

**Learning & School Improvement**

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**To: All Parents & Guardians**

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
Your ref:  
My ref:

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to update you on the progress that has been made with the review of school provision in the Purbeck area.

A decision was made by Dorset County Council's Cabinet and Full County Council in July 2010 to move the area from a three tier (first/middle/upper) to a two tier (primary/secondary) pattern of provision. An objection was subsequently received during the four week appeal period following their decision. The case was then forwarded to the schools adjudicator. They are an independent body tasked with looking at matters of school organisation.

After four public meetings, visiting schools in the area and examining the information in detail, the schools adjudicator published their decision on 26th November 2010. They rejected the appeal against the proposals, confirming the value of moving the area to two tier. A copy of the adjudicator's report can be viewed on our website [www.dorsetforyou.com/purbeckreview](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/purbeckreview).

The local authority will now work with all schools across the area in moving the area to two tier. The transition will be done in two stages. In September 2012, the current first schools will retain pupils going into year 5. The middle schools will operate with three year groups. In September 2013, the current first schools will retain pupils going into year 6, the middle schools will close and the current upper school will become an 11-18 secondary school. The table posted on our website, 'How will the proposals affect your child?' gives further details on the effect for each year group. As part of the proposals, there will be investment in schools across the area.

Further information will continue to be posted on our website and I will continue to keep you informed as the implementation phase progresses.

Yours sincerely



**Rick Perry**  
Project Manager (School Provision)  
Children's Services