

*This booklet is just the beginning of a long process of consultation on the future of secondary education across all of Stockton-on-Tees.*

*If you are a parent, carer or student, a member of school staff or a governor, you will want to know how this might affect your school.*

*This booklet sets out some possible options for change .  
These may not be the only options. Please tell us what you think.  
The Council wants to hear from anyone interested in the future of secondary education in Stockton-on-Tees. We will consider any new options that may come out of this consultation.*

*You will also want to know **when** any changes might affect your school.  
**No changes are likely before 2012 at the earliest.***

*No decisions have been made yet, and no decisions will be made without more consultation next year.*

# Future Learning

“Future Learning” is about the future of education and other services for children and young people in Stockton-on-Tees. The first part of this booklet tells you why the future will be different:

- the desire to transform teaching and learning
- student numbers will fall by 1,500 over the next 10 years in Stockton-on-Tees
- the chance to invest £150 million in better buildings
- demands for higher standards and more diversity

The second part of the booklet puts forward some options for Future Learning across the borough. **These may not be the only options. The Council will welcome any new options you may want to suggest.**

## Reasons for Change

The government has set up a national programme to transform secondary education. They call it Building Schools for the Future (BSF). Billions of pounds will be spent on new or refurbished school buildings over the next ten years. In Stockton-on-Tees we expect to receive up to £150 million starting in 2010. We call our BSF programme “Future Learning” because it is only partly about buildings – it is mainly about transforming the way young people will learn in the future.

We live in a rapidly changing world. A world of new technology and a global economy. The pace of change keeps increasing. Future Learning is about preparing our young people for a world of constant change.

Standards in our schools have risen year by year, but some students are not achieving as well as they might. Future Learning is a wonderful opportunity to realise the potential of every student.

Different students learn in different ways. New technology will give them more choice about what to learn, how to learn, where and when to learn. Future Learning will challenge schools and colleges to work together, sharing staff and using technology to share learning.

## Stockton-on-Tees – a learning community

The borough is made up of distinctive areas, each proud of its identity and of the greater whole. Future Learning aims to meet the differing needs of each distinct area, within a strategy that considers the needs of the borough as a whole. The government does not see Stockton-on-Tees as four or five towns. It sees us as a single borough. Future Learning will bring huge investment to the borough. Your Councillors have agreed to work together to use that money to bring the best outcome for the whole borough. It is very important that we present the government with a Future Learning strategy for the borough as a whole, and one that all parts of the borough can support.

## **Time to start planning now**

Money for Future Learning will start to come to Stockton-on-Tees in 2010. We will expect to see new school buildings opening from 2012 onwards. This seems a long way off, but the planning has already started. The headteachers of the Stockton-on-Tees secondary schools, the principals of the three colleges and other partners have been talking for some time about how Future Learning might develop.

It is now time to bring school staff and governors, parents and students into this debate about the future of learning in Stockton-on-Tees. The decisions we make in the next few years will set the pattern across the borough for many decades to come. Please read this booklet and give the Council your views on Future Learning.

## **Future Learning in Stockton-on-Tees**

The Council and its partners have three priorities for Future Learning in Stockton-on-Tees:

- putting the learner first
- schools at the heart of the community
- every school a good school.

### **Putting the learner first**

This means giving every student more choice. Choosing what to learn from a very broad curriculum of traditional academic subjects and vocational (work-related) studies. No single school will be able to offer its students all these options. Schools and colleges will need to work together. Students or staff may travel between learning centres to access courses. Technology will link teachers and learners in different places. Students will learn in a range of ways – individually, in a small group or large class, from books or computers, through activity or lectures. Learning can be done in places other than school buildings and at times outside the traditional school day. The Council has ambitious plans to link all schools and other learning centres electronically to create a virtual learning environment to support personalised learning.

