

Statutory proposal for the closure of Arreton St Georges Church of England Primary School

Contact details

Name and address of Local authority publishing the proposal:

Isle of Wight Council, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1UD

Name, address and category of school proposed to be closed:

Arreton St Georges Church of England Primary School, School Lane, Arreton, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AD

(Voluntary Aided School)

Introduction

On Thursday 12 December the Cabinet of Isle of Wight Council approved the publication of a statutory proposal to close Arreton St Georges CE Primary School.

Notice is given in accordance with Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that The Isle of Wight Council proposes to discontinue Arreton St Georges Church of England (CE) Primary School with effect from 31 August 2025.

Implementation

Date on which it is proposed to close the school:

Sunday 31 August 2025.

It is proposed to implement the closure as follows:

Following the closure of Arreton St Georges CE Primary School, it is proposed for the remaining pupils on roll at that time to transfer to Barton Primary School or other primary schools in the local area. Barton Primary School is 3.25 miles by road from Arreton CE Primary School.

There are also vacancies at other schools in the Newport school place planning area, providing Arreton CE Primary families with a range of options to secure a suitable school for their child. The local authority will endeavour to meet parental preferences for school places, where possible.

The local authority is already undertaking preliminary work on planning the transition for children and families.

Reason for Closure

The council has a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient number of school places for pupils and that places are planned effectively. The council monitors surplus Reception places, a key measure of demand, and aims to maintain a 10% surplus across the primary school phase to allow for parental preference and for movers across or onto the Isle of Wight.

The council's own projection of pupil numbers starting Reception in the coming years forecasts that across the Isle of Wight there will be 2506 surplus primary school places in 2025 and 2828 surplus places in 2026. The earliest indication for 2027 suggests that number will rise to 3049 unfilled places.

The planning and provision of school places is a complex task that must take account of changing populations, parental preference, migration and new housing. Individual schools, subject to status, now have greater autonomy regarding admission numbers and decisions surrounding school expansion/reduction, adding further complexity to the statutory role the Council has in relation to ensuring sufficiency of school places. The geography and rural nature of the Isle of Wight creates further challenges in relation to small schools. A main principle of current and future provision is that the LA will seek to provide schools which deliver high quality education standards and are financially sustainable in the longer term. As part of the school place planning review a number of key areas for consideration are identified below, along with more detailed information contained within this proposal:

- Quality of provision.
- Where the children who attend the school live.
- Childrens health and wellbeing.
- Whether the children that attend a faith school do so because of its denomination.
- Financial viability.
- Transport implications.
- Environment implications.
- Number of pupils choosing to attend the school.
- Fabric of the building and ongoing maintenance costs.
- Legal legislation restrictions.
- Department for Education guidance about rural schools.
- Pupil movement.
- Local housing building.
- Factors that arise during a consultation process.
- Restrictions outside of the local authority's control.

Table 1 below provides updated forecast data for the number of children due to start Reception each year in the Newport school place planning area. This demonstrates that despite a slight increase for September 2025 the area has a sustained increase in surplus school places with Arreton forecast to have the highest percent of surplus places:

Table 1:

School	PAN	Year R Numbers					Surplus	
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	%24/25	%28/29
Arreton St George's CE Primary	30	6	8	7	7	6	80%	80%
Barton Primary School	30	31	31	28	27	26	-3%	13%
Carisbrooke CE Primary	45	38	42	37	36	34	16%	24%
Hunnyhill Primary	60	47	49	44	42	40	22%	33%
Newport CE Primary School	45	40	41	37	36	34	11%	24%
Nine Acres Primary	60	60	63	56	54	52	0%	13%
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary	30	23	28	25	24	23	23%	23%
Summerfields Primary	30	29	31	28	27	26	3%	13%
Wootton Community Primary School	30	30	31	28	27	26	0%	13%
Area Total	360	304	324	290	280	267	16%	26%
NHS Data - Overall number of children living in area		360	379	338	326	310		

Data source: Summer census 2024

As a result of this significant decline in births the council has reluctantly determined to propose that Arreton St Georges CE Primary School should now close. This decline has been sustained over an extended period and the main factors leading to the closure proposal are low and falling pupil numbers impacting on the School's financial viability and consequent concerns around the ability to sustain a high quality education for pupils.

Schools are mainly funded by an amount of money for each child attending the school. Low pupil numbers make it challenging for schools to operate within budget. Managing a school and maintaining high-quality provision with quality teaching and learning can be difficult on a low budget.

The School is currently only just over a third full, with 86 pupils on roll as of October 2024. Pupil numbers in schools on the Island are declining and more significantly currently in the Newport planning area, where Arreton St Georges CE Primary School is situated. This means that Arreton, along with other schools, has not had

enough pupil numbers to fill its classes and despite a proposed reduction in the schools planned admission number for September 2025 (reducing from 30 places to 20 places), the Council do not feel there are sufficient children to fill these places.

