

Newsletter

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Wigan Schools for the future



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Building schools for the future

Children and Young People's Services

Foreword

The government has recognised that schools across the country need significant amounts of investment to fully equip them to deliver teaching and learning to today's children. Each local council will receive additional funding from the government to replace or renew the school buildings that need it most.

Wigan Council and its partners intend to use this opportunity to improve the life chances of children by offering them high quality education in school buildings that are both safe and inspiring; in schools that reach out to the wider community by offering a range of facilities and learning experiences; and that ultimately provide Wigan's children with the best possible start in life.

We have already started to plan how we would like to do this and hope this newsletter will explain our plans so far and answer some of your questions. Please take time to read it.

We will produce regular newsletters so that you know what is happening and when and how you can have your say before we make decisions about schools.



Councillor Susan Loudon
Cabinet Champion for Children and Young People



Nick Hudson
Executive Director Children and Young People's Services



What are Wigan's plans for primary schools?

We are already consulting the communities of those schools in the first few years of the programme. The proposals are:

- To rebuild Leigh Central Primary School and Leigh Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School on their current sites with a Children's Centre.
- To rebuild Beech Hill Primary School on its current site with a Children's Centre and a Pupil Referral Unit.

The Council is yet to make a decision on the following proposals:

- To bring together Ince St Mary's C E Primary School and Britannia Bridge Community Primary School in a new building next to a Health Centre. The new school will also have a nursery and other community facilities
- To bring together Leigh St Peter's CE Infant School and Leigh St Peter's CE Junior School on the Junior School site with a nursery.

Plans for later years have not yet been considered. When we have the plans in place, we will consult the schools and communities affected.



How can I keep in touch with what is happening?

There are different ways you can keep in touch:

- We will produce a newsletter like this one at regular intervals.
- We will send you more detailed information when we are consulting about any changes to your child's school.
- Schools will send out information about what is happening at their school
- You can look on the council website www.wigan.gov.uk
- You can make your views known by contacting us by email at: schoolsforfuture@wigan.gov.uk or by writing to us at the address on the back page.

When will the changes to secondary schools be made?

The Building Schools for the Future Programme is so big that we will have to make the changes in phases. The government will decide the start date for each of the phases and we hope to have more information in Spring 2009.



Photo: Artist Impression

What is Wigan Schools for the Future?

Wigan Schools for the Future is the phrase we use to cover the government's capital building programmes for schools in Wigan. These are the **Building Schools for the Future** programme for secondary schools and the **Primary Strategy for Change** for primary schools.



Photo: Artist Impression

How will my child be affected?

If your child will leave secondary school before September 2011 they will not be affected. Children who leave school after September 2011 may also not be affected depending on the time table that is agreed with the government for each school.

- Building Schools for the Future will mean that schools are enabled to provide education to equip children for life in the twenty-first century. This will give them greater opportunities when they leave school.
- When changes are being made to schools we will work closely with pupils and their parents to make sure that there is as little disruption as possible to their education.



What are Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Strategy for Change?

The government set up the **Building Schools for the Future** programme so that every local council can rebuild or modernise its secondary schools. The government has made large sums of money available to do this and we estimate that Wigan Council will receive about £250 million over the next twelve years.

The **Primary Strategy for Change** will provide around £60 million over the next fourteen years to rebuild and modernise Wigan's primary schools.

How can my family get involved?

You can get involved by responding when we consult you about:

- The whole plan for Building Schools for the Future; and
- Changes we want to make to your child's school or the school they will move on to when they are eleven.

We will also hold meetings and events to tell you what is going on and to find out your views.

Children, young people and their families will also be involved when we start to design the new buildings.



Photo: Artist Impression

Is Wigan Schools for the Future just about new buildings?

No. We must use the money for 'Educational Transformation'. This means that we must first rethink the way in which education is delivered and then provide buildings that help us make these changes. We need to:

- Raise educational standards by changing the way we teach and children learn
- Ensure that schools are the right size and in the right location for the communities they serve
- Make sure that schools are able to offer services for the whole of their community such as public libraries and health facilities.



What are Wigan's plans for secondary schools?

You may already have seen some details of what we plan to do in the local newspapers.

Our plans for each area of Wigan Borough are shown on the map

The secondary schools not shown on the map will be rebuilt or modernised on their current sites and some will alter in size.



Will this definitely happen?

Nothing will be decided **until**:

- The government has looked at our plans and told us if we can now start on our Building Schools for the Future programme. They will tell us this in Spring 2009.
- We have consulted parents and all the other people and groups who are interested in education in Wigan to ask if they agree with our ideas or have other suggestions to make.

