

**MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 2 TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE REGULATIONS:**  
Information to be included in a complete proposal.

**Extract Schedule 2 to the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013:**

**Contact details:**

1. The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the proposals and the name, address and category of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Isle of Wight Council, County Hall, High Street, NEWPORT, Isle of Wight, PO30 1UD.

CHILLERTON AND ROOKLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, Chillerton, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 3EP (category of school – community)

**Implementation**

1. The date on which it is proposed to close the school or, where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.

The school will close on 31 December 2023.

It is proposed that pupils currently attending the school will attend the amalgamated primary (Godshill Primary School), at which the pupils have been educated since January 2023.

Admission may also be sought to other schools which have places available, should parents / careers choose to do so.

**Reason for closure**

2. A statement explaining the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.

The Stenbury Federation (the Governing Body for Chillerton and Rookley and Godshill Primary Schools) wrote to the Isle of Wight Council on 19 January 2021 requesting that an amalgamation of Chillerton and Rookley and Godshill Primary Schools be consulted upon due to ongoing sustainability and financial viability issues. The number of children attending the school has fallen steadily over the last few years, with 8 on roll as of 1st September 2023. The school has a capacity of 91 places. This contrasts with 85 pupils on roll in the 2017/18 academic year.

As schools are mainly funded based upon the number of pupils on roll. Low and falling pupil numbers has a significant impact on a school's budget.

The challenges for small primary schools are:

- staff often have to cover several curriculum and pastoral areas at the same time;
- there is no flexibility to cover for any weak or ill member of staff;
- unpredictable and flexible budgets makes medium and long term planning difficult;
- the movement of one child or family in or out of the school can have a significant impact on standards, financial resources and behaviour
- a large proportion of the school's budget is spent on fixed costs including management and premises costs.
- the current national shortage of teachers is also a concern as small schools may not be able to recruit or recruit the right calibre of teacher.
- Small schools are expected to deliver the full curriculum and manage the same range of administrative tasks as larger ones.

The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 13. From the 1 January 2023 all the children on roll at Chillerton and Rookley, in agreement with their parents have been taught at the Godshill site. This has ensured they have access to the full primary curriculum, participate in extra-curricular activities and develop wider social and emotional skills with their peer groups.

Two separate periods of consultations have been undertaken to seek views of the proposal, and to also consider alternatives options. People consulted included the parents of the pupils attending Chillerton and Rookley and Godshill Primary Schools, the Member of Parliament, Parish Councils, local councillors, Trade Unions, and

residents. In total 343 responses were received during both periods of consultation from different sources with some people making more than one response.

Despite several alternative options being considered pupil numbers at the school and across the Island continue to decline, and in addition to this our current forecast data also indicates that there is not a future demand for places in the planning area. The recommendation is therefore to amalgamate the two schools, achieved through the closure of Chillerton and Rookley Primary School.

### **Pupil numbers and admissions**

The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.

The school is a co-educational school with an age range of 3 years of age to 11 years of age.

As at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 there were 8 pupils registered at the school, 1 pupil is on the school's SEN register, and no children have an education, health and care plan

There are no boarding pupils.

### **Displaced pupils**

3. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and
- c) in the case of special schools, the alternative provision (i.e. alternative suitable schools in the area) made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school.

It is proposed that pupils currently attending the school will attend the amalgamated primary school (Godshill Primary School) which the pupils have been educated at since January 2023. Admission may also be sought to other schools which have places available should parent / carers choose to do so.

Should there be a demand for places in the future both primary school place planning areas (Newport and Ventnor) have capacity to accommodate additional children.

#### **Impact on the community**

4. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

To mitigate the adverse impact of the school closure, the council has proposed that home to school transport will be provided for children currently on roll of the school regardless of home address.

Pupils living in the Chillerton area in the future will be entitled to local authority funded transport if they are eligible under the Home to School Transport Policy, to what becomes their nearest school if Chillerton and Rookley Primary School closes.

#### **Rural primary schools**

5. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered section 15(4).

Prior to the publication of this proposal to discontinue this rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, the local authority has considered:

- the likely effect of the closure of the school on the local community
- the proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community
- educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools
- whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term)
- any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase
- any alternatives to the closure of the school (including academy conversion, federation, or extending the school to provide local community facilities)
- transport implications i.e., the availability, and likely cost of transport to other schools and sustainability issues
- the size of the school and whether it puts the children at an educational disadvantage e.g., in terms of breadth of curriculum or resources available
- the overall and long-term impact on the local community of the closure of the village school and of the loss of the building as a community facility
- wider school organisation and capacity of good schools in the area to accommodate displaced pupils

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

### **Balance of denominational provision**

6. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Not applicable

### **Maintained nursery schools**

7. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:
- the local authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision (i.e. alternative suitable schools in the area) compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
  - the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents

Not applicable

### **Sixth form provision**

8. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, the effect for 16 to 19 year olds in the area that the closure will have in respect of:
- their educational or training achievements;
  - their participation in education or training; and
  - the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.

Not applicable

### **Special educational needs provision**

9. Where existing provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) believe the proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Not applicable

## Travel

10. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision (i.e. alternative suitable schools in the area). The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use.

To mitigate the adverse impact of the school closure the council has proposed that home to school transport will be provided for children currently on roll of the school regardless of home address.

Future Chillerton resident pupils will be entitled to local authority funded transport if they are eligible under the Home to School Transport Policy, to what becomes their nearest school if Chillerton and Rookley Primary School closes.

Measured under direct distance there are 4 other primary schools within 3 miles of Chillerton and Rookley Primary School.

## Objections and comments

11. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including

- i. the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
- ii. the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

12pm on 27 October 2023

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Richard Vaughan, Strategic Development, County Hall, Newport, IOW, PO30 1UD

e-mail: [sandlbusinesssupport@iow.gov.uk](mailto:sandlbusinesssupport@iow.gov.uk)