### **Schools at the heart of the community**

Future Learning is part of the Council's strategy for integrated services. The Council and its partners have agreed that wherever possible, education, health, social care and other services should be available within the four Integrated Service Areas. These are Billingham, North Stockton, Central Stockton, and South of the Borough (Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Eaglescliffe and Yarm). Future Learning will make sure that each of these areas has at least one secondary school as a centre of community services.

Community can mean your neighbourhood, your local town, a faith community or the borough of Stockton-on-Tees. Our young people are growing up in a global world. Future Learning must widen their horizons and help them make the most of their opportunities.

## **Every school a good school**

Stockton-on-Tees has many very good schools, and some are outstanding. Ofsted inspections and exam results show this. Future Learning will raise standards further. But we will not need as many schools in the future. Our secondary schools have places for about 13,000 students aged 11-16. In January this year there were almost 12,000 students in those schools. By 2018 that number will fall to around 10,500, leaving 2,500 empty places. The options in this booklet would reduce the number of 11-16 places to around 11,400.

## **What is the right size for a secondary school?**

There is no “right” size for a secondary school. We have successful schools with 600 students and equally successful schools with 1400. Different sizes may work better in different areas. The number of students in a school sets the size of the school budget. Larger schools can afford more staff and offer more curriculum options. Larger schools may find it easier to adapt to the changing curriculum as fourteen new vocational diplomas are phased in. Smaller schools may struggle to do this unless they work together and share resources. Future Learning is based on an optimum size of 800-1200 places per school, but there may be a need for some schools outside this range.

## **What about the 16-19 age group?**

Future Learning is also for students aged from 16 to 19. At present, education and training between age 16 and university is planned and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). This includes school sixth forms, further education colleges and work-based training. Currently between 85% and 90% of 16-year olds in Stockton-on-Tees go into education or training. The government has announced that from 2013 all “school-leavers” should stay in full-time education or training to the age of eighteen. There are already sufficient places in school sixth forms, further education colleges and training establishments to provide for their needs. The three colleges in the borough all have their own plans for new buildings on their present sites.

## **Students with complex and additional needs**

The Council has carried out a review of its services for children and young people with complex and additional needs. The review includes recommendations that will improve teaching and learning for this group of students. It is called “Altogether Better.”

The proposals in Altogether Better include co-ordinating services across the special schools, linked to the student referral units and mainstream schools, and integrated with healthcare and social care provision. The aim is to create excellent services for children with complex needs and additional needs, centred on schools as the hub of provision.

Our vision is for children and young people to be supported effectively in their own homes and schools for as long as possible, with good access to respite care, additional services where needed, and personalised support for education, training or employment at 16. This booklet does not include any changes to special schools.

## **e-learning**

Our children are living in an online world. Information, communication and interaction all take place electronically. The Council has an ambitious e-learning (electronic learning) strategy to develop these skills from early years to post-16 and beyond into lifelong learning. Our vision draws on the full range of skills, knowledge and expertise in the borough's schools and colleges, the local authority and its partners.

Our strategy is based on "ubiquitous computing." This means every student will have a personal wireless computing device for "anytime, anywhere" learning. Students and their families will not need their own home computer. This will extend opportunities for family learning, developing ICT skills for learners of all ages.

All students and teachers will be able to use online working space. This system will mean better teaching and learning opportunities. It will also keep parents informed about their children's progress, assessment and attendance.

## **The national BSF programme**

The government is providing most of the money for Future Learning as part of the national programme called Building Schools for the Future. The Council will not be able to spend this money in any way it wants. We must use the money in a way that meets the government's aims. These are:

- transforming educational opportunities to raise standards and make the most of every student's potential;
- creating school buildings fit for the twenty-first century, ready to adapt to changing technology;
- creating more different types of schools (diversity), including academies and foundation schools, and more choice for parents.

## **Transforming educational opportunities**

Future Learning means higher standards through:

- personalised learning – more choice over what to learn, where, when and how to learn;
- developing new roles for teachers and classroom assistants – making the best use of their professional knowledge and skills;
- new technology at the centre of all learning;
- schools and colleges working together, sharing facilities, staff and learning;
- Every Child Matters – bringing education, health, social care and other services together to put the needs of the child first.

