

My ref: HAB/sp/Cabinet  
Your ref:  
Date: 17 June 2011  
Contact: Sian Phillips  
Direct dial: 01223 699796  
E Mail: Sian.phillips@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



**Children and Young People's Services**  
Executive Director: Adrian Loades

**Strategy and Commissioning**

To:

See distribution list at the end of letter.

Box No: CC1209  
Castle Court  
Shire Hall  
Cambridge  
CB3 0AP

Tel: 01223 699796

Dear Sir or Madam

**Future of Educational Provision in Gamlingay:  
Decision of the County Council's Cabinet**

On Tuesday, 14 June 2011, the County Council's Cabinet considered the outcome of the public consultation process on the future of educational provision in Gamlingay and made its decision on the way forward. This consultation was necessary because Gamlingay Village College had become the subject of special measures following an inspection of the school by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

The consultation process involved obtaining the views of parents, staff and governors of Gamlingay First School and Gamlingay Village College, parents of pre-school children, the local community and other stakeholders on three possible options. These options were outlined in the consultation paper, which was circulated widely, and were discussed in detail at a series of consultation meetings.

The Cabinet decided to take forward the first of the three options. This means that the current three-tier education system will be retained, with the First School and the Village College in Gamlingay remaining as they are. The Village College will continue to feed into Stratton Upper School, in Biggleswade. Formal Federation arrangements will be developed between Gamlingay Village College and Stratton Upper School.

A Federation involves two or more schools agreeing to enter into a formal partnership, whereby one governing body has collective responsibility for all of the schools in the Federation, but each school retains its own individual identity and is the subject of separate Ofsted inspections.

The next steps in this process are that:

- the governing bodies of Gamlingay Village College and Stratton Upper School must now consult on a formal Federation proposal;
- each governing body must then consider the feedback from the consultation and decide whether or not to proceed with the Federation;
- if both governing bodies agree, they would then proceed to implementation.

The earliest a formal Federation could be established would be Spring 2012.

In the meantime, the local authority will continue to support Gamlingay Village College in improving educational standards at the school and in taking forward the Ofsted action plan. We will also be working closely with the First School to address any issues that have arisen during the consultation process which still require resolution.

If you have any queries about the Cabinet's decision, please contact Sian Phillips in the first instance. Her contact details are set out at the beginning of this letter.

Yours faithfully



Hazel Belchamber  
Head of Infrastructure

To:

Bassingbourn Village College, Comberton Village College and Longsands Learning Partnership  
Local County and District Councillors  
Gamlingay Parish Council  
South Cambridgeshire District Council  
Central Bedfordshire Council  
Local Members of Parliament