

I speak on behalf of the group Excellent Education for everyone formed by RBWM parents to promote positive discussion about ways to deliver a fair, inclusive education to all children within the borough.

The Children's Overview and Scrutiny panel has already heard our evidence that selection will result in;

- a) **fewer children attaining their potential and**
- b) **the attainment gap between the rich and poor growing wider**

Our further response is as follows:

1. The council's motto is "residents first" **so ask the residents first whether they want their existing schools to become selective?** In a grammar school children have to pass an admission test of which around 80% fail. Should schools like Furze Platt shut its doors to 80% of nearby children?
2. **Grammar schools firmly shut their doors to the majority of disadvantaged students who don't pass a selection test.**

Newlands is our top academically achieving comprehensive with similar Progress 8 scores and comparable academic results to William Borlase Grammar school. It is also an inclusive school. In 2015 Newlands had an Ever6 pupil population of 13.7% whereas William Borlase only 1.7% across the entire school.

3. **What about your mandate to encourage selective education into RBWM?** You have none. There was no mention of encouraging existing schools to become selective before the last council election or indeed general election. If "Brexit means Brexit" then "No more Grammar schools" should mean "No more Grammar schools"!
4. **What about "choice"? A Selective school means that ALL Maidenhead parents WILL lose the automatic choice of sending their children there.**
5. This council has **limited control over which school could become selective** and you have done no evaluation regarding the consequences to residents of any school becoming selective.
6. The Prime Minister said new grammar schools should be built in areas with **no good or outstanding schools** and be trialled in areas of **high deprivation**. Maidenhead does not fall within this category.
7. It is **against the law** to create new selective schools. We urge you to respect the rule of law and withdraw this paper before you waste tax payer's money and resources.

Instead, build a brand new comprehensive school or college open to all of Maidenhead's children whatever their background or academic ability. Our children only have one chance of getting a good education while they are children. Please don't turn our high achieving comprehensives into secondary modern schools and risk damaging what we already have!