

Warwickshire Education Strategy Refresh 2020

You Said, We Did

We asked Warwickshire’s education system stakeholders for their views on the Warwickshire Education Strategy 2018-2023 and suggestions on how should be refreshed and refocused after two years. The key points made are shown under the ‘You Said’ column and our actions are indicated under ‘We Did’.

	You Said	We Did
1	The priorities currently identified in the strategy are still the most significant aspects of education to focus on	Kept a focus on Early Years, SEND and Vulnerable Groups, School Improvement, Curriculum, Education Safeguarding and Employability.
2	Headteachers asked “where is there evidence of a broad and balanced curriculum?” and told us “we want to broaden our horizons.” Parents also raised concerns about a “shrinking curriculum and reduced activities such as music, sport, art etc.”	Moved "promote a broad, empowering and creative curriculum" out of WE2 to WE3 Family of Schools where it will become a workstream for the Education challenge board.
3	Headteachers commented on the challenges they face with providing support for children with additional needs explaining that they are “struggling to meet the needs of some children” asking for “more resourced and alternative provision” and advised that “the rise of need within SEND (low level and complex needs) needs to be captured in a refreshed way within the strategy.”	WE2 has been reconfigured and renamed ‘SEND and Inclusion’ to emphasise our commitment to supporting with additional learning needs and our policy of achieving this through the promotion of an inclusive education. As detailed in the SEND & Inclusion Strategy , the vast majority of children benefit academically, socially, in confidence and self-esteem from education in community mainstream schools rather than further away from home or in what are often described as more “specialist” settings.
4	“Schools are being expected to provide counselling & therapy for children.”	Support for children with additional Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs remains a key priority for the redeveloped WE2 SEND & Inclusion strategy.
5	“Safeguarding thresholds too high and all put on school”	Attention to safeguarding remains a commitment of the strategy as outlined on the front page of the strategy leaflet “Safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of learners is a paramount in all areas of work”. This statement has been moved to the main body of the strategy leaflet to ensure the message is not forgotten about when you turn the page but

		<p>is firmly embedded across all priorities in the strategy.</p> <p>We will continue recent work to deliver more resilient support for education safeguarding in the future.</p>
6	<p>“The foundation of Early Years is essential if we are going to support our most vulnerable families. We need to start as early as possible!”</p>	<p>Kept Early Years as a main objective as we recognise the importance of ensuring the best start to life. An Integrated Early Years strategy has been drafted in continuation of our commitment to this priority.</p> <p>The role of SEND and Inclusion to support vulnerable families from an early age is acknowledged. We have shifted the emphasis of WE2 to SEND & Inclusion and reconfigured the strategy leaflet to visually demonstrate the significance of this priority across all phases of a child’s education including early years.</p>
7	<p>Youth Parliament told us they want to see more careers education and guidance</p>	<p>A key objective of the WE4 Employability priority is that young people can access high quality careers information, advice and guidance on a range of opportunities to make informed choices. We will continue to champion employability by promoting the best opportunities to achieve this.</p>
8	<p>Don’t know how to get involved in shaping the strategy</p>	<p>We have added a ‘Play Your Part’ section to the Warwickshire Education Strategy webpages which details ways in which you can contribute</p>
9	<p>“Communication of the progress being made within the strategy could be communicated in a stronger way”</p>	<p>Following on from the 2019 Annual Review, we will continue our annual and continue to update and develop the ‘Our Progress’ section of the Warwickshire Education Strategy webpages.</p> <p>Headteachers will continue to be informed of ongoing activities across each of the strategy's priorities including key developments in the weekly heads up newsletter.</p>