



Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027 consultation

Open date: 14 February 2022

Close date: 3 April 2022

Name: Education Transformation and Improvement Team

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Overview

We are reviewing the Buckinghamshire Education Strategy and we want to hear your views on the key priority areas for 2022 to 2027.

A strategy for Education and Skills was developed for Buckinghamshire in 2018 as a result of collaboration and consultation with key stakeholders. It was designed to act as a compass for implementing continuous improvement in educational provision in Buckinghamshire until 2022.

Following further collaboration and engagement with wide range of partners, the Education Strategy has been refreshed to show the progress made and to highlight the priority areas we need to focus on in the future.

The aim of this consultation is to ensure families and education professionals are able to contribute their ideas on how the Education Strategy should be developed and what its key priorities should be, particularly in light of recent events which have had a significant impact on the education of our children and young people.

Now is the time to review and reformulate our ambitions for education in a post pandemic world and we want you to help us to do this for all children and young people in Buckinghamshire.

We are seeking your views about each of the identified priority areas to find out if these are the right areas of focus.

The draft Education Strategy 2022 to 2027

The Education Strategy will continue to have the same vision and key principles as the Education and Skills strategy 2017 to 2022, but will have the following proposed five key priority areas:

1. Access to and availability of high-quality educational places
2. Preparing our young learners to reach their potential as adults
3. Collaborative school improvement to raise standards
4. Embedding a climate of inclusion
5. Supporting the emotional health and well-being of children and young people

The five key priority areas we have identified are equally important.

How the Strategy has been developed

We have worked with key partners to shape the priorities set out in the draft Education Strategy.

An initial evaluation exercise took place in September 2021 where key groups were invited to provide feedback. This included feedback from:

- Schools
- Governors
- Early year providers
- FACT Bucks
- The Bucks Skills Hub
- Partners in the voluntary community sector

Young people, parents and carers provided feedback at the Shout Out for SEND conference in October 2021.

School Liaison Groups provided feedback in November 2021.

Internal reviews and strategic action plans within the Council's Achievement and Learning teams have been evaluated and considered.

Who the Strategy affects

The Strategy is aimed at:

- Parents, carers or guardians of children in education in Buckinghamshire
- Educational professionals in Buckinghamshire
- People in education in Buckinghamshire
- Organisations involved in providing support services for children and young people within Buckinghamshire
- Representatives from commercial and voluntary sector organisations

Other key strategies

The Education Strategy will sit alongside other key strategies that support our broader ambitions for children and young people in Buckinghamshire:

- Early Help Partnership Strategy 2022 to 2025 – due to be published later in 2022
- The Buckinghamshire SEND Education Sufficiency Strategy 2022 to 2027
- SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021 to 2023
- Skills Strategy - Skills has been identified as a key area which merits its own strategy. This will be developed during 2022.

These other key strategies are not part of this consultation.

Related documents

Before you respond to this consultation, please have a look at the following documents. These are available on the Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027 consultation page at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com>

- Draft Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027
- Education Standards Report 2020 to 2021

Online events to find out more

We are hosting three online sessions, using Microsoft Teams, for you to find out more about the draft Education Strategy. The sessions will be held on:

- Monday 7 March from 2pm to 3pm
- Tuesday 8 March from 7pm to 8pm
- Thursday 17 March from 9am to 10am

In each session, we will cover how the draft Strategy has been developed so far, what each of the priority areas cover and listen to feedback which will help us to shape the final version of the Strategy.

To sign up for one of these online sessions, email us with the session you would like to attend to engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. You can also email any questions before your online session.

How to have your say

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- Complete the online survey at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com>
- Complete, and return, printed version of the survey below
- Email us at engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

If you have any questions about this consultation, please email engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or phone on 0300 131 6000.

Please tell us your views by midnight on Sunday 3 April 2022.

What happens next

All feedback received through the consultation will be collated and analysed.

The findings will be reported to key decision-making bodies within the Council and this will inform the final version of the Strategy before it is presented to Cabinet for final ratification in summer 2022.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

Printed consultation survey

Priority 1: Access to and availability of high-quality educational places

To address this priority, we need to:

- a) Ensure there are sufficient high-quality school places to meet demand through continuous monitoring and review of population projections
- b) Work proactively in partnership with schools, particularly where there needs to be re-organisation or change to existing provision to meet need
- c) Increase provision locally for our more complex young people, particularly with regards to alternative educational provision
- d) Ensure accurate and coordinated school place allocations are completed according to the national timelines for primary / secondary allocation
- e) Ensure that there is sufficient early years education through strategic planning and support to the local childcare market
- f) Support the development and long-term sustainability of early education and childcare provision, and where there is clear evidence of need, develop new and extended quality provision within the sector

To monitor and assess our progress addressing this priority, we need to measure:

- Total number of school and early years places available in comparison to number of places in demand.