## **Buildings fit for the twenty-first century**

Most of our secondary school buildings were designed more than thirty years ago. Classrooms were designed for traditional teaching: a class of thirty with a teacher at the front. This doesn't fit the idea of personalised learning very well. There is often too little space for individual study, for dining, relaxing and socialising. Future Learning will need spaces that are flexible for different-sized groups, and adaptable to changing technology.

Some of our schools are the wrong size or in the wrong place for future needs. Very few of them are fully accessible for students and visitors with disabilities. Some have poor heating, lighting and ventilation. Future Learning will give teachers and learners a better environment for learning. An environment that is safer and greener, more attractive and comfortable, and easily accessible for all students and visitors.

## **Diversity and choice**

The government believes that a wide range of different types of school can help to raise standards and offer more choice to parents. A new organisation, the Office of the Schools Commissioner (OSC), has been set up to encourage more diversity in the range of schools in each area. Before we receive any BSF money, our Future Learning strategy must be approved by the OSC.

Diversity means different types of school. Every school has a governing body made up of volunteers. They manage the school budget (up to £5 million a year in a large secondary school) and they appoint the staff. The different types of schools are governed in slightly different ways.

Nine of the 14 secondary schools in Stockton-on-Tees are **Community Schools**. The Council owns the buildings and land, and the Council controls the admission of students. The Council is the employer of the staff (although the governing body decides how many, and who to appoint). The governing body of a community school includes some representatives of the Council, as well as parents, staff and members of the community.

The other five secondary schools in the borough are **Voluntary Aided Schools**. These are governed by either the Church of England or the Roman Catholic Church. The churches appoint some of the governors, and the governing body employs staff and controls student admissions. The churches usually own the buildings.

**Academies** are independent schools funded by the government and supported by a private sponsor. The sponsor may appoint a majority of the school's governors and can influence the curriculum of the school. Academies set their own admissions policies (they must conform to the government's Admissions Code of Practice). The buildings and land are owned by the trustees of the school. Academies don't have to follow the national curriculum, nor do they have to follow national guidelines on teachers' pay and conditions – they are meant to be different. They may have a longer school day. Academies do not charge fees to students. There are no academies in Stockton-on-Tees at present.

A **Foundation School** (sometimes called a Trust School) is run in partnership with an external trust. The trust owns the school's land and buildings. It appoints the governors, employs staff and controls student admissions (it must conform to the government's Admissions Code of Practice). Foundation schools are not independent schools. They must follow the national curriculum and the national agreements on teachers' pay and conditions. New foundation schools could be set up by a church, a charity, a business or a group of parents. There are no foundation schools in Stockton-on-Tees at present.

## Federations

It is now possible for two or more schools to form a federation. They stay as separate schools but have some of the advantages of a larger school:

- they have one governing body;
- if they wish, they can have one headteacher;
- they can pool their budgets and jointly appoint staff.

Two schools established the Stockton Borough First Federation in 2006. Abbey Hill and Westlands Schools share a governing body and an executive headteacher.

## Competitions for setting up new schools

The government has changed the way all new schools are set up. When we talk about a “new school” we don’t mean a new building for one of the schools we have now. We mean:

- a completely new school, for example in an area that has no school now;
- a school of a different type, for example a foundation school or academy to replace an existing school;
- one new school to replace two or more schools that need to be closed.

If we need a new school, the Council must normally hold a competition. Any group of parents, a faith group, charity or business can bid into the competition to open a new foundation school or academy. The Council could also enter the competition itself and bid to open a new community school. If the Council enters the competition, the winner will be decided by an independent adjudicator. If the Council doesn’t enter the competition, the Council will choose the winner.

The need for a competition does not apply to academies.

In the options set out in the second part of this booklet, any mention of a **new school** always means this: a school that doesn’t exist now – new name, new staff, probably a new building. It does **not** mean a new building for one of the schools that we already have, whether on the same site or on a different site.

