

Our ref: CSCD/08/11
Date: 8th November 2023

Dear parent/carer,

Please find attached a copy of the public announcement that has been issued by Central Bedfordshire Council today. This announcement provides an update on plans to transition schools to a two-tier model of education.

I have also recorded [this short video](#) explaining the announcement.

I can confirm that the planned transition to two-tier across Shefford and Stotfold will not take place by September 2025 or 2026 for schools that have not yet made this change and at this stage, we do not currently have a date for this transition.

Furthermore, the planned relocation and expansion of your school will not be completed in September 2024 but will instead be considered as part of the wider cluster plan.

Therefore, if you are thinking about the next stage of schooling for your child, there will be no change to your options.

The announcement explains that the Council's school place planning data shows that the number of children expected to need school places in the short to medium term in our area has reduced. This, paired with the fact that at least two lower schools in the cluster could not accommodate the facilities required to transition to the two-tier model as previously planned, means that we need to look at plans for the cluster again.

We recognise this may be frustrating and unsettling for you, particularly as you will want to plan your child's school journey and I'm afraid we don't yet have all the answers, so we cannot provide a new plan at this stage.

What's next?

Although we cannot provide a plan at this stage for Shefford and Stotfold, what we can say is that any new plan will be subject to consultation and once agreed, it is expected that it will take two to three years for schools to transition to the two-tier model. So, changes will not happen quickly and therefore you will have time to plan for your children's education journey.

We know that many of you will have more questions than this announcement answers and officers at the Council will be supporting us in answering any immediate questions you may have. We will also continue to work with the Council to ensure that you receive regular updates as planning for our area progresses.

In the meantime, you will be able to find the latest information via <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/schools>

Central Bedfordshire Council

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Kind regards,

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