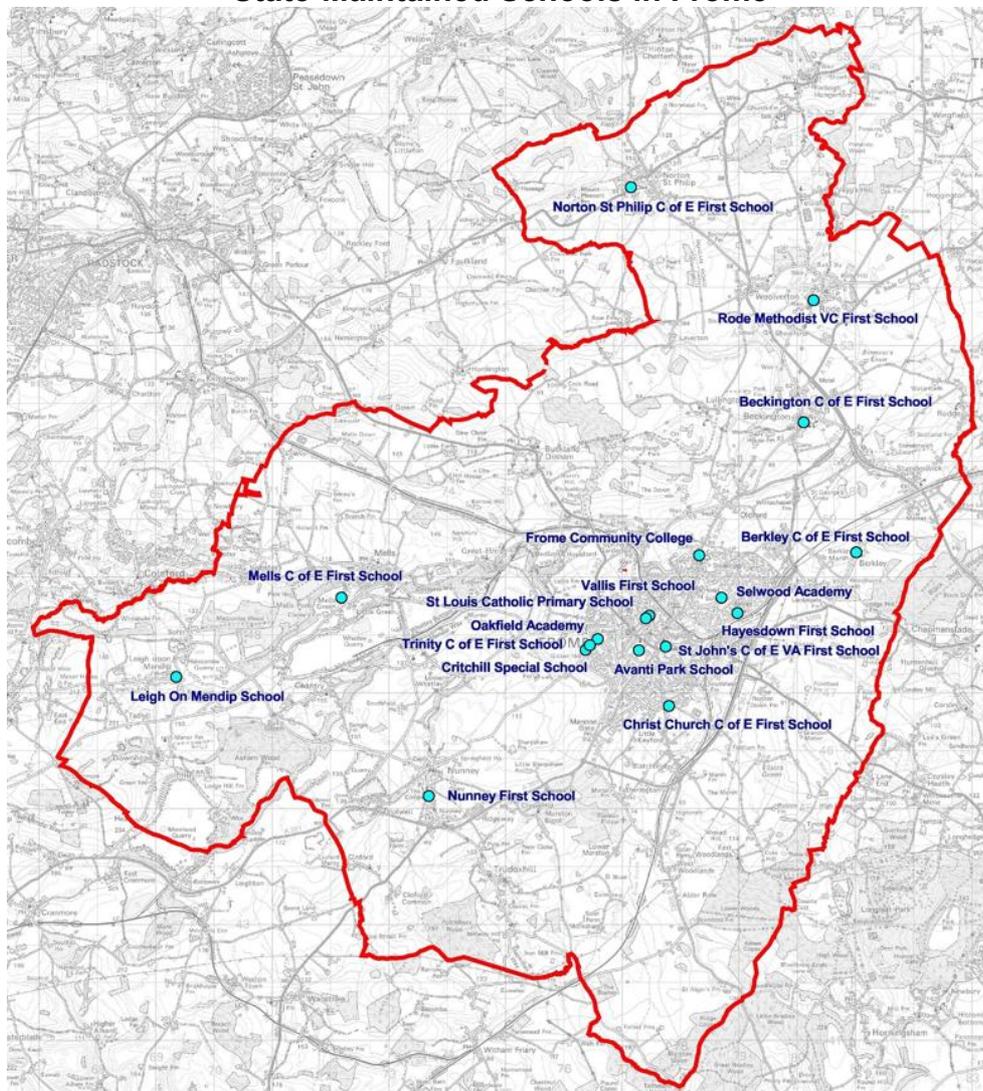


Pre-Publication (Informal) Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Education Structures in Frome

This document outlines key local education stakeholders' joint proposed changes to the Education Structures in Frome

State-Maintained Schools in Frome



Background

Over the last 2 years, all key educational stakeholders have been exploring the possibility of moving to a two-tier education system in Frome.

These discussions have been thoughtful, collaborative and rooted in our commitment to providing the very best opportunities for all children in Frome.