## It is likely that some schools in Stockton-on-Tees will need to be closed

This is likely for three reasons:

- falling student numbers – our schools will have around 2500 empty places by 2018;
- some of our schools are in danger of becoming too small to be viable;
- we must get the best value for our £150 million share of BSF.

It is very unlikely that any school would need to close before 2012, when we expect the first new school buildings to be ready. No decisions will be taken without consulting everyone involved. It will not happen suddenly, and it could not happen as a result of this consultation. The Council will consult again next year before making

any decisions. We will plan very carefully to make sure that any changes to schools cause as little disruption as possible to everyone concerned.

### **What happens to students when a school closes?**

The Council has a legal duty to make sure a school place is available for every student. If we need to close a school we must make sure sufficient places are available at other schools. We can close a school on a single date, so that all the students move out of the closing school at the same time or we can extend the closure over a number of years: for example, we might stop admitting new students but keep the school open until all its present students have passed through. If a decision is taken to close a school, the Council will listen to the views of parents, students, governors and staff before deciding on the closure arrangements.

### **What happens to staff when a school closes?**

The Council has a responsibility to look after its employees. If a school closes, all the jobs at that school will cease to exist, but new jobs may be created at other schools. The Council does not appoint school staff – governing bodies do that. This means that the Council can't guarantee jobs, but we will work with governing bodies, with staff and their unions and associations to try to find new jobs for all who want them.

### **What can we do with £150 million?**

£150 million will not be enough to replace every secondary school in Stockton-on-Tees with a new building, but not every school needs that. The Council and the four dioceses have spent many millions on schools over the last ten years. Some schools have new blocks or parts that have recently been refurbished. The £150 million has been calculated so that we have the opportunity to build 4 or 5 new school buildings and refurbish others.

### **The campus approach**

Schools and colleges will need to work together to offer every student a full curriculum choice. This will be easier if we can bring partners close together on a campus site. As well as making collaboration easier, a campus can help the £150 million go further. Schools can share facilities (for example, reception area, car park, sports hall, specialist teaching rooms). The campus approach will also make it easier to bring together other services for children and young people.

### **Integrated Service Areas**

The Council and its partners, through the Children's Trust Board, have agreed that services such as education, healthcare, social care and youth services should come together in geographical areas across the borough. This will help them to provide a clear and consistent service to children, young people and their families. Service users will "only have to tell their story once."

The four Integrated Service Areas are: Billingham, North Stockton, Central Stockton, and South of the Borough (Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick, Eaglescliffe and Yarm). The options in this booklet follow the same pattern.



## **Part Two: options for change**

***The options in this booklet have come out of discussions with headteachers and college principals, the dioceses and the local Learning and Skills Council.***

***We have included only those options that we believe are possible to achieve with BSF funding. This could change. The Council is exploring some other options that are not possible now but may become possible in the future. If they do become possible, the Council will consult again on those.***

***No decisions have been made yet, and no changes will be made to any schools without more consultation next year.***

The options booklet published for public consultation will include a pull-out section for responses. There will be space to comment on the options in the paper, and space to add any other options.

Responses can be sent to a Freepost address. An independent market research company outside the Council will read and record all the responses and send a report to the Council.

The booklet will also include a list of the dates, times and venues of the meetings to be arranged at each secondary school.

### **Further information**

For general information about Building Schools for the Future, go to: [www.bsf.gov.uk](http://www.bsf.gov.uk)

For information about diversity and competitions for new schools, go to: [www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolorg](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolorg) At the time of writing this booklet, the Department for Children, Schools and Families was still using the “dfes.gov.uk” website but this may change. All government websites can be reached through [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

For information about schools in Stockton-on-Tees, go to: [www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk)

For more information about the Stockton-on-Tees Building Schools for the Future programme, go to [www.stockton.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/bsf)

## Billingham Area

### The Existing Schools

Billingham has three secondary schools with a total of 3026 places . In January 2007 2867 of these places were filled.

