

# Hemel Hempstead Review of primary school places

September 2006

We want to hear your views



Children, Schools & Families  
01992 555845  
[www.hertsdirect.org/csfc consultations](http://www.hertsdirect.org/csfc consultations)



# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review



# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

This is a public consultation on the need to reduce the number of primary school places in Hemel Hempstead. The consultation period runs from 12 September to 4 December 2006.

During this period of consultation there will be several public meetings to discuss the proposals as follows:

Date	Venue	Time	Booking line closes
Mon 25 Sept	Eastbrook School	7-9 pm	22 Sept
Wed 27 Sept	Barncroft School	7-9 pm	22 Sept
Tues 3 Oct	Jupiter Drive School	7-9 pm	29 Sept
Wed 4 Oct	Bellgate School	7-9 pm	29 Sept
Thurs 5 Oct	Pixies Hill School	7-9 pm	29 Sept
Wed 11 Oct	Chaulden Junior School	7-9 pm	6 Oct
Tues 17 Oct	Rossgate School	7-9 pm	6 Oct
Thurs 19 Oct	Martindale School	7-9 pm	6 Oct

These meetings will be limited to a size that allows everyone the opportunity to express their views. **If you wish to attend one of these meetings you will need to register a place by calling 01438 737350.** This line will be open Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8 pm, and Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm, from Tuesday, 12 September until the closing dates given above. (Please note that this is a booking line only and you will be unable to discuss any matters relating to the review). Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

If these meetings fill, we will endeavour to accommodate additional numbers. In the past, on some occasions, a small number of people have made multiple bookings. If this occurs we may ask them to express a preference for just one meeting, to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to attend a meeting.

## You can let us know your views by:

- completing and returning the response form at the back of this booklet
- completing the online form on our website at [www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations](http://www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations)
- writing to us (freepost) if you do not want to use the form, to:  
Hemel Hempstead Consultation  
CSF School Access  
Freepost HJ71  
Hertfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
Hertford SG13 8YD
- emailing us at [education.planning@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:education.planning@hertscc.gov.uk)

However you choose to respond, please let us know if you have other suggestions or options. **Please ensure that your response is received by the end of the consultation period on 4 December 2006.**

This document is being widely distributed within the Hemel Hempstead area. If you would like more copies, please ring us on 01992 555845, or you can view it online at [www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations](http://www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations)

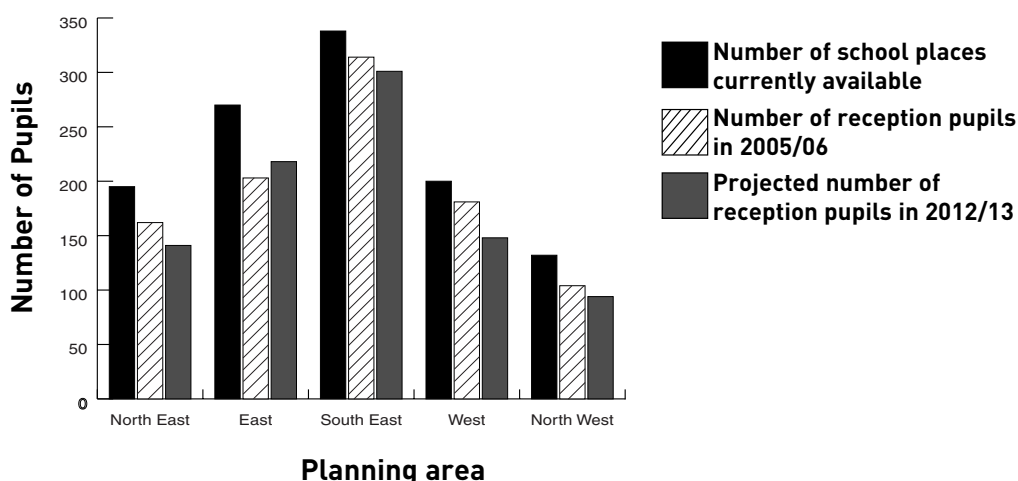
# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

## Why do we need to look at the number of primary school places in Hemel Hempstead?

The birth rate has declined nationally and there is a reducing number of primary age pupils, which means that fewer school places are needed. There is already a significant number of surplus school places in Hemel Hempstead, and this level of surplus is forecast to increase in some parts of the town.

