



Sandye Place Academy
Achievement Through Partnership



11th June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Decision Making on the Future of Sandye Place

Shortly before the Easter holidays, letters were distributed to parents which alerted everyone to the possibility that the Department for Education (DfE) would consider the future viability of the school.

This review was prompted as a result of the school's recent 'inadequate' Ofsted judgment. Further, an analysis of the need for school places in the future has been conducted. In Sandy, this analysis has showed that there are more school places available in the area than are needed, and that this 'surplus' of places would grow in future years. Such a surplus can begin to challenge the viability of schools if it leads to one or more schools not being full. The biggest surplus in numbers is in the middle year groups and therefore in Sandye Place Academy particularly, there have been concerns about the future viability of the school.

As an academy, Sandye Place is not a Central Bedfordshire Council maintained school but an independent academy governed by its Trust and accountable to the Department for Education (DfE).

This week, the DfE has issued the Academy Trust a Termination Warning Notice to which it has a maximum of 15 days to respond. Following consideration of the Trust's representations, DfE Ministers will decide whether to make a decision in principle on whether to close the school. If the decision in principle is made the DfE will hold a listening period during which all stakeholders will be able to put their views on the proposed closure to the Secretary of State. Further details of how you can respond during this listening period will be made available by the DfE.

Clearly this is a very difficult decision for everyone, including the school's pupils, parents and staff and we are united in our commitment to support everyone as much as we can during the next phase of activity.

If closure of Sandye Place was progressed, please be reassured that it would not take effect until September 2019. However, if Sandye Place Academy did not close there would be a surplus of places in the Sandy area which would put an unacceptable budget pressure on the remaining Sandy schools, which could potentially result in another school having to close.

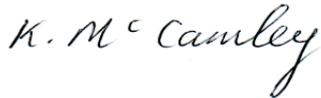
We also wanted to assure you that we are working closely together and with the wider community of schools in the Sandy area to ensure that if closure is progressed, all our children would continue to have access to places at good local schools. We appreciate the diverse needs of our pupils and will work to ensure the unique requirements of all pupils are properly understood.

We will continue to keep you up to date with developments.

Yours sincerely



Sue Harrison
Director of Children's
Services,
Central Bedfordshire
Council



Kim McCamley
Principal,
Sandye Place Academy



Hannah Ranson
Chair of the Board of
Trustees, Sandye Place
Academy