

To: All Headteachers/Principals

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS**

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Your Ref:

Please ask for: Bev Petch

Our Ref: BP/kes

Date: 1 April 2019

Dear colleague

**Auckland Education Centre: update for Headteachers**

As you will know, in October 2018, Ofsted carried out an inspection of Auckland Education Centre. The inspection found the Centre to be inadequate across all areas. When a PRU receives an Ofsted category it has to either close or convert to an AP Academy. This decision lies with the Secretary of State, not with the Local Authority.

The Local Authority is proposing the closure of Auckland. At a Cabinet Portfolio Holder meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March, it was agreed in principle that Solihull will seek permission from the Secretary of State to close Auckland Education Centre at the end of this year. The final decision to seek approval from the Secretary of State will be taken at full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Thank you if you were able to take the time to respond to the consultation about the future of Auckland. We will keep you involved and informed about the progress as we work to deliver more specialist support for children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. This will comprise of a non-traded Council service to support pupils with high SEMH needs and the creation of SEMH ARPs for primary-aged children. In addition, exploration and discussions are underway about the primary alternative provision pathway.

I am keen to have opportunity to work with as many primary headteachers as possible. We have a small working group established to explore the permanent exclusion pathway and research is being undertaken on how other Local Authorities are meeting the needs of those pupils at risk of or permanently excluded. Please do let me know if you would like to be involved in this, if you would like to invite me to meet with you individually or to attend any headteacher groups.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



**Bev Petch**  
Head of Alternative Provision