The County Council has a duty to provide a sufficient number of school places. The Audit Commission recommends that there should be a surplus of between 5 and 10% to allow for parental preference to be met satisfactorily. Taking into account new housing that is currently planned, our forecast of pupil numbers across the town shows that the number of children needing a place will continue to reduce over the next 6 years. In order to forecast more accurately the expected number of pupils, Hemel Hempstead is divided into 5 planning areas. The following chart refers to those 5 areas, which are detailed in the map on page 2.

**Chart to show current and projected pupil numbers for reception classes in 2005/06 and 2012/13 compared with the number of school places currently available**



Falling pupil numbers can affect a school's ability to deliver effective education to its children. Schools are mainly funded by an amount of money for each child attending the school. If a school has falling numbers, the income decreases but many of the running costs, such as premises costs, do not reduce. Therefore, the management of the school can become very difficult, particularly maintaining high quality provision on a reducing budget, retaining and recruiting staff and having to re-organise classes on a regular or irregular basis as numbers fall. This can cause instability and affect pupils' achievement.

Providing a better match between the number of pupils and the number of places will reduce the risk of schools being adversely affected by falling pupil numbers. When undertaking a review in an urban area with reducing pupil numbers, where possible the aim is to produce schools with 2 Forms of Entry (FE), which is the same as 60 places per year group. This is because, in the long term, the County Council sees 2FE schools as being the most sustainable in terms of pupil numbers, with regard to overall performance and value for money.

# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

However, alternatives may need to be considered according to the local situation. For instance, there may be circumstances where there is no opportunity to provide a 2FE school if a good geographical spread of places is to be retained, or where a slight increase or decrease provides a more manageable admission number for a school.

Given the current and expected pupil numbers at reception, the number of school places in Hemel Hempstead needs to be reduced by 122 per year group, which is the same as 4.1FE, across the whole town. Please see the options which achieve this for each planning area, which are detailed under the section 'What are the County Council's Proposals' on pages 5 and 6.

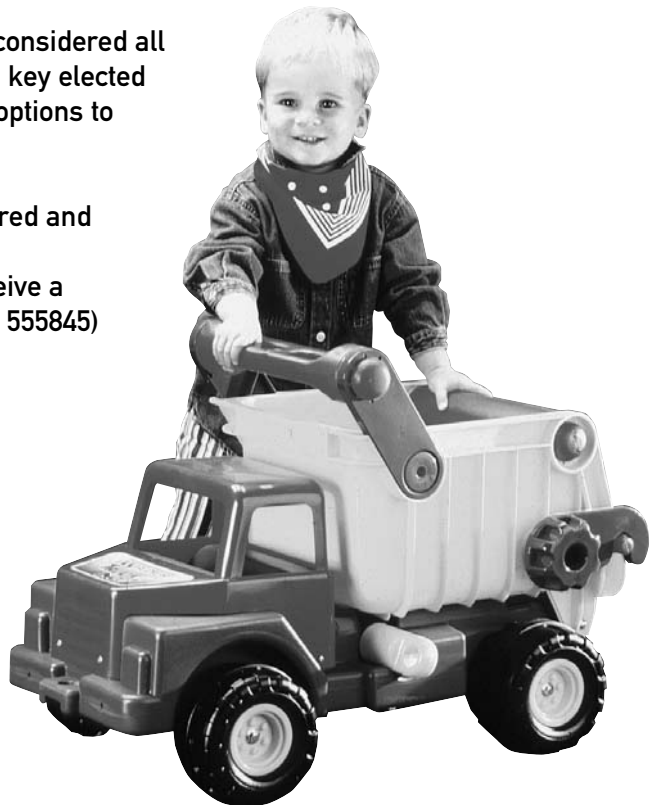
## What has happened so far?