The reduction in its pupil numbers will have a negative impact on the school's budget. The school had a cumulative surplus balance of £105,000 at the end of financial year 2023/24 and forecasts to retain this level of surplus in 2024/25 as per November submission. However future years forecasts indicate depletion of the reserves and a very finely balanced budget which puts the school at a high risk of falling into a deficit position.

Continued low pupil numbers mean the School will be unable to maintain a balanced budget and while it may be possible to identify some cost savings through efficiency, the School would not be able to achieve the scale of saving necessary without also cutting back even further on staff, which would be unacceptable in terms of the impact on education quality.

Arreton St George's Church of England Primary has underperformed, with only 42% of children reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in Summer 2024. [Arreton St George's Church of England \(Aided\) Primary School - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK](#) compared to the England average of 61% and 0% of the children achieving the higher standard in reading, writing and maths, compared to the England average of 8%. It is a double 'Requires Improvement' school and was last rated good by Ofsted in October 2014. With the School's low pupil numbers, it currently organises its pupils with some being taught in mixed aged classes. Future class structures are not known but it is likely with low numbers further combining of year groups would be required.

In addition, the options for leadership to consistently improve and maintain the quality of education are reduced, which in turn limits opportunities for staff professional development. This further impacts on the educational standards and quality of education for the pupils at the School.

Within the local area there are a total of 567 significant housing developments (20 or more) in area either with planning permission, a resolution to grant planning permission, or under construction (as of 1 November 2024) which could yield approximately 142 primary aged children (aged to 11 years old). This demand for places has been assessed against capacity of school places in the area and at present this number of children could be accommodated within the other three local schools (Barton Primary School, Carisbrooke CE Primary School and Newport CE Primary School).

The local authority has a statutory duty to manage the sufficiency of school places and after considering the alternative options available, it was determined that it would be necessary to propose for the school to close. This notice should be read in conjunction with the full report and findings presented to Cabinet: [Report.pdf](#); the consultation process and summary of responses are outlined in [Appendix 1 – Proposed closure of Arreton St Georges CE Primary School](#).

Paper copies of this report and appendix can be made available upon request.

Pupil numbers and admissions

The numbers for whom provision is currently made at the school:

Arreton St Georges CE Primary School is a mainstream primary school for pupils aged 4 to 11 years old. Gender of Entry – Mixed. This is a not a special school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND).

The school has a published admission number (PAN) of 30 for each year group, giving a total of 210 places (excluding nursery places).

There were 86 pupils on roll at the school as of the autumn term in October 2024 (data source: autumn 2024 School Census), all of whom are pupils of mainstream school age with no nursery-aged pupils (see Table 2 below).

Table 2:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
7	2	12	14	16	14	21	86

Data source: autumn 2024 School Census

Displaced pupils

It is expected that pupils in Year 6 will continue to attend the school until its proposed closure at the end of the academic year 2024-25.

From 1 September 2025, the pupils remaining on roll at Arreton St Georges CE Primary School would be offered a place at Barton Primary School. Barton is the next closest school and is 3.25 miles by road from Arreton CE Primary School. There will also be opportunity for parents to secure places at Carisbrooke CE Primary School, Newport CE Primary School and or other schools within the surrounding area.

Alternatively, parents/carers who do not wish to take up the offer of a place at Barton Primary School will be able to apply for a place at another school with a vacancy, via the Council's in-year application process. Although admission to alternative schools will depend upon vacancies at that time, it is proposed to support families through the process by holding surgeries at the School in April 2025 with admissions officers available to support families in completing in-year applications.

This is a mainstream school, and not a special school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND). However, SEND specialists will work with the school to ensure that those children with an education health and care plan (EHCP) will have that EHCP reviewed, and a new school named.

Where a pupil has an EHCP a SEND Officer will liaise with the parent/carer to discuss amending the plan, if it is determined minor or specific changes are required these will made without the need for a full review. If it is deemed that a review is

required, the SEND Officer will work with the school to arrange this and follow the statutory process in both circumstances parental preference will be secured and consultation with the EHCP will be made.

Table 3 below identifies the number of current vacant spaces within the schools in the Newport planning area. Should parents wish for their child to have a school place at Barton Primary School additional accommodation would be required if necessary:

Table 3:

School Name	Direct distance from Arreton CE Primary School (Miles)**	Reception Spaces	Year 1 Spaces	Year 2 Spaces	Year 3 Spaces	Year 4 Spaces	Year 5 Spaces	Year 6 Spaces*
Barton Primary and Early Years	2.278	0	5	0	6	4	2	1
Nine Acres Primary	2.759	0	0	5	1	0	0	0
Hunnyhill Primary	3.481	12	22	4	0	9	1	0
Wootton Primary	3.402	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Summerfields Primary	2.568	3	1	1	1	6	2	1
Carisbrooke CE Primary	3.149	6	0	2	1	0	1	1
St Thomas of Canterbury RC	3,184	7	1	1	0	0	0	0
Newport CE Primary	3.135	5	10	3	0	0	0	0
Total spaces		33	41	16	9	19	7	3

Data source: The number on roll was provided from schools on 3/12/2024. Up to date information is reliant upon schools updating School Admissions.

