

# A parents perspective to education in Northampton.

Northamptonshire LEA is one of the worst performing in the UK.

One in 10 schools failing pupils

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/One-in-10-schools-failing.3525519.jp>

Northampton schools are told: Improve or close - All are within 4 miles of hyper successful schools

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/Northampton-schools-are-told-Improve.4171966.jp>

## Why do schools struggle in Northampton?

There is significant reason why nearly all schools within the Northampton borough are failing to make Government targets. There are two schools that have selectively creamed off the brighter, better supported students for years with the compliant agreement of the Local Authority (LA). These are Northampton School for Boys and Northampton School for Girls. This means these schools have outstanding results. The girls school took the most able across a banding system, but the boys school only took pupils who would deliver them results and build their reputation. It could be argued that the 3% that did not perform academically were selected for sporting prowess!

GCSEs: 97 per cent success rate for school

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/GCSEs-97-per-cent-success.3140190.jp>

## An unexpected change in admission criteria will benefit all schools eventually

Unexpectedly and to the surprise of the LA both schools had to radically change their admission policies earlier this year when they were ruled illegal by the ombudsman.

*"The Ombudsman upheld complaints that the appeal panel that heard their appeals did not follow proper procedures, failing both to ensure that they received copies of all documents relevant to their appeals and to scrutinise the School's admission policy properly.*

*The Ombudsman went on to consider the problems presented to the appeal panel by the School's admission procedure, which involved the use of a marked application form. He concludes that this was fundamentally flawed.*

*The Ombudsman found maladministration causing injustice and recommended that each of the complainants' sons be offered a place at the School to join from September 2007 onwards."*

*Northampton School for Boys (06/B/1255, 1891 & 2055)*

Parents applaud fairness, headteacher disagrees

Michael Griffiths, the head teacher of Northampton School for Boys, branded the new admissions rules a "Saturday night game show"

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1580782/Thousands-to-appeal-over-schools-lottery.html>

## How best to improve the LA's standing?

Local Authority improves performance figures by off-loading struggling schools.

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/New-strategy-to-help-Northamptonshire.4284182.jp>

Local Authority struggles to support schools as £90m land deal collapses? You decide.

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/Schools39-90m-land-deal-collapses.4665959.jp>

## Is academy status really to raise standards?

It becomes clear the LA is the driving force behind moving to academies whether schools want it or not. The LA is even happy to let one underperforming school sponsor another school.

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/education/Academy-plan-to-aid-struggling.4736136.jp>

Change to academy status being 'forced through' at school

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/education/Change-to-academy-status-being.4773078.jp>

9 out of 10 Weston Favell pupils 'oppose plans'

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/education/9-out-of-10-Weston.4773077.jp>