As part of these discussions, we have been looking closely at the potential benefits of a two-tier system, which may include:

- Improved continuity in learning, with fewer transitions, reducing disruption at ages where children are developing socially, emotionally, and academically.
- Stronger curriculum progression, enabling schools to plan more consistently from early years through to GCSEs and A levels.
- Enhanced pastoral support, as children spend longer within the same school community, allowing for deeper relationships and more personalised guidance.
- More efficient use of resources, helping schools to align staffing, facilities, and specialist provision more effectively.
- A more cohesive education system for the whole town, with clearer pathways and stronger collaboration between schools.
- An improved overall educational experience for pupils, with greater stability, access to broader opportunities, and more consistent support.
- A likely reduction in the number of pupils leaving Frome to be educated elsewhere, as a strengthened local system meets the needs of more families.
- Greater educational choice for pupils and families across the full age range.
- The possibility of additional specialist and Alternative Provision (AP) – in current buildings, as capacity is unlocked.

As stakeholders, we are now at a stage where we need to ask the community whether there is any appetite for a two-tier education system in the town.

The Proposal

Summary

At this stage, we are simply asking the community this question:

Would you support a significant change to the education structures in Frome, by moving to a two-tier system?

The system, in high-level terms, would see two secondary schools fed by up to 15 primary schools, with additional provision for local children with SEND.

This new model would be implemented for the 2028/29 academic year (September 2028).

This model, as set out above, is considered to generate a number of benefits for local children and their families.

If this informal consultation indicates there is community support for a move to a two-tier education system, key education stakeholders will develop a detailed Proposal for formal consultation in June – July 2026.

Timeline

The proposed timeline for the Pre-Publication Consultation is:

Pre-Publication Consultation Commences	23 February 2026
Pre-Publication Consultation Closes	20 March 2026
Feedback is considered	21 to 31 March 2026

Key Education Stakeholders

The following key education stakeholders, jointly consulting on this matter are:

- Avanti Schools Trust
- Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust
- Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
- Somerset Council
- The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust
- The Partnership Trust

In addition, the Anglican, Catholic and Methodist diocesan bodies have been engaged in discussions to date and are supportive of a move to a two-tier system.

Community Consultation

What feedback is being requested in the consultation?

All key education stakeholders wish to know whether people would support the high-level proposal and hear any other relevant feedback they would wish to be considered.

Who can respond to this consultation?

Any member of the public or organisation is welcome to submit their comments.

Stakeholders would particularly wish to hear from respondents likely to be affected by the proposal, or anyone with an interest in education provision in the area.

Can I object to the proposal?

Yes, you can object or comment on the proposal.

What if I require additional information before providing my feedback?

Please contact us if you require any additional information before submitting your feedback. The e-mail to use is lewis.andrews@somerset.gov.uk

We will endeavour to respond promptly to any questions received.

How long does the consultation run? When is the deadline for submitting views?

The consultation period is from Monday 23 February 2026 to Friday 20 March 2026

The deadline is 5.00pm on Friday 20 March 2026.

Any views received after this time may not be able to be taken into account.

There are also two in-person drop-in sessions where the Informal Proposal can be discussed with Council officers:

- Wednesday 11th March 2026, between 1400-1600 at The Key Centre, Feltham Lane, Frome, BA11 5AJ
- Wednesday 11th March 2026, between 1700-1900 at Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome, BA11 1EB

There is no need to book to attend either of the drop-in sessions.

How can I provide my views?

Please complete the questionnaire at the following website:

<https://sومersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/frome-education-structures/>

Will you respond to my feedback?

Individual queries received during the consultation period will receive an acknowledgment and/or response and will be considered with all other responses.

What will happen to my feedback?

All responses to this consultation will be collated and considered by key education stakeholders at the end of the consultation period.

What happens after the consultation?

Key education stakeholders will consider the findings of this consultation and if they indicate there is community support for a move to a two-tier education system, key education stakeholders will develop a detailed Proposal for formal consultation in June – July 2026.

Thank you for considering our informal proposal, and we look forward to hearing your views.