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that 'Access to and availability of high-quality educational places' should be a priority for the Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

2. Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

3. We have identified a number of actions (a to f, outlined above) that we need to take to meet this priority. Do you agree that these are the actions needed to address this priority?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

4. Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

If you think we need to consider additional action(s) to address this priority, please include them in your answer.

5. If you have any other comments related to the priority 'Access to and availability of high-quality educational places', please tell us here:

Priority 2: Preparing our young learners to reach their potential as adults

To address this priority, we need to:

- a) Provide the best start for all our young learners by ensuring there is sufficient high-quality nursery and childcare provision available for parents and carers to access
- b) Ensure high parental take up of Early Years government funded places for eligible 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds
- c) Continue to build upon the Early Years' Side by Side partnership improvement journey (where education settings share experience, expertise and best practice to raise standards) across all sectors of early years education to facilitate a culture of collective responsibility, inclusion and collaboration across sectors.
- d) Work with families to support the most vulnerable children into Early Years provision
- e) Work with safeguarding partners, including Ofsted and the Department for Education (DfE), to monitor proactively and take action to ensure providers remain compliant and keep children safe in their early years and childcare placement.
- f) Work with schools and other educational settings to promote high standards of education and the development of key life skills such as resilience and independence
- g) Support the development of a wider range of pathways that will enable school leavers to progress their learning and secure positive labour market outcomes

To monitor and assess our progress addressing this priority, we need to measure:

- Increase in percentage of eligible 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds taking up Early Years government funded places
- Increase in percentage of children from disadvantaged backgrounds taking up the fully funded places for 2-year-olds
- Percentage of early years settings that are OFSTED rated as good or outstanding
- Increasing the percentage of pupils achieving 5 Grade 4's at GCSE
- Decrease the number of percentage of pupils that become NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training)

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that 'Preparing our young learners to reach their potential as adults' should be a priority for the Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

7. Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

8. We have identified a number of actions (a to g, outlined above) that we need to take to meet this priority. Do you agree that these are the actions needed to address this priority?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

9. Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

If you think we need to consider additional action(s) to address this priority, please include them in your answer.

10.If you have any other comments related to the priority ‘Preparing our young learners to reach their potential as adults’, please tell us here:

Priority 3: Collaborative school improvement to raise standards

To address this priority, we need to:

- a) Continue to address narrowing the attainment gap between disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils and their peers
- b) Continue to develop the Side by Side model of school improvement so as to develop expertise within the school community to drive up standards
- c) Increase the support for school leaders and governors to ensure national and local priorities are addressed, with a focus on closing the attainment gap and supporting a culture of safeguarding. This will be achieved through the development of traded services to ensure the continuity of support for schools beyond statutory functions
- d) Continue to build and develop collaborative networks through engaging school leaders and governors to develop a self-sustaining, system led model
- e) Ensure that schools who are at risk of falling into a Ofsted Requires Improvement / Inadequate category are proactively supported to avoid this outcome

To monitor and assess our progress addressing this priority, we need to measure:

- Percentage of schools are Ofsted rated as good or outstanding
- Percentage of children and young people attending a good or outstanding school
- Reduction in the attainment gap of disadvantaged pupils in comparison to their peers

11.To what extent do you agree or disagree that ‘Collaborative school improvement to raise standards’ should be a priority for the Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

12.Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

13.We have identified a number of actions (a to e, outlined above) that we need to take to meet this priority. Do you agree that these are the actions needed to address this priority?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

14.Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

If you think we need to consider additional action(s) to address this priority, please include them in your answer.

15.If you have any other comments related to the priority ‘Collaborative school improvement to raise standards’, please tell us here:

Priority 4: Embedding a climate of inclusion

To address this priority, we need to:

- a) Share best practice and ensure the effective sharing of information between key partners so that every child or young person’s need or situation is accounted for and supported
- b) Continue to work with schools and settings to address the attainment gap for our most vulnerable children and young people
- c) Proactively increase support for children at risk of permanent exclusion or suspension through developing our offer of alternative education
- d) Effectively identify, track and support our “Hidden Children”- cohorts of children and young people who are more likely to fall through gaps in provision and therefore have increased vulnerability (the numbers of which are likely to increase due to the after-effects of the pandemic)

To monitor and assess our progress addressing this priority, we need to measure:

- Rate of permanent exclusions at both primary and secondary level continue to remain low
- Rate of fixed term suspensions at both primary and secondary level decrease
- Maintain high levels of school attendance, especially for the most vulnerable cohort of pupils
- Reduction in the number of exclusions and suspensions for pupils with SEND
- Reduction in the attainment gap of disadvantaged pupils in comparison to their peers (see Priority area 3)

16.To what extent do you agree or disagree that ‘Embedding a climate of inclusion’ should be a priority for the Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

17.Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

18.We have identified a number of actions (a to d, outlined above) that we need to take to meet this priority. Do you agree that these are the actions needed to address this priority?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

19.Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

If you think we need to consider additional action(s) to address this priority, please include them in your answer.

