

Year 6 Consultation – Year 6 Comments

When we moved to Worcestershire I had no experience of the middle school system and to be honest based on my own experience I was dubious. However, I think both of my children thrived in this 3 year opportunity to extend their education and maximise their potential.

To be honest their last year at their primary school was spent doing/preparing for a residential trip to France; making/selling things to fund the trip and then the whole of the last term preparing for the finale of a school production. Although all of these were worthwhile my children were emotionally and educationally ready to leave before. Another year at primary would in my opinion delay this transition further (I have similar view from friends).

I think 3 years is a good length and allows for a good transition period between 2 environments. While I do not agree with the SATS system I feel doing them in the “big school” make children feel grown up and ready for a change of staff. My 2 did extremely well and I think the middle school was important in their success.

I have asked them both what they think of this proposal – both independently said it was a waste of time and they preferred their experience.

As a teacher myself I feel education is about the child – experience of different subjects by different subject specialists teachers has enhanced their understanding. Something I think could not be achieved by appointing an extra member of staff in a primary school!

I would be willing and available to give further views if necessary.

The progress my son has made since joining year 6 not only in his subjects but also in his attitude to learning and general maturity has been brilliant. It is very clear he had outgrown first school and is thriving in the middle school environment from what I see.

I feel that my child has made an improvement since being in year 6. She is learning a lot more with all the different subjects.

I felt my son was ready to move on from primary school and an extra year would not of had a benefit on him.

This system has worked for numerous years, in which my own children have successfully completed, and statistics shown are from the parents which response may be influenced from general politics eg money and travel expenses rather than the benefit to the child. Year 6 is seen as an essential year which acts as a “step up” year, which can in itself enhance the child’s learning as it acts as a new start.

It makes no sense! No money will be saved on uniform as will have to buy in year 7 plus it will disrupt pupils that are already at The De Montfort School plus if students defer for a year, then they will miss out on a whole year of making new friends and integrating into the new bigger school environment.

Yes, I support Mr Nichols request all the way. I am happy that the schools remain how they are. Why disrupt something that has worked well for years and is improving all the time?

I agree with Mr Nichols that years 6-8 form a cohesive group, in which pupils work well within their year groups and together with other year groups. TDMS already has an adequate infrastructure to support the current PAN of Y6 pupils so it would be redundant and wasteful to duplicate this in other schools.

I don't see any point in kids staying in first school for another year, they need to get extra needs, equipment, teachers etc which TDMS already have, it's just a waste of money and time, there is a lot to say about it so I support Mr Nichol's request.

I feel a 3 tier pathway is much more beneficial to children. To move to secondary school at 11 is an even more difficult transition and to then be mixing with 15-18 year olds is not suitable at that stage.

We feel that by Year 5 end, our children have been ready to make the step up to the middle school, holding them back could have been detrimental to their progress.

My daughter was ready to move to a middle school – she had outgrown primary school.

My son was ready to move up to middle school at the end of year 5 – he'd outgrown first school and needed to progress to the educational and social opportunities that secondary education has to offer!

My partner and I think that holding year 6 back at first school would not help them as middle school has the right teachers for the pupils.

I think children are ready to move up to middle school by the end of year 5.

My child was ready to move on to secondary school after year 5. She has grown more confident and independent since being at TDMS. We are very happy.

I fully agree with Mr Nichols it makes perfect sense. As they develop more when in middle school and that prepares them for high school.

If they stay at their first schools they will have less access to specialist equipment and resources.

Our daughter was not happy at primary school for the last 6 months, going to middle school has given her the freedom, opportunities and level of education she would not have had if she had stayed at primary. At middle school she has flourished and at primary she would not have.

I have child in year 4 I know wouldn't be happy if they had to do year 6 at first school. They are ready to move on.

It would be ideal for children to complete key stage 2 at primary school – for the child and the school as the school is able to see target results, however there could be a long term detrimental effect on middle schools as closure could be a possibility due to lack of admissions and funding.

I think the school system should stay as it is. If it isn't broke don't fix it!

I think first schools work well with a year 6 if we then filter straight into a high school like many cities, currently with middle schools, however I don't see the need.

We moved from a 2 tier system in 2010 from Solihull to Evesham where we have put 1 child through a 2 tier and now one through a 3 tier. In our opinion the 3 tier system completely outweighs the 2 tier. The age difference is far too great in 2 tier. 3 tier enables a child to grow at a steady pace without fear. The size of school and age gap for my elder daughter was very daunting. I feel that my younger daughter has grown, developed and become confident at a far better pace. Blackminster Middle School was an excellent growing stage for 11-13 year olds, Yr 6-8.

I only wish we could have put our elder daughter through the 3 tier system, as their development in Middle school doesn't appear to be affected by the peer pressures of children that could be 5 years older. Also they are able to adjust without the big leap from junior to senior school when their body changes (hormones) are running wild.

As a parent, teacher and student I have over the years had personal and professional experience of both middle school and two school systems and find the 3 tier system by far more suited to children. We moved to Evesham for the specific reason that they provide middle schools for the children in years 6 to 8, when they are too old for first school but have not grown or matured enough to start the high school/secondary phase of education. I experienced the change of system in Southampton over the two tier system and we all said it was the children who lost out. Middle school provides the right size furniture and level of independence for that age group something neither primary or secondaries are in a place to do.

Having worked in a primary school with Year 6 included I can speak from experience Primary Schools ONLY "teach to the test" because their performance is judged solely on SATS results – not good at all.

To fully engage in the curriculum at Year 6 the children require access to food tech, DT and science rooms which the first school don't offer.

From personal experience I do not believe it would be of benefit to keep children longer at First School, I personally believe they are ready to move schools by the end of Year 5.