



Isle of Wight Council

School Place Planning Summary of Consultation Feedback

Planned Proposal: The Bay CE School – 12 Place Resourced
Provision

This document provides all comments received through the consultation process which commenced on the 3rd January 2025 and closed on the 3rd February 2025.

These comments have not been adjusted or reduced and are a true representation of what was received.

A separate analysis of this feedback will be provided, sharing common themes or concerns raised.

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Responses received via: Online Correspondence

Comments made by:	Comment:
Resident	Disgraceful. This school should not be closed. This will displace too many children. These children have already been affected enough from covid.
Resident	"I think closing these schools are a short term measure to save money, but will prove to be a big mistake in the relatively near future. If the government is determined to force through their house building agenda, this will undoubtedly create an increase in the Island's population, and a further demand for school places.
Resident	In the meantime, surely a reduction in the ratio of teachers to pupils would be highly beneficial and may improve standards in the currently failing state of Island education "
Resident	"Will parking be an issue for children with additional needs?
Former EY Practitioner / SENCO	Why the change from the Arreton proposal which is more central?"
Staff (at a school affected by the proposals)	Absolutely disgraceful. Stop closing primary schools on the island down. They are the only schools that nurture our future generations. Children need this nurturing close to home to build community.
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	"Whilst I am in full support of children with SEN /Autism having a specific provision to address their needs, I think a 12 place provision is severely (and naively), underestimating the numbers of children that this service should be available to.
Parent/guardian	As a parent of an Autistic adult, and as a former Early Years [REDACTED], I know the extreme difficulties of getting a child diagnosed, recognised, and fighting for a precious specialist placement in a provision. Even in the former Watergate School, there was a ratio of 1 child in 6 that actually got the placement they needed!
Parent/guardian	So this 12 place provision, in my view, won't even touch the sides of what's really needed. Looks to me like the IOWCC are just paying lip service to a tick box. Which would be a joke, if it wasn't at the expense of parents and children who need all the help they can get....
Parent/guardian	"
Resident	Very beneficial.
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	The Bay is a busy school as it is, SEN students should be in SEN schools where they have the training and resources deal with increasing needs. The Bay should not be spread even thinner than it is. You're closing lots of primaries and have said you will make some of them into SEN provision so I don't see why you need to add extra SEN places to this school.

Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	This is desperately needed and I support the idea of an all through provision
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Comments made by:	Comment:
School Governor	I do not believe that The Bay is the appropriate school for a resourced provision. I believe that there are sites locally which would be better placed for this kind of provision.
Parent/guardian	I have [REDACTED] children with additional needs, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] satalite and [REDACTED] in mainstream a [REDACTED] I do feel the island main stream schools do have a lac of understanding when it comes to additional needs co pared to the mainland. I'm fully supportive of any extra needs specialist places for children on the island as lacks t amount needed.
Parent/guardian	The provision is a great idea.
Parent/guardian	It is most certainly not sufficient to meet th islands needs! 12 spaces only isn't nearly satisfacto y to meet the Islands SEN needs. In addition, the island is still f iling to make education accessible for those with SEMH - a larg r provision for this would encompass the child w h autism along with many many others.
Parent/guardian	brilliant idea
Parent/guardian	Terrible school major bullying go my kids out at first opportunity th y should be shut not the others

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Comments made by:	Comment:
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	It is important that the resourced provision spaces, currently at Brading are relocated, and also has the ability to expand, should Brading close. I am unsure of the capacity available at the Bay Primary with children from Brading Primary also being directed to move there if Brading closes. The Bay is a fixed size, landlocked site without a field. I would be concerned about the impact of overcrowding on children and there not being enough infrastructure and outdoor space with unit as well as additional children attending.
LA Officer	There are not sufficient resources of the Isle of Wight to support children with additional and complex needs and therefore any increased provision is positive
Resident	This is needed to accommodate those children that require an RP place
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	<p>Closing this school would allow my school to continue to run and be at a fuller capacity this extra funding into our budget from pupils in places means we can provide better provision for our pupils.</p> <p>I work in a vital role to pupils social and emotional wellbeing as [REDACTED] until summer term at the moment due to constraints of budgets due to surplus places, closing this school would support pupils coming to my unaffected school and not only mean more budget to provide for all pupils but allow my services within school to continue to meet pupils emotional literacy needs</p>
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	There is not enough provision for primary aged children on the island and so many children are placed in inappropriate settings where staff struggle to have the expertise or resources to support these children. I believe a resources provision, particularly for SEMH is a welcome addition. My query would be around the size as this is only for 12 children. Would this just be for putting Bay pupils, the Bay area or would other children be placed here with transport factored in? I think the provision needs to be bigger or more provisions need to be established as soon as possible
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	This is so important as more and more children really need this and some really struggle with everyday school life and because these children struggle, it puts more stress on the adults working within that class
Parent/guardian	Ridiculous, who's to say if the birth rate is going to go up or down in the next couple of years. Going to cause more traffic on the roads, and a lot of people don't drive so will take most of