School	Type	Specialism	Places
Billingham Campus	Community	Arts	1031
Northfield	Community	Sport	1120
St Michael's	Catholic Voluntary Aided	Science	875

The Council's Asset Management Plan records how much repair work each school building will need over the next fifteen years.

The site of **Billingham Campus School** is the nearest to the centre of Billingham. It also has the advantage of Bede College, Stockton-on-Tees City Learning Centre, Oakdene Primary School, the New Life Children's Centre and a private nursery provider very close by. This makes it an ideal campus site.

Parts of the Campus buildings (built in the 1960s) are in poor condition, but the sports block was refurbished recently, and a new technology block has just been opened close to the City Learning Centre. The upper floors are not accessible to disabled persons at present, but lifts will be installed shortly. The Campus buildings will need more than £3 million spent on them over the next fifteen years.

**St Michael's Catholic School** is sited on the eastern edge of Billingham, in an area not well placed for access by road. This is an important factor as Catholic schools draw students from a wide area. The buildings (also built in the 1960s) are the property of the Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. The upper floors are not accessible to disabled persons. Fifteen-year maintenance needs are more than £3 million.

**Northfield (Community) School** is located at the north-west edge of Billingham. The Sportsdrome facility and upgraded playing fields (achieved with significant external funding) are a valuable asset for school and community use. A new drama block is under construction and other parts of the buildings have been renovated recently. The upper floors are not accessible to disabled persons. Built in the 1970s, fifteen-year maintenance needs are £5 million.

### Student numbers

In January 2007 there were a total of 2867 students on roll at these three schools. St Michael's Catholic School takes around 250 students from outside Billingham, most of them from the Parish of St Joseph's in Norton. These are included in that total.

In 2018 we expect to need places for 2259 students. It would be wise to increase this to 2400 places to allow some spare capacity in case of unexpected population growth, and to allow scope for parental choice. This would be a reduction of 626 places compared with the present position.

## Possible options

One option for 2400 places may be to have three 800-place schools. All three schools would become smaller than they are now, but they would still be within our optimum range of 800 to 1200 places. Under this option, fewer students would be able to get places at Northfield School and St Michael's School in the future. There is not sufficient space for all three schools to come together on the Campus site, but two of them could. Northfield could stay where it is. Campus and St Michael's could be in adjoining buildings with some shared facilities.

Another option would be to provide 2400 places in two schools. These would be one Catholic and one Community school. St Michael's is a popular school that usually receives more applications than available places. It might fill 1000 places if these were available. This would leave 1400 community places at Northfield. This is larger than our optimum size of 800 to 1200.

One of the options for another part of the borough is to enlarge St Michael's School (and St Patrick's School in Thornaby) to cater for all of the Catholic students in Billingham and Stockton. This would increase the size of St Michael's, perhaps to around 1500. This too would be larger than our optimum size, and it might mean that Northfield would also need to be expanded to 1500 places.

## Options for consultation

### A – Three schools

- Refurbish Northfield School on its present site, and reduce it from 1120 to 800 places.
- Move St Michael's School to a part new-build, part refurbished building on the Billingham Campus site. Reduce its capacity from 875 to 800 places (or increase it to 1500 depending on decisions taken in relation to central Stockton options). The St Michael's site would no longer be used for secondary education.
- Refurbish Billingham Campus School for 800 places. St Michael's and Campus would share some facilities.

### B – Two schools

- Refurbish Northfield School on its present site, and enlarge it from 1120 to 1400 places.
- Move St Michael's School to a part new-build, part refurbished building on the Billingham Campus site. Increase its capacity from 875 to 1000 places (or 1500 depending on decisions taken in relation to central Stockton options). The St Michael's site would no longer be used for secondary education.
- Billingham Campus School would be closed.

## North Stockton area

### The Existing Schools

The three secondary schools in North Stockton provide a total of 2192 places. In January 2007 1767 of these places were filled.

