

PARENTS!

The Middle School System is about to be ABOLISHED

This is your chance to save it!

We believe that education standards must improve on the Island. Standards-Not-Tiers is a non-party-political pressure group formed by ordinary parents to raise standards without changing tiers.

We do not agree that spending £74m to achieve £1m of annual savings, closing all the Island's Middle Schools and creating new bigger 4-11 Primary Schools and 11 to 19 Secondary Schools will lead to improved standards.

There are many good reasons to keep our existing Middle School system and work with what we already have in order to improve standards:

- ✓ No proof axing them will improve standards
- ✓ Parents have not been adequately consulted
- ✓ Change will mean larger schools and larger classes
- ✓ Or split site schools – 3 into 2 won't go!
- ✓ Fewer schools will mean less choice
- ✓ Further to travel – more cars and buses?
- ✓ Mass School Closure will rip the heart out of rural communities
- ✓ There will be no right of appeal to the Secretary of State
- ✓ Other 3-Tier Systems work well – we can learn from them
- ✓ Pupil behaviour may get worse
- ✓ Mixing 11-13 year olds with 14-19 year olds is a problem – mainland secondary schools tell us it is!
- ✓ We have a right to be different from the mainland
- ✓ The Island is different – the 3-Tier system can work well here
- ✓ Why spend £74million and get £1million a year in savings?!
- ✓ There are alternatives that need to be allowed to take effect
- ✓ They are our children! Our views count.

On the 24th March 2005 The LibDem controlled Island First Council Executive voted to accept the recommendations of the Four S report which told the Isle of Wight that it "must change" to what it called "the national system of primary and secondary education with transfer at age 11. It does not have the option of not doing so." We have established that this is just not true. Stephen Twigg the Schools Minister said recently in Parliament "We accept that both (two and three tier) systems can be effective and that there is no clear evidence that one is preferable."

The Island does have an option – Keep the existing 3-Tier Middle School System. Work with it to improve standards. Many of the issues including Key stage accountability are at this very moment being addressed. It takes time for these changes to make a difference but this is far less painful and much less expensive.

SAY NO... to the Proposed Changes at the ballot box

81 Council Election Candidates (there are 131 in total) have written to us to support the view that the Middle School system should be retained on the Isle of Wight. Their detailed political views necessarily differ, with some supporting a long term retention and others calling for a short term stay of execution and further consultation. Others believe a simple yes or no is not possible and we sympathise with them. This demonstrates that the consultation has not been full or extensive to date, a view we share. If you want to know these detailed views then please ask the candidates. It is also not the intention of "Standards-Not-Tiers" to represent these candidates' views in any other respect. We have deliberately not included their party ties but it is important to note that the main parties have taken the following lines:

Labour Candidates will support the retention of the existing middle-school system, until an informed decision can be made in the light of full and proper consultation with parents and teachers. They will then support the majority view.

Conservative Party will continue to support the present 3-tier School system until such time that our new Local Education Authority proves the case against and has in place a financial strategy within government funding ensuring no extra burden on the council tax payer. They may allow a referendum on the subject.

Liberal Democrats have provided us with no party line but a small number of their candidates wrote to support our view and an equally small number were highly critical of our stance and some warned us that they will seek our prosecution under section 169 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 if we were to publish their names or make any assumptions about what they would do if they were elected. It was not our intention to do that and so we won't... Others have written long, reasoned and polite letters of opposition to our campaign and we respect and thank them for their messages. We do not doubt their sincerity or their desire to do the right thing for our children. We simply differ as to the method.

Independent candidates obviously have independent platforms, some supporting us, some opposing us, some still not certain without further consultation and debate. All who responded were polite and reasonable.