	the day taking children to and from school. Parents won't have time to have any sort of job.
Multi-Academy Trust	Pupil number viability determines that this school must be closed to secure the sustainability of other schools on the Island.
Resident	The school has a significant unresolved deficit that should be resolved and put on a solid footing before instigating new provision.
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	Although it is sad for any school to be forced to close and for those there this must be very painful. There is a desperate need to reduce excess places across the island and improve financial prospects for all the schools across the island as a result. The consultations and accompanying documentation has made this very clear and no viable alternatives have been put forward to resolve this.
Staff (at a school affected by the proposals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having more Resource Provision spaces is much needed. - It is already a successful / large school. - Lots of children and families needing access to specialist spaces / Resource Provision. - Having the Resource Provision at The Bay may help some of the children left at Brading in specialist provision or with EHCPs to move on if Brading closes. - The building is up-to-date and well maintained already. - Large staff team with a variety of experience. - By closing Brading Primary, some of those pupils/families should or may choose to join and attend The Bay CE Primary School, as several often travel in to Brading from Sandown. This will help funds. - It makes sense to have this Resource Provision in a larger town with good travel connection and most likely more demand.
Resident	It's wrong to make children travel further plus too many cut backs.
Resident	As a taxpayer I urge you to reconsider as I feel strongly the council are about to be thrown in to a huge and expensive (but justified) legal challenge from the Portsmouth Diocesan Board of Education. Any savings you think you might make and I've yet to see any evidence of cost analysis, despite asking in FOI's, will be swallowed up in expensive legal action or the decision being delayed by the Independent Adjudicator. These people have evidence to support their case, and you have the power to save the tax payers these legal costs by pressing pause and working with the Diocese and unions to come up with a transparent process. I argue this as someone who believes cuts do need to be made but I disagree strongly with how you're doing it. You didn't even know you didn't own 3 of the

	<p>school sites so how can we have confidence in your secret 'findings'.</p> <p>The Board have stated that you have "inaccurate, Incomplete information". They go on to state that they believe the "criteria is not clear", "that specific costs are still a mystery because of a "flawed process". Whilst the council education team and cabinet have repeatedly say they have the evidence and that they are confident in their process they are NOT demonstrating this by being transparent. So many responses are batted off with answer that you won't know that until the final decision has been made - be honest it's a done deal. You have no intention of changing your minds, or pausing to ensure full transparency. You won't even let all the council members see the secretive documents that you believe hold the answers.</p> <p>What I strongly oppose are the flaws in the process, inconsistencies, lack of transparency and unknown criteria.</p>
Resident	<p>My understanding is that around 2011 the IOW council closed a number of Middle schools with the aim of saving money to improve the overall education standard on the island. Where is the evidence that this has worked and therefore a good model to use in this case? My understanding - from your own statements are that the IOW is deemed to be one of the worst authorities for providing excellent education, so obviously your plan from 2011 did NOT work. PRESS PAUSE now</p>
Parent/guardian	<p>In 2011 the Isle of Wight Council decided to close 16 of its middle schools. Apparently this decision was made to switch from a 3 tier education system to a 2 tier system. It was also didn't to improve education - where is the improvement?</p>
Parent/guardian	<p>I am not in support of any of the statutory proposals for the named schools as I cannot support a procedure that has been rushed, is flawed, short-sighted and stands to tear the heart out of some of our poorest communities. To continue with it would destroy trust. It is contradictory to the council's mental health policies (connect, be involved, be present, be mindful) and stands to cause significant harm, both in the short-term and long term. Our councillors would be better set using their voice to lobby for greater national change in education standards and delivery, or face unprecedented numbers of families opting for home-schooling in a bid to support their children in an ever-more disconnected community, having been robbed of their support networks.</p>
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	<p>It is vital that some schools on the island close to ensure the education of young people on the Island is not affected and schools will have sufficient funding levels to operate and provide the highest quality of education. A lack of funding to schools will mean that all our young people would miss out on opportunities.</p>

Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	Much needed and doesn't really go far enough to address the SEND issues we have in mainstream primary schools. More is needed to ensure that these children get the support and education they deserve.
Parent/guardian	Yes do this and leave Oakfield open. You do not need a site that big. Build that send school you got funding for!
Resident	Faith schools are a divisive anachronism in an increasingly secular society and should be the first to face closure.
Parent/guardian	A good idea in theory as we do need some more enhanced SEND provision (not on the scales of the strategic p anne s mind as Send children need to be included in mainst eam school not sectioned off) but given the serious ailings f the statutory planners and their complete inability to f nanci lly plan, I would need more evidence to ma e an informed decision; much like the Councillors felt whe asked to vote on the process on the 29th, with evidence barred from their viewing. Seems to be a bit of a theme

Responses received via: Online Correspondence

Comments made by:	Comment:
Council tax payer with no link to any school	I'm confused as to the criteria that was used to list the 6 schools which later became 5. Newport and other big towns have many schools in very close proximity to each other - why have these not been targeted? The schools you have chosen are mainly in rural areas where you will destroy communities. Of course children in Newport schools would be upset but they wouldn't lose their friends and could almost certainly still walk to school. Why not look at closing some of your older schools where maintenance costs are high and especially those that may need major works in the near future. This appears to be a deliberate policy to target rural schools in poorer areas leaving those in the more affluent areas untouched. Academy schools were apparently out of scope despite some performing badly and I gather you're sending children from schools where the Ofsted reports are encouraging to poorer performing schools and claiming it will improve education on the island - HOW?
Parent/guardian	The Bay is in a massive cash deficit. Do not pump money into a debt ridden school. If you close The Bay down completely that would solve your excess places issue & then make the site into a SEND provision only.
Parent/guardian	This is a much needed provision for our children.
Parent/guardian	This is not the right school to be awarded this expansion. Not all kids like massive schools like the Bay. It should be built within one of the rural schools so they can be saved. The Bay is in financial trouble, do not pour money away there.
Parent/guardian	It's a terrible school and this contract could have been afforded to Wroxall or any of the other school to increase the PAN
Parent/guardian	This is a truly awful school with an ineffective executive headteacher- how can you give him more responsibility.
Parent/guardian	I believe this Resources Provision should be established at Oakfield CE Primary rather than The Bay. The school has the space for expansion and is already very well set up for children with SEND.
Resident	The process for the selection of schools, the consultation and the report coming out of it are irreparably flawed. This will wreak havoc on education on the Island. The process should be restarted.
Resident	We need more specialist units for children with ASC but I'm not sure if the Bay is the best place to do this. I have heard from pupils and relatives of these that already attend, that the current behaviour in the school is somewhat tricky so placing more children with significant needs on this site may not be the best thing.

Resident	Terrible school with a nasty bullying problem they are trying to cover up
Resident	It is a failing school and should have been considered for closure instead of wroxall.
Resident	<p>I cannot be supportive of a process where reports of detailed analysis for each school have not been provided to councillors, and therefore were not "substantially informed".</p> <p>Schools have not been allowed to comment on these reports.</p> <p>The shameful manoeuvring by some councillors in order to not have to vote on Cllr Lilley's proposal at the EF M on 2th Jan 25, coupled with the absence of these documents lead me to the conclusion that this process has not been done fully, appropriately, proportionately and is not good enough for our children or our Island.</p>
Resident	<p>You are proposing to close a school in the heart of a community which in turn lessens the connectedness of that community for all ages. We need that connectedness to thrive. The environmental impact pushing people to drive to school where once they could walk will increase. Less walking means an increased strain on NHS abilities to address obesity and mental health wellbeing. Time taken to drop/pick up children at schools further away will eat in to work time for many parents - this impacts the economy far wider than the council.</p>
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	We absolutely need to look at helping children more that cannot manage full mainstream school and help their mental wellbeing.
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	The island is lacking in resourced provisions and support for SEND pupils. Many children are not coping in mainstream and with an increasing number of schools and families applying for EHC Plans, alternative provisions are required to meet the increasing needs of our children.
Staff (at a school unaffected by the proposals)	This is a much needed resource for our young children.