



## Surrey Secondary Headteachers' Phase Council

### *'Advocacy in Partnership'*

7th November 2016

This open letter has been sent today to Prime Minister Theresa May MP and Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for Education, from all 64 Headteachers of Surrey's state maintained secondary schools represented by Surrey Secondary Headteachers' Phase Council. Overleaf is a list of those Surrey school leaders who have signed to this letter.

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Hon. Prime Minister, Theresa May MP  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Rt. Hon. Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening MP  
Department for Education  
Ministerial and Public Communications Division  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

Dear Prime Minister and Secretary of State,

We are writing to voice our deeply held, vehement opposition to the government's proposals to create a selective, segregated, two-tier state funded system of education, as outlined in the government consultation 'Schools that work for everyone'. Joining as one professional voice and representing Community Schools, Academies, Free Schools and faith based schools, Surrey's secondary Headteachers are committed to the urgent need to highlight the fundamental philosophical and systematic flaws in the proposals for selective education.

Surrey is a prime example of a large and diverse county, with a population of over 1.58,000 students, attending state funded non-selective secondary schools. Secondary Heads are therefore expert leaders within a system which caters for a populace with a range of academic ability, a broad spectrum of diverse social need and disadvantage and with a significant cohort of students with special education needs and disabilities. However, given that 95% of Surrey's secondary pupils attend schools that are rated either Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, Heads feel well placed to highlight Surrey's inclusive, collaborative and high achieving comprehensive system, which truly embodies the strapline 'Schools that work for everyone'. The comprehensive schools in Surrey have delivered in the past 40 years, an education system which genuinely is for everyone, with able pupils achieving highly, social mobility and the absence of the stigma of failure at the age of 11. We can see students who are steady late developers, so who would probably have failed the 11-plus, and yet have gone on to be "high-fliers". It is impossible to have grammar schools without secondary modern schools or their equivalent for those who are not selected, whether by 11 plus or some other test.

The arguments for selective education fail to withstand rigorous challenge, when hard evidence around social mobility and outcomes for students in selective and non-selective areas is considered. The recently published Education Policy Institute report entitled '*Grammar Schools and Social Mobility*'; highlighted the flaws in a selective education policy;

- *There is no significant positive impact of selective systems of education on social mobility.*
- *Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are under-represented in grammar schools.*
- *Once prior attainment and pupil background is taken into consideration, there is no overall attainment impact of grammar schools, either positive or negative.*
- *In a comparison of high attaining pupils in grammar schools with similar pupils who attend high quality non selective schools, there are five times as many high quality non selective schools as there are grammar schools. These schools are much more socially representative than grammar schools, admitting close to the national rate of FSM pupils (12.6% versus 13.2% nationally, and just 2.5% in grammar schools). They also admit close to the national share of children with special educational needs.*

At its best, the government's selective school proposals represent further confusion and fragmentation of England's education policy. At its worst, this policy is predicated on a nostalgic and unrealistic vision of society, the debate around which deflects attention from the real issues facing schools today: continuing funding cuts, an unassuaged and escalating recruitment crisis and the introduction of new GCSE qualifications with yet to be defined grade boundaries and, in many cases, ill-prepared specifications, to name but a few.

The formal issue of this open letter and its statement of opposition to the keystone government policy of segregated post-11 education based on ability, represents a very significant step for the Phase Council as an organisation. However, Surrey's secondary Heads have committed to adding their voices to those of the many school leaders across England, who feel so driven to publicise their opposition to selective segregation in education.

This letter has also been sent to Rt. Hon. Angela Rayner MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Neil Carmichael MP, Chair of the House of Commons Select Committee for Education and Surrey's 11 MPs, with circulation to local and national media outlets.

***Issued on behalf of the undersigned members of Surrey Secondary Headteachers' Phase Council.***

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<sup>i</sup> *Taken from DofE State-Funded Secondary Schools (1)(2): Number of Schools and Number (Headcount) Of Pupils By The Status Of Their School January 2016 by local authority and region in England*

<sup>ii</sup> *Taken from The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2014/15 /Secondary performance by area*

<sup>iii</sup> *Education Policy Institute Report published 23rd September 2016*

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**Signatories to this letter**

**School**

*All Hallows Catholic School  
Ash Manor School  
Blenheim High School*

*Broadwater School  
Chertsey High School  
Christ's College  
Collingwood College*