– these are the candidates that support keeping the existing 3-tier middle school system

ASHEY CHURCHMAN Vanessa Claire	COWES MEDINA BROWN George Henry PEARSON Kenn	NEWPORT SOUTH CUNNINGHAM Michael John RAINER Cordula Elisabeth	SHALFLEET & YARMOUTH BURT William Robert
BEMBRIDGE NORTH PIGOT Sarah Anne	EAST COWES NORTH TURNER Jane WEBSTER Margaret Eileen	NORTHWOOD MAZILLIUS Roger	SHANKLIN CENTRAL COLEMAN Peter Anthony PLUGH David James Drummond
BEMBRIDGE SOUTH McROBERT Winifred Jeanne RICKARD Alexander	EAST COWES SOUTH WALKER Simon Francis George	OSBORNE NIGHTINGALE Peter Alan PASCOE Laraine Kathleen	SHANKLIN NORTH HOLLANDS Alan Derek WILLIAMS David Garfield
BINSTEAD BUNNER Ivan John	FAIRLEE COSINS Eugenie Dawn	PAN LUMLEY Geoffrey Alan PAGE Clive Ronald	SHANKLIN SOUTH BISHOP Anne REES Harry (prop. referendum)
BRADING & ST HELLENS JOYCE Patrick	FRESHWATER AFTON KENNETT Gillian Elizabeth	PARKHURST BERRISFORD Roger Lawrence FALLA Steven Edwin	ST JOHNS EAST WOODGATE Robert John
BRIGHTSTONE & CALBOURNE TURNER Peter Laurence WEST Colin Norman	FRESHWATER NORTON SUTTON Robert Andrew	RYDE NORTH WEST GORDON Anthony Alexander TAYLOR Albert Arthur	ST JOHNS WEST BOWKER John Albert WHITWORTH Rosalind Francesca
CARISBROOKE EAST FORSTER Peter Edward WEBBS Michael WHITTAKER David Rex	GURNARD HOBART John Vere WILKINSON Robert	RYDE NORTH WEST WOODWARD David John	TOTLAND CAMERON George William
CARISBROOKE WEST FOSTER Barbara Ellen FRIZEL Dionis Ethel GRAY Stephen William	LAKE NORTH COWLEY Constance May GARDINER Deborah	RYDE SOUTH EAST AXFORD Adrian William	VENTNOR EAST FITZGERALD-BOND Jonathan Seaver LAWRENCE Louis LAWSON Brenda
CENTRAL RURAL OULTON Erica	LAKE SOUTH HUNTER-HENDERSON Timothy James PIGGOT David	RYDE SOUTH WEST NEWMAN Peter Grahame WILDE Christine	VENTNOR WEST BARTLETT Buster DR HATCHWELL Paul Kristian SCOCICA Susan Jane
CHALE NITON & WHITWELL ARNOLD Wendy Christine	MOUNTJOY CARRUTHERS Richard Paul CLEMENS Stuart Donald SWAN Shelagh Melanie Kathleen	SANDOWN NORTH HIMBY Heather Lamont MARTIN Dawn Joy	WROXALL & GODSHILL WOOD Hilian Essie
COWES CASTLE EAST WARDROP Wendy Mary WELLS Alan Loughnan	NEWCHURCH MOSELD Brian RACKETT John Dennis	SANDOWN SOUTH WARD Ian David	WOOTTON ABRAHAM Barry Edwin
COWES CASTLE WEST EFFEMEY John	NEWPORT NORTH WHITTAKER Julian Ashley Michael David WRAY Nicholas John ROSS Malcolm	SEAVIEW & NETTLESTONE TUSON Diana Margaret	
COWES CENTRAL PEACEY-WILCOX Lora Jane			

For Further Information Please Visit Our Web-Site www.yourschoolneedsyou.com

We would like to thank ALL the Councillors, Candidates, Teachers, Parents, LEA officials and Journalists and others who have corresponded with us, offered their advice, encouragement and support, despite not always agreeing or wishing to take sides. Our knowledge and understanding of this subject is constantly growing and evolving and we hope that we will not be judged on any particular statement or "sound-bite" that we have used but on having achieved a far wider debate and thorough discussion of all the facts and opinions that pertain to this monumental period of change in the culture and organisation of the Island's education system.

This advert has been placed by SNT, Unit C2, Plot 1, Ventnor Industrial Estate, Ventnor, IW PO38 1DX