We have worked with schools and other community representatives to establish an understanding of the issues relating to the area as a whole and those specific to individual schools. This background information and local input helped to produce a long list of possible options. Each of these options was examined against the following criteria:

- to reduce surplus places and provide places where they are needed to meet demand
- to enhance capacity to raise educational standards; reduce risk of under-performance or serious weakness, and offer extended schools
- to have acceptable implications for building design, environmental impact and cost
- to have acceptable transitional arrangements for affected pupils

The Director of Children, Schools and Families considered all this information and, following discussions with key elected Members of the County Council, decided which options to bring forward for public consultation.

(Details of all the options which were considered and discounted can be found on the website [www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations](http://www.hertsdirect.org/csfconsultations). To receive a hard copy of this document, please call 01992 555845)



# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

## What are the County Council's proposals?

As the next step in this process, the County Council is now consulting you on the following proposals.

Please see the map on page 2, which shows the 5 planning areas which are referred to below.

**Note:** 1 FE (Form of Entry) = 30 places per year group  
1.5FE = 45 places per year group  
2 FE = 60 places per year group

### **North East** - Proposed reduction of 1FE

#### **Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)**

Amalgamate Barncroft School and Eastbrook School as a 1FE primary school on the Eastbrook School site

#### **Option 2**

Close Barncroft School

#### **Option 3**

Close Eastbrook School and re-locate Barncroft School on the Eastbrook School site as a 1FE primary school.

### **East** - Proposed reduction of 1FE

#### **Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)**

Amalgamate Bellgate School and Jupiter Drive School as a 2FE primary school on the Bellgate School site.

#### **Option 2**

Close Jupiter Drive School

#### **Option 3**

Close Bellgate School and relocate Jupiter Drive School on the Bellgate School site, as a 2 FE primary school.

### **South East** - Proposed reduction of 0.3FE

#### **There is only one proposal for the South East:**

To reduce the Published Admission Number for Leverstock Green VC CofE Primary School from 38 to 30. This has been discussed with the Diocese and the School who agree in principle to this proposal.

# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

## **West** - Proposed reduction of 0.9FE

### **Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)**

Amalgamate Pixies Hill School and Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools as a 2FE primary school on the Chaulden site.

### **Option 2**

Close Pixies Hill School and amalgamate Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools as a 2FE primary school

### **Option 3**

Close Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools and relocate Pixies Hill School to form a 2FE primary school on the Chaulden site.

## **North West** - Proposed reduction of 0.9FE

### **Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)**

Amalgamate Martindale School and Rossgate School as a 1.5FE primary school on the Rossgate School site (this is an increase of 0.1FE, which would increase Rossgate School's admission number from 42 to 45).

### **Option 2**

Close Martindale School and expand Rossgate School to 1.5FE

### **Option 3**

Close Rossgate School and relocate Martindale School to the Rossgate School site as a 1.5FE primary school.

**NOTE:** Martindale School has been designated as a Lead Agency, and is currently working towards becoming a Children's Centre. Should Martindale close as a result of this consultation, the Children's Centre would continue to be provided in the area. The relevant teams within the County Council would work with the school to ensure a smooth transition.

As part of any option above, a 1 FE primary school would include a 30 place part-time nursery class and a 2FE primary school would include a 60 place part-time nursery class. All proposals would come into effect for September 2008.

**These are only proposals and, as yet, no decisions have been taken. The feedback from this consultation will be carefully considered before any decisions are made.**



## Information about the choice of proposals for all planning areas (except South East)

This review is not being carried out to address issues of achievement, which tends to be good across Hemel Hempstead, but because the level of surplus places is too high across the town. In each of the planning areas, each option results in the reduction of the same number of places. However, the method of achieving the outcome varies.

The County Council's preferred option in each area is the amalgamation of two schools to create one new primary school on a specified site. When schools are amalgamated, the good practice that has been developed in each school can be carried forward into the new school. In practice, it means that both schools would close and a new school open on the named site, with a new name and new pupil uniform. As part of an amalgamation, staff from affected schools would be treated equally. Particular sites have been identified in each area because they are either of an appropriate size, or in an appropriate geographical position.