*de Stafford School  
Epsom and Ewell High School  
Esher CofE High School  
Farnham Heath End School  
Fullbrook School  
George Abbot School  
Glebelands School  
Glyn School  
Gordon's School  
Guildford County School  
Heathside School  
Hinchley Wood School and Sixth Form Centre  
Hoe Valley School  
Howard of Effingham School  
Jubilee High School  
Kings College for the Arts and Technology  
Kings International College for Business and the Arts  
North East Surrey Short Stay School  
North West Surrey Short Stay School  
Oakwood School  
Oxted School  
Reigate School  
Reigate Valley College  
and Wey Valley College  
Rodborough School  
Rosebery School  
Royal Alexandra and Albert School  
Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College  
Salesian School  
St Andrew's Catholic School  
St Bede's School  
St John the Baptist Catholic School*

*St Paul's Catholic College  
St Peter's Catholic School  
St Peter's Centre Medical and Short Stay School  
Sunbury Manor School  
Thamesmead School  
The Ashcombe School  
The Beacon School  
The Bishop David Brown School  
The Bishop Wand Church of England School  
The Surrey Teaching Centre  
The Hope Service  
The Magna Carta School  
The Matthew Arnold School  
The Priory CofE School  
The Warwick School  
The Winston Churchill School  
Therfield School  
Thomas Knyvett College  
Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form College  
Warlingham School  
Weydon School  
Woking High School  
Woolmer Hill School*

**School Leader**

*E Lutzeier, Headteacher  
A Bailey, Headteacher  
R Isaac, Co-Principal  
S Hillier, Co-Principal  
C Lee, Headteacher  
Z Munnik, Headteacher  
S Knight, Principal  
K Griffiths, Co-Principal  
E Tanner, Co-Principal  
J Garner, Headteacher  
A Russell, Headteacher  
M Boddington, Headteacher  
N Phillips, Headteacher  
A Turner, Principal  
K Carriett, Headteacher  
A Hutchinson, Headteacher  
P Wheatley, Headteacher  
A Moss, Headteacher  
J Mayhew, Headteacher  
A Cullum, Principal  
B Bartlett, Headteacher  
P Alford, Headteacher  
H Pennington, Head of School  
S Price, Headteacher  
J Langley, Headteacher  
A McKenzie, Principal*

*M Blackman, Headteacher  
J Ashworth, Headteacher  
S Potten, Headteacher  
N Euridge, Head of School  
S Wardlow, Headteacher  
D Euridge, Executive Headteacher*

*M Armstrong-Harris, Headteacher  
R Allen, Headteacher  
M Dixon, Headmaster  
AL Payne, Head of School  
J Kibble, Headteacher  
A Mitchell, Headteacher  
S Crabtree, Headteacher  
A Magill, Executive Headteacher  
J Granville Hamshar, Head of School  
J McNulty, Headteacher  
T Miller, Headteacher  
S Lynn, Headteacher  
L Duncan, Headteacher  
P Rodin, Headteacher  
D Blow, Headteacher  
R Bennett, Principal  
S Shephard, Headteacher  
D Aldridge, Headteacher  
P Walden, Headteacher  
N Ridley, Teacher in Charge  
T Smith, Headteacher  
M Gould, Head of School  
R Gibb, Headteacher  
R Searle, Headteacher  
Z Johnson-Walker, Headteacher  
J Malley, Headteacher  
J Marillat, Head of School  
I Hylan, Executive Principal  
N Bradwell, Headteacher  
J Winter, Headteacher  
J Abbott, Principal  
C Talbot, Headteacher*

<i>Open letter sent to;</i>
<i>Rt. Hon. Angela Rayner MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education</i>
<i>Neil Carmichael MP, Chair of the House of Commons Select Committee for Education</i>
<i>Members of the House of Commons Select Committee for Education</i>
<i>Sir Paul Beresford, MP for Mole Valley</i>
<i>Crispin Blunt, MP for Reigate</i>
<i>Michael Gove, MP for Surrey Heath</i>
<i>Chris Grayling, MP for Epsom and Ewell</i>
<i>Sam Gyimah, MP for East Surrey</i>
<i>Philip Hammond, MP for Runnymede and Weybridge</i>
<i>Jeremy Hunt, MP for South West Surrey</i>
<i>Kwasi Kwarteng, MP for Spelthorne</i>
<i>Jonathon Lord, MP for Woking</i>
<i>Anne Milton, MP for Guildford</i>
<i>Dominic Raab, MP for Esher and Walton</i>
<i>Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools</i>
<i>David Hodge, Leader Surrey County Council</i>
<i>Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member Schools Skills and Educational Achievement, Surrey County Council</i>