School	Type	Specialism	Places
Bishopsgarth	Community	Maths & computing	602
Blakeston	Community	Sport	960
The Norton	Community	Humanities	630

The Council's Asset Management Plan records how much repair work each school building will need over the next fifteen years.

**Bishopsgarth School** is located on the western edge of North Stockton. The main buildings date from 1970, and there is a special facility for up to 40 students with physical disability. The fifteen-year maintenance needs of Bishopsgarth School are over £4 million.

**Blakeston School** is located at the northern edge of Stockton. The buildings date from 1960. The upper floors are not accessible to disabled persons. Fifteen-year maintenance needs are nearly £4 million.

**The Norton School**, on the eastern edge of the town, is not well placed for access by road. The buildings date from the 1960s. Fifteen-year maintenance needs are over £3 million.

North Stockton also includes two special schools that serve the entire borough.

**Abbey Hill School Technology College** caters for up to 240 students aged from 11-19 with a wide range of special educational needs. **King Edwin School** has 64 places for students aged 11-16 with behavioural, emotional and social difficulty.

### Student numbers

In January 2007 there were a total of 1767 students on roll at the three mainstream schools. In 2018 we expect to need places for 1540 students. This figure allows for housing developments that are planned in this area. It is unlikely that demand would exceed 1600 places at most. This would be a reduction of 592 places compared with the present position.

A large number of resident students currently attend schools outside North Stockton. This includes around 300 who attend Ian Ramsey Church of England School and about 250 who go to St Michael's Catholic School in Billingham.

## Possible options

There is no realistic option to keep all three schools for a maximum of 1600 students. This area will need two schools in future.

One option is to close one of the schools and enlarge the other two to take its students. This would not create any **new** school, and would allow the two remaining schools to stay as Community schools. They could keep all their present staff and governors.

A second option is to close two schools, open one **new** school and refurbish and extend the third. The new school would normally have to be created by a competition (unless the Council opted for an Academy). If a competition takes place, any group of parents, a faith group, charity or business could bid to set up and run the new school. A new school could mean new governors, new headteacher and new staff.

All three present school sites are located around the edges of town. There is no suitable site for a campus that would allow two schools side by side.

## Options for consultation

### **A – Two refurbished community schools**

- Refurbish Blakeston and Bishopsgarth to take around 800 students each.
- The Norton school would be closed.
- The Norton site would no longer be used for secondary education. The Council would consult residents to help decide how the site might be used in the future.

### **B – One new school (competition) and one refurbished school**

- The Norton and Blakeston schools would be closed. A new school for about 800 students would be established on the Blakeston site. The new school might be an Academy, or there could be a competition to establish a Voluntary Aided School, a Foundation school or a Community School.
- Refurbish Bishopsgarth for 800 students.
- The Norton site would no longer be used for secondary education. The Council would consult residents to help decide how the site might be used in the future.

## Central Stockton area

### The Existing Schools

The three secondary schools in Central Stockton provide a total of 3375 places. In January 2007 3137 of these places were filled.

School	Type	Specialism	Places
Grangefield	Community	Technology	1350
Ian Ramsey	Church of England Voluntary Aided	Languages	1185
Our Lady & St Bede's	Catholic Voluntary Aided		840

The Council's Asset Management Plan records how much repair work each school building will need over the next fifteen years.

**Grangefield School** site joins that of **Our Lady & St Bede's Catholic School**. With Teesside City Learning Centre also on site, and Stockton Sixth Form College nearby, there is potential for a collaborative campus arrangement. The Grangefield building is very long with a change of level in the middle. The upper floor is not accessible to disabled persons. Many of the classrooms are small by modern standards. Fifteen-year maintenance needs at Grangefield are over £6 million. **Our Lady & St Bede's Catholic School** has separate blocks built in the 1960s. The upper floors are not accessible to disabled persons. The building is owned by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Fifteen-year maintenance needs are over £4 million.

**Ian Ramsey Church of England School** is within walking distance of the other two schools. There are two main blocks more than 100 metres apart, built in the 1960s. The upper floors are not accessible to disabled persons. The building is owned by the Diocese of Durham. Fifteen-year maintenance needs are over £5 million.