Alternatively, some parents/carers may feel there is a case for retaining the identity of a particular school. Options addressing this have therefore been proposed. However, although these options would achieve the same outcome:-

- staff in the school remaining open would be largely unaffected whereas the staff in the closing school would all be at risk of redundancy, and
- there would not be the same opportunity to draw upon the good practice from both schools

In all areas, each option would be implemented on 1 September 2008. This allows for any building work that may be necessary as a result of these options. Temporary accommodation may be required in order to facilitate this and to allow all pupils to transfer to the resultant primary schools at the same time. This will mean friendship groups can stay together. In all proposals children currently attending the schools affected (Barncroft /Eastbrook Schools; Jupiter Drive/Bellgate Schools; Pixies Hill/Chaulden Infant & Junior Schools; Martindale/Rossgate Schools) would be offered a specific school place (see information in the next section). However, in all areas, parents/carers may wish to exercise their right to express a preference for a place at an alternative school that has space.



## Reasons for choice of proposals and information about arrangements for pupils in each planning area

### North East

#### Reason for choice of options:

- reduces school places in the area by 1FE
- retains a good geographical spread of schools across the area
- Eastbrook School is more centrally placed within this area of the town
- pupils from both schools could be accommodated on the Eastbrook School site, with the addition of some temporary accommodation for a brief transitional period

#### Pupil transition arrangements:

##### Option 1: Amalgamation

- both Eastbrook and Barncroft Schools would close on 31 August 2008
- a new 1 FE primary school would open on the Eastbrook site on 1 September 2008
- all pupils attending Eastbrook and Barncroft Schools at that time would be offered a place at the new school

##### Option 2: Closure of Barncroft School

- Barncroft School would close on 31 August 2008
- all pupils attending Barncroft School at that time would be offered a place at Eastbrook School from 1 September 2008

##### Option 3: Closure of Eastbrook School

- Eastbrook School would close on 31 August 2008
- Barncroft School would transfer, with its pupils, to operate as a 1FE primary school on the Eastbrook site on 1 September 2008
- all pupils attending Eastbrook School at that time would be offered a place at the relocated Barncroft School from 1 September 2008

(this section is continued on pages 9, 10 and 11)

# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

## East

### Reason for choice of options:

- reduces school places in the area by 1FE
- retains a good geographical spread of school places across the area
- retains a 2FE school, which is the County Council's preferred school size in an area with low pupil numbers
- the Jupiter Drive site is not large enough to accommodate a 2FE school. The Bellgate site already accommodates a 2FE school
- all pupils from Jupiter Drive and Bellgate could be accommodated on the Bellgate site

### Pupil transition arrangements:

#### Option 1: Amalgamation

- both Bellgate and Jupiter Drive Schools would close on 31 August 2008
- a new 2FE primary school would open on the Bellgate site on 1 September 2008
- all pupils attending Bellgate School and Jupiter Drive Schools at that time would be offered a place at the new school

#### Option 2: Closure of Jupiter Drive School

- Jupiter Drive School would close on 31 August 2008
- all pupils attending Jupiter Drive School at that time would be offered a place at Bellgate School from 1 September 2008

#### Option 3: Closure of Bellgate School

- Bellgate School would close on 31 August 2008
- Jupiter Drive School would transfer, with its pupils, to operate as a 2FE primary school on the Bellgate site on 1 September 2008
- all pupils attending Bellgate School at that time would be offered a place at the relocated Jupiter Drive School from 1 September 2008

## South East

### Reason for choice of proposal:

- reduces school places in the area by 0.3FE
- retains a good geographical spread of school places across the area
- there is no pupil disruption

Pupils already attending Leverstock Green VC CofE Primary School will continue to do so. The school's published admission limit will be reduced with effect from 1 September 2008, which means that they will admit 30 pupils from that time, instead of 38 as at present.

# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

## West

### Reason for choice of options:

- reduces school places in the area by 0.9FE
- retains a good geographical spread of school places across the area
- creates a 2FE school, which is the County Council's preferred school size in an area with low pupil numbers
- the Pixies Hill site is not large enough to accommodate a 2FE school. The Chaulden site already accommodates 1.9FE
- the Speech and Language Units would be retained
- all pupils from Pixies Hill School and Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools can be accommodated on the Chaulden site with the addition of some temporary accommodation for a brief transitional period

