

Amble Links First School

School structures in the Coquet partnership

The Governing body of Amble Links First school have met on a number of occasions to discuss the proposal and are in agreement with model B a fully primary/secondary structure in the Coquet Partnership.

- Children complete KS2 on one site and are not uprooted in the middle, which can result in fall in attainment.
- This continuity would help to address the need to improve KS2 outcomes.
- This would fit in with national curriculum key stages.
- Enables children to move at a point when they are more emotionally resilient to do so.
- Contributes to keeping children in the Coquet Partnership.
- Enables more SEND children to be educated locally.
- Confidence in staff ability to embrace years 5 and 6 needs without affecting needs of younger children (recent experience of providing new provision for 2 year olds has been a success after detailed planning and preparation).
- Confidence in leadership and governance of the school to ensure high quality provision.
- Enables capital investment to be used for good of all children in partnership.
- Parents do not appear to have any significant concerns.
- 2 year preparation time will ensure smooth transition to new system and to enable staffing and building concerns to be addressed.
- Fits with other areas in the county/country.
- All first schools in partnership rated good and are in favour of change and the opportunities it brings to improve outcomes.
- Plans to relocate Amble First School and provide separate SEND facility make sense.

We do, however, have a few concerns re updating first schools to take year 5 and 6 pupils.

- We hope that work in each school will be done to the highest standard and that no one school will appear to be better equipped or resourced than the others.
- That adapting the building to house more pupils and staff will be carried out with a long-term view and not in a temporary way.
- That all facilities are fit for purpose, e.g. indoor facilities for PE during the winter months, including changing facilities especially for older pupils.
- The provision of a SEND facility as a discrete building is welcomed, we feel it would be better if this could be a purpose-built school ensuring longevity.