### Student numbers

In January 2007 there were a total of 3137 students on roll at these three schools. In 2018 we expect to need places for 2822 students. It would be wise to increase this to 3000 places to allow some spare capacity in case of unexpected population growth, and to allow scope for parental choice. This would be a reduction of 375 places compared with the present position.

### Possible options

The design and condition of these buildings points to a need for complete rebuilds. This might take up an undue proportion of the £150m available. One option is to bring all three schools together onto the Grangefield-OLSB-College campus. This would allow economies of scale (shared playing fields and specialist teaching facilities). It would also make collaboration among schools and college easier.

A second option might be to have a single school for all Catholic students in Billingham and Stockton (the area within the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle). In 2018 this would need around 1500 places. This could be an enlarged St Michael's School located on the Billingham Campus site. Catholic students in Stockton would also have the option of going to St Patrick's School in Thornaby if they wish.

### **Options for consultation**

#### **A – Three schools on one site**

- Grangefield would have 1150 places, Ian Ramsey 1100, and Our Lady & St Bede's 750. There would be a combination of new buildings and refurbishment, with some shared facilities.
- The Ian Ramsey site would no longer be used for secondary education. The Council and the Diocese of Durham would consult residents to help decide how the site might be used in the future.

#### **B – Two schools on one site. All Catholic students to Billingham or Thornaby.**

- Grangefield would have 1150 places, Ian Ramsey 1100. There would be a combination of new buildings and refurbishment, with some shared facilities.
- St Michael's RC school in Billingham would be extended to 1500 places, and re-located to the Billingham Campus site. Our Lady & St Bede's School would be closed. Depending on demand for places, it might be necessary to enlarge St Patrick's Catholic School in Thornaby.
- The Ian Ramsey site would no longer be used for secondary education. The Council and the Diocese of Durham would consult residents to help decide how the site might be used in the future.

## South of the Borough

### The Existing Schools

The five secondary schools in South of the Borough provide a total of 4371 places for students aged 11-16. Places in the sixth forms at Conyers and Egglecliffe schools are not included in these figures. In January 2007 4128 of these places were filled.

School	Type	Specialism	Places
All Saints	Church of England Voluntary Aided		600
Conyers	Community	Maths & computing	1120
Egglecliffe	Community	Performing arts	1175
St Patrick's	Catholic Voluntary Aided		556
Thornaby	Community		920

The Council's Asset Management Plan records how much repair work each school building will need over the next fifteen years.

**All Saints Church of England School** in the centre of Ingleby Barwick was built under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). A private company constructed the school and runs the facility for twenty-five years from 2003. In effect, the Council and the Diocese of York lease the school from the PFI company. Future maintenance needs will be paid for by the PFI contractor as part of the contract.

The site of the school is a campus including Myton Park Primary School and Ingleby Barwick Library.

**Conyers School** in the south of Yarm has some buildings that date from 1975 and three other blocks of recent construction. The site includes an all-weather sports pitch funded by the Football Foundation. Fifteen-year maintenance needs are £4 million.

**Thornaby Community School** is on a site that adjoins **St Patrick's Catholic School**. The original Thornaby Community School buildings date from 1970, and there was major refurbishment and some new build in 1999. Fifteen-year maintenance needs are £3 million. **St Patrick's Catholic School**, constructed in 1964 (and added to in recent years) has fifteen-year maintenance needs of £2 million. The buildings belong to the Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough.

**Egglecliffe School** operates on two sites. The main school site includes an all-weather sports pitch created with lottery funding. The school buildings consist of various blocks built at different times since 1961. Some of these are in poor condition. The upper floors are not accessible to disabled persons. Fifteen-year maintenance needs are over £5 million. The school's playing fields are on a second site at Allen's West.