### Pupil transition arrangements:

#### Option 1: Amalgamation

- Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools and Pixies Hill School would close on 31 August 2008
- a new 2FE primary school would open on the Chaulden site on 1 September 2008.
- all pupils attending Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools and Pixies Hill School at that time, would be offered a place at the new school (including children attending the Speech and Language Units) from 1 September 2008

#### Option 2: Closure of Pixies Hill School and amalgamation of Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools

- Pixies Hill School would close on 31 August 2008
- Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools would close on 31 August 2008 and reopen as a new 2FE primary school on 1 September 2008
- all pupils attending any of these schools at that time would be offered a place at the new Chaulden Primary school from 1 September 2008

#### Option 3: Closure of Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools

- Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools would close on 31 August 2008
- Pixies Hill School would transfer, with its pupils, as a 2FE primary school to the Chaulden site on 1 September 2008
- all pupils attending Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools at that time, (including children attending the Speech and Language Units) would be offered a place at the relocated Pixies Hill School from 1 September 2008



# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

## North West

### Reason for choice of options:

- reduces school places in the area by 0.9FE
- retains a good geographical spread of school places across the area
- the Martindale site is not large enough to accommodate a 1.5 FE school. The Rossgate site already accommodates a 1.4 FE school
- pupils from Martindale and Rossgate Schools could be accommodated on the Rossgate School site, with the possibility of some temporary accommodation for a brief transitional period

### Pupil transition arrangements:

#### Option 1: Amalgamation

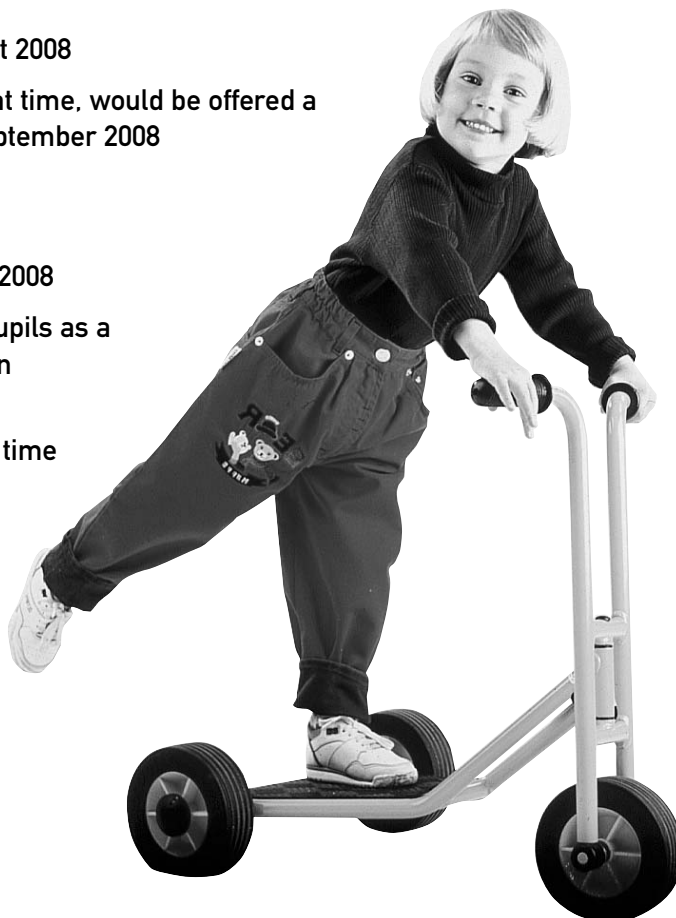
- Martindale and Rossgate Schools would close on 31 August 2008
- a new 1.5FE primary school would open on the Rossgate site on 1 September 2008
- all pupils attending Martindale and Rossgate Schools at that time would be offered a place at the new school from 1 September 2008

#### Option 2: Closure of Martindale School

- Martindale School would close on 31 August 2008
- all pupils attending Martindale School at that time, would be offered a place at Rossgate School (1.5FE) from 1 September 2008

#### Option 3: Closure of Rossgate School

- Rossgate School would close on 31 August 2008
- Martindale School would transfer with its pupils as a 1.5FE primary school to the Rossgate site on 1 September 2008
- all pupils attending Rossgate School at that time would be offered a place at the relocated Martindale School (1.5FE) from 1 September 2008



## What about school uniforms?

Any parent/carer who accepts the alternative school place offered as a result of a school closure or amalgamation will receive a financial contribution towards the cost of a new uniform. More information will be available should any of these options be implemented.