20.If you have any other comments related to the priority ‘Embedding a climate of inclusion’, please tell us here:

Priority 5: Supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people

To address this priority, we need to:

- a) Ensure that schools and Early Years settings can access training and support to address particular behaviours that are becoming evident in pupils as a result of the pandemic
- b) Ensure early identification and proactive intervention for pupils with behaviours resulting from anxieties that have emerged
- c) Improve availability and access to therapeutic services throughout the County for all children and young people who need them
- d) Develop a recruitment and retention plan to ensure there are sufficient staff in schools and settings to support pupils and young learners
- e) Deliver key initiatives such as the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme, and ensure outdoor education and other extra-curricular activities are promoted to vulnerable groups of pupils to support emotional health and well being

To monitor and assess our progress addressing this priority, we need to measure:

- Increase in the take up of eligible children of places provided through the Holiday Activity and Food programme during school holidays
- Decrease in acute presentations at paediatric services due to earlier recognition and referrals of children and young people in crisis
- Succession plans are developed in every schools / setting

21.To what extent do you agree or disagree that ‘Supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people’ should be a priority for the Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

22.Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

23.We have identified a number of actions (a to e, outlined above) that we need to take to meet this priority. Do you agree that these are the actions needed to address this priority?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

24.Please tell us the reasons for your previous answer:

If you think we need to consider additional action(s) to address this priority, please include them in your answer.

25.If you have any other comments related to the priority ‘Supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people’, please tell us here:

Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027

26.Are there any other priorities that you think should be part of the Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If ‘Yes’, please tell us the other priorities and why you think they should be part of the strategy:

27.Do you find the draft Education Strategy easy to understand?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes, it is easy to understand
- No, it is not easy to understand
- Partly, some of it is easy to understand and some of it is not
- I don't know

If you think we could make the Education Strategy easier to understand, please tell us how:

28.If you have any other comments about the draft Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 to 2027, please tell us here:

About you

29.Are you a parent, carer or guardian of child in education in Buckinghamshire (By education, we mean attending nursery, school, college or other further learning)?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No (got to question 33)

Parent, carer or guardian

30.What is the age of your child / children in education in Buckinghamshire?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Early Years (0 to 4 years)
- Reception (4 to 5 years)
- Years 1 to 6 (Primary aged 5 to 11)
- Years 7 to 11 (Secondary aged 11 to 16)
- Years 12 to 13 (Post 16 aged 16 to 18)
- Year 14 (Post 16 aged 19)
- Age 20 to 25

31.Does your child / any of your children have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

32.Which village / town do you live in?

We want to hear and understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your village / town, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

33.Are you responding to this consultation as an educational professional in Buckinghamshire?

Please tick (✓) one option

- Yes
- No (got to question 36)

Educational professional in Buckinghamshire

34.Which of the following best describe your role as an educational professional in Buckinghamshire?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Childcare / nursery sector professional
- Primary school Head / teacher or other representative
- Secondary school Head / teacher or other representative
- Special School Head / teacher or other representative
- Alternative Provision Head / teacher or other representative
- College Head / teacher or other representative
- University or higher education provider representative
- Buckinghamshire Independent education provider
- School governor / academy trustee
- Education professional from support agencies e.g. CAMHS
- Other (please give details below):

35. Which village / town do you work in?

We want to hear and understand the views of people working in different areas. You don't have to provide the village / town where you work, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

About you

36. Which, if any, of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- A student, over 16 years old, in education in Buckinghamshire
- A representative of a business in Buckinghamshire
- A representative of a voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- An elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

37. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group), please provide the following details:

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

38.How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Buckinghamshire Family Information Service
- Families and Carers Together (FACT) Buckinghamshire
- Letter to my school / education setting
- Schools Bulletin
- Schools Web
- Local media (newspaper, radio or TV)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Nextdoor
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Buckinghamshire Council newsletter
- From Buckinghamshire Council staff
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Local Community Board
- Local councillor
- Local Parish / Town Council
- Other (please give details below):

End of the survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return your completed survey by midnight on **Sunday 3 April 2022**. You can:

- Email it to engageeducation@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Post it to **Education Strategy 2022**, Education Transformation and Improvement Team, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA
- Take it to our council access point at Walton Street Offices, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA