school roll information is analysed using the current data bank of historic information to enable the projections to reflect births, migration and other information based on the old wards. This enables comparison with previous years' projections to monitor trends.
 - For secondary school planning the picture is for the borough as a whole.
5. The draft Plan draws conclusions about the need to add or remove school places. It does not, however, identify specific schools for action.

Education planning principles

6. The draft SOP sets out the general policies and principles that Southwark LEA has adopted to secure, among others,
 - The raising of standards.
 - Improved outcomes for all pupils.
 - Greater diversity in the type of schools.
 - Greater community cohesion.
7. The draft Plan's principles focus on the key objectives of **raising standards, improving outcomes for all pupils and providing greater diversity** by
 - Establishing a framework that encourages all schools in Southwark to become centres of excellence, including where appropriate the introduction of academies and specialist schools.
 - Giving consideration to the expansion of high performing and popular schools.
 - Considering, where appropriate, closure or a fresh start for failing schools.

8. Principles that reflect **parental preference for places and the need to maintain gender and denominational balance** include
- Maintaining a network of accessible local schools.
 - Planning to take account of the increasing proportion of Southwark parents seeking Southwark schools for their children.
 - Maintaining the broad proportions between denominational and non-denominational schools that exist at present.
 - Aiming for a broad balance between the numbers of boys and girls in mixed schools.
9. **Planning to ensure sufficient and appropriate places are available** is met by the following principles
- Planning for primary schools on the basis of a full rather than half form of entry.
 - Planning for future new primary schools of 2 form entry or above.
 - Adopting maximum class sizes of 30 for junior classes as well as infants.
 - Adopting a target for the removal of surplus places.
 - Aiming to have no schools with more than 25% surplus places.
 - Following the principle of inclusion in mainstream provision, where appropriate, for pupils with special education needs.
 - Recognising that primary schools, along with other early years providers, have a significant role in contributing to Early Years developments.
 - Offering 16-19 provision in Southwark to meet a rising staying on rate.
 - Making sure Southwark schools are fit for purpose through capital investment.
10. **The focus on the wider community's needs** is recognised through the principle
- that schools are a local community resource and their potential for meeting a wide range of local needs should be developed.

The draft SOP's conclusions

11. The draft SOP's principal conclusions for **special schools** are as follows:
- Ensure that pupils with special educational needs (s.e.n.) are identified and receive provision appropriate to their needs in a timely and effective manner.
 - Ensure that Southwark LEA meets all its statutory duties with regard to s.e.n.
 - Promote inclusive education so that by 2004 at least 60% of provision for s.e.n. pupils is provided within a mainstream setting.
 - Develop the capacity of schools to make high quality provision for s.e.n.
12. The principal conclusions for **primary schools** overall are that there is projected to be
- a small decrease from the current **total** primary roll of 21, 425 (11% surplus places) over the next two years to 21,380 (11.2% surplus) in 2004/05 with an increase thereafter to 22,444 (6.8% surplus) in 2007/08;
 - the projected need for **Reception** class places is projected to fall from the current roll of 3,161 (8.3% surplus) to 3,132 (8.4% surplus) in 2004/05 and then increase to 3,465 (a deficit of 1.4%) in 2007/08.

13. The principal conclusions for the five smaller planning areas are as follows:
- **North Southwark** – in the light of the projected pressure for places it would be appropriate to consider increasing in the longer term the number of Reception places in the area.
 - **Surrey Docks, South Bermondsey and Rotherhithe** – in the light of the projected decline in the overall numbers in this planning area there may need to be reductions to the numbers of places in the area.
 - **Walworth** - an increase in demand is projected for this area; as there could also be major regeneration in the area at Elephant and Castle the situation will need to be kept under review.
 - **Camberwell and Peckham** – again an increase in demand is projected, which will need to be kept under review.
 - **Herne Hill and Dulwich** – no change is proposed for this area.
14. The principal conclusion for **secondary** schools is that there is projected to be increasing pressure for Year 7 places across the borough until 2005/06, after which there is a projected shortfall of Year 7 places.
15. It is not the function of the SOP to put forward specific proposals as to how this need could be met, however, the SOP concludes that there is projected to be a future need for secondary school places.