South of the Borough also includes one special school that serves the entire borough. **Westlands School** in Thornaby has up to 75 places for students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulty, and 40 places for students with autistic spectrum disorders (all places for ages 8-16). A new block is being added to Abbey Hill School, and students with autism will be transferred there in 2008.



## **Student numbers**

In January 2007 there were a total of 4128 students aged 11-16 on roll at the five mainstream schools in South of the Borough.

In 2018 we expect to need places for 3917 students aged 11-16. This figure takes account of ongoing housing development at Ingleby Barwick, the Mandale housing regeneration scheme and other smaller developments. It would be wise to increase this to 4400 to allow some spare capacity in case of unexpected population growth and to allow scope for parental choice. This represents an increase of 29 places compared with the present position.

## **Possible options**

Thornaby has two quite small schools, one Catholic and one Community school. Separately they cannot offer their students the same curriculum options as a larger school. One option might be to replace them with one school for 1400 students. A school of this size would be able to employ more teaching staff and offer a broad curriculum and better value for money through economies of scale. A single school, both a Catholic school and a community school, might be possible if the Diocese of Middlesbrough supports it. The numbers admitted to the Catholic and community parts of the school could be flexible to meet demand.

Another option might be to keep two separate schools but put them in a shared building. Some parts of the building would belong to one of the schools, but much of the teaching accommodation, reception and dining areas could be shared. These economies of scale might allow an all-new building to be funded.

In the Yarm area, Conyers School could remain on its present site at the same capacity. The older blocks could be replaced with new build, and the newer blocks refurbished where necessary.

Egglescliffe School cannot be re-built or re-furbished on its present site without moving all the students out to another location first. An alternative location for this number of staff and students is not available. If it were, it would mean moving students and staff twice. A better solution would be a new building on the playing fields site at Allen's West. When that is completed, the present school buildings would be partially demolished and refurbished to provide sixth form accommodation. The all-weather pitch would remain for school and community use.

There are not sufficient secondary school places in Ingleby Barwick to accommodate all the students who live there. In January 2007 629 students resident in Ingleby Barwick attended Conyers and Egglescliffe schools, and 94 went to St Patrick's School. The Council does not own any land in Ingleby Barwick suitable for another secondary school, and the £150m for Future Learning cannot be used for site purchase. If a site and funding to buy it did become available, the Council would consult on that option, but at this stage the Council cannot consult on options that we do not know to be possible. The Council, the Diocese of York and the Governing Body of All Saints School will also continue to explore the possibility of enlarging All Saints, but this is also uncertain and cannot be offered as a definite option at this time.

For these reasons, for the moment the options below do not propose any change for Ingleby Barwick.

### **Options for consultation**

#### **A – One school in Thornaby and three schools for Yarm, Eaglescliffe and Ingleby Barwick**

- One school could be created on the present Thornaby Community School/ St Patrick's School site for up to 1400 students. The new school might be an Academy, or there could be a competition to establish a Voluntary Aided School, a Foundation school or a Community School.
- Refurbish Conyers School for 1200 students (plus 300 sixth form places).
- Replace Eggescliffe School with a new building on the site of its sports fields at Allens West (1200 students ) and a sixth form block on its current site (300 students).
- All Saints School would remain at its current size (600).

#### **B – Two new schools in Thornaby, and three schools for Yarm, Eaglescliffe and Ingleby Barwick.**

- Thornaby Community School and St Patrick's remain as separate schools in a shared building to take up to 1400 students.
- Refurbish Conyers School for 1200 students (plus 300 sixth form places).
- Replace Eggescliffe School with a new building on the site of its sports fields at Allens West (1200 students ) and a sixth form block on its current site (300 students).
- All Saints School would remain at its current size (600).

***The options in this booklet have come out of discussions with headteachers and college principals, the dioceses and the local Learning and Skills Council.***

***We have included only those options that we believe are possible to achieve with BSF funding. This could change. The Council is exploring some other options that are not possible now but may become possible in the future. If they do become possible, the Council will consult again on those.***

***No decisions have been made yet, and no changes will be made to any schools without more consultation next year.***