## What about transport?

If accepting the alternative school place offered means a pupil has to travel more than two miles in each direction (up to age 8 years) or more than three miles in each direction (age 8 years and over), the County Council would provide free transport. More information will be available should any of these options be implemented.

## What would happen to the staff?

### 1. Amalgamation

If, as a result of this consultation, the decision is taken to amalgamate schools, it is expected that most staff (both teaching and support) would transfer to the new school on their current terms and conditions, although it may be necessary for some of the roles, responsibilities and tasks to be changed. This will depend on the staffing structure and pupil numbers.

The posts of Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will be at risk of redundancy.

Appointments to the posts of Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher would be made by a temporary governing body which would be formed to set up the new school. These posts would be advertised nationally.

### 2. Closure

If, as a result of this consultation, the decision is taken to close a school or schools, then all staff at the school(s) concerned would be at risk. The County Council would work closely with staff at risk to redeploy them into other appropriate posts.

## How would all this be paid for?

Any capital costs associated with these proposals would be met from the sale of County Council owned sites, supplemented if necessary from within the County Council's own financial resources.

# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

## How will this consultation work?

There will be a series of meetings at the schools directly affected which will be run by an independent facilitator. The meetings will be of an appropriate size so that all views can be heard and considered, both at the meetings and subsequently by the decision-makers. For the dates and times of these meetings, please see page 2 of this booklet.

In addition, there is a response form for your views at the end of this booklet and on our website. All responses will be reported and made available to the decision-makers.

## How will the decision be taken and when?

The consultation ends on 4 December 2006. A report will be made to the Education Panel, which meets on 23 January 2007. This Panel is made up of elected members from the three main political parties. They will make a recommendation to Cabinet, which is the County Council's decision making body, and which will meet on 5 February 2007.

If Cabinet decides to proceed with any of the proposals from this consultation, the County Council will publish a statutory notice(s) of its intention in February 2007. Anybody is entitled to comment or object during the 6 week notice period.

If there are any objections to a notice, the decision as to whether or not the proposal(s) can proceed would be made by the independent School Organisation Committee for Hertfordshire.

<b>Process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public Consultation	12 September to 4 December 2006
Education Panel*	23 January 2007
Cabinet*	5 February 2007
Statutory Notices	February/March 2007
Decision by School Organisation Committee*	April 2007
* These meetings will be open to the public.	



# Hemel Hempstead Primary School Review

## We want your views response form

please return this form (freepost)  
by 4 December 2006 to:

Hemel Hempstead Consultation, CSF School Access, Freepost HJ71,  
Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8YD

1	Name and address
	Name:
	Address:
	Postcode:

2	About You (please tick the most relevant box only)	
	<p><b>SECTION A</b> I am:</p> <p>Parent/carer <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Governor <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Member of Staff <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other..... e.g resident or grandparent (please state below)</p> <p><b>SECTION B</b> I am mainly connected with:</p> <p><b>North East</b></p> <p>Barncroft School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Eastbrook School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other.....</p> <p style="text-align: right;">cont...</p>	<p><b>SECTION B (continued)</b></p> <p><b>East</b></p> <p>Bellgate School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Jupiter Drive School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other.....</p> <p><b>South East</b></p> <p>Leverstock Green School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other.....</p> <p><b>West</b></p> <p>Chaulden Infant School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Chaulden Junior School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Pixies Hill School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other.....</p> <p><b>North West</b></p> <p>Martindale School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Rossgate School <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other.....</p>

3a	Please let us know your views on the proposal(s) that affect you			
		Agree	Disagree	Don't know
	<b>North East</b>			
	<b>Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)</b>			
	Amalgamate Barncroft and Eastbrook Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Option 2</b> Close Barncroft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Option 3</b> Close Eastbrook and relocate Barncroft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>East</b>			
	<b>Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)</b>			
	Amalgamate Bellgate and Jupiter Drive Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Option 2</b> Close Jupiter Drive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Option 3</b> Close Bellgate and relocate Jupiter Drive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



