



# Wadham School

A Church of England Community School  
Making opportunities to learn and achieve

18 June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **REORGANISATION OF SCHOOLS IN THE CREWKERNE & ILMINSTER AREA**

You will recall that the Local Authority have written to you before (as I have done) regarding commissioning a report into options for change in the area. Please find attached a letter which outlines the next steps and enables you to access the report. The report outlines some options for consideration before the LA moves forward in the Autumn Term. Specifically, you are being invited to make comments and there is a link to a survey on the letter.

From our perspective, the report is thorough and outlines very clearly why Wadham is needed to deliver the secondary places which are and will be needed in the area, to at least 2032. None of the options in the report, suggest Wadham closes. The review models no change and changing the funding formula for schools. It clearly highlights the problems and limitations of doing these. These are not sustainable options. In addition, five other options are put forward for us all to consider.

Can I emphasise what has been said in the LA letter, namely that these are not yet proposals for change but set out what is possible. Some of the options are bold and would impact widely. They raise difficult questions for the community. I would urge you to look at the report and engage with the survey.

Change is always difficult. Change, when our children are involved, even more so. Wadham remains focussed on ensuring those students currently with us, achieve and are successful, while being ready to move forward as decisions are made.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Gardner  
Headteacher



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**Date:** 18 June 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer

### **Review of Education Provision in the Ilminster and Crewkerne Area**

You will recall that in my previous letter which I had asked Headteachers to distribute to you I explained that we had been meeting with Headteachers of schools in the area for some time now discussing the need to review the school structure in and around Ilminster and Crewkerne. This is about making sure it is financially viable and has the capacity to provide the range of curriculum opportunities to equip the children and young people in the area with the skills and qualifications that they will need for the future.

In that letter I explained that we had commissioned an organisation called Futures for Somerset (FfS) to carry out a review of provision in the area and that they would be looking at a range of alternative structures, setting out the pros and cons of each. In assessing each model they would look at a number of factors including the educational impacts of each model at each key stage. They will also look at the impact on pupils with Special Educational Needs, early years provision (pre-school and nursery), staffing implications, transport costs, impact on communities and the costs of making any change.

FfS have now completed this work and presented their report to the Local Authority and last week the findings of the review were shared with Chairs of Governors and Headteachers. It is important to understand that the report does not make proposals or recommendations for change but sets out what is possible. We will be spending

the next few weeks until the end of term meeting with Governors of all the schools in the area to seek their feedback on the report which will then inform decisions about how we proceed.

A copy of the report is available here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/crewkerne-and-ilminster-strategic-school-review/>. There are a considerable number of appendices to the report which are not yet attached to it because of their size. These are being uploaded over the next few days.

We have set up a short survey to gauge people's views of the options and ask what is important to you in considering the structure of schools in the area. This is available here:

<http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk/consult.ti/IlminsterandCrewkerneSchools/answerQuestionnaire?qid=5801283>

We will be meeting again with Chairs of Governors and Headteachers and representatives of the Diocese and the Regional Schools Commissioners Office before the end of term to draw together all the responses. Over the summer break we will decide whether there are option(s) we want to take forward for further development or whether there are alternative models we want to explore further with a view to making a final decision on how to proceed in the autumn term, subject to statutory consultation processes.

I appreciate that this is an unsettling time whilst we decide how we need to proceed. However, the one thing that the review has shown is that there is no one obvious, straightforward solution and so it is important that we use the report as a starting point for discussion to make sure that whatever is decided is the right solution.

Yours sincerely



**Dave Farrow**  
Head of Education Partnerships