*Year 6 would be entering secondary schools upon 1st September 2025

**The distance between schools is measured direct by the local authority's geographical information system (GIS) from the centre of the building to the centre of the building. Other distance measuring tools will not give exactly the same measurement as they all measure slightly differently.

Mapping of children by postcode demonstrates that 84% of the current Year R to Year 5 cohort reside across a wide area within and outside of the Newport planning area. This means that some families are very likely to have several alternative schools within statutory walking distance of their homes (i.e. two miles for children under eight years of age, three miles for pupils aged 8–16).

Current projections for school places indicate that there are enough places for future cohorts in the event of the closure of Arreton St Georges CE Primary School. The local authority would continue to monitor the projected need for future school places and propose changes, if required, to ensure sufficient places are available.

Impact on the community

While the impact on the wider community is an important consideration, the key consideration is to determine whether the proposal to reduce surplus school places and improve the quality of education across the Island is in the best interests of children who are educated at the school.

The council does not underestimate the potential impact of this proposed change on the pupils at the school, whose circumstances may already make them vulnerable. This impact could include:

- Disruption to education
- Emotional and psychological stress
- Social impact
- Logistical challenges for families

We recognise the school serves some disadvantaged families and therefore professional support, from the support services such as the Inclusion Support Service, Schools Mental Health Service and Virtual School, will be put in place to facilitate the movement of those students to local schools and minimise the impact of change upon them.

With regards to wider community services Arreton CE St Georges Primary School currently provides additional services or use of its facilities which are identified in the rural primary school section below. Through local research it is possible that these services could be relocated to alternative school sites, and in the event of the school closing the LA would work with the school and community to ensure there was not a loss of provision.

The council considers that allowing surplus places to remain at current through inaction would directly and negatively impact the financial viability of many local schools, which in turn will have an impact on the quality and breadth of the education offered at those schools.

Impacts on other schools:

The potential closure of Arreton CE Primary school could have several impacts on other schools, particularly during the transition period. First, there may be an increase in children enrolment at nearby schools. These schools will need to adapt quickly to accommodate the arrival of new children, ensuring that class sizes remain manageable and that support services are adequately staffed. Given that the arrival of new children will be accompanied by additional income for the school, because school funding is linked to the number of children there, it is reasonable to assume that these changes are viable.

Additionally, the transition may require enhanced collaboration among schools to share resources and best practices, fostering a sense of community and support. Schools may also need to implement additional programs to help new children integrate smoothly, addressing any social or emotional challenges they might face during this change.

However, as noted in Table 3 above the schools in area has significant surplus capacity. Therefore by reducing surplus places in area this will assist other schools to ensure that full classes are achieved, leading to secure finances and ultimately improved quality of education.

Rural schools:

Arreton St Georges CE aided Primary School is designated as rural primary school under section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, therefore additional factors have been considered as part of the consultation process:

Legislation:

[The Designation of Rural Primary Schools \(England\) Order 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) and reference to Dfe guidance [Opening and closing maintained schools](#)

1. Alternatives to closure including:

- a. conversion to academy status and joining a multi-academy trust,**
- b. federation with another local school,**
- c. the scope for an extended school to provide local community services and facilities (e.g. childcare facilities, family and adult learning, healthcare, community internet access).**

1a. Arreton had an Academisation order placed upon it following a 'Requires Improvement outcomes' at the past two Ofsted inspections. This order has not progressed as a sponsor had not been secured prior to commencement of the School Place Planning (SPP) consultation for closure. Becoming an academy would not resolve the surplus of places and if the school is in budget deficit this could become a barrier to an academy conversion. The school has applied to reduce their PAN from 30 to 20 from September 2025, however forecast intakes remain substantially below this number.

1b. Arreton was previously in a federation with Oakfield CE Primary School, but this was disbanded in 2021.

There are a number of benefits for schools from being within a federation including broader learning and social experiences for children leading to improvement in performance. Schools will be able to share resources, best practice, facilities and expertise. However, federation alone will not reduce the number of surplus school places as the school's intake would remain, and overall in the planning area the number of school places would not reduce.

1c. Arreton does provide extended community facilities as there is a preschool on the school site that also provides wraparound care.

The school has been consulted upon local community services and facilities and below is a summary of the response provided by the school:

- The local pub (White Lion) uses our site for events such as a summer fayre.
- The farming community use the field for a tractor show.
- The church uses the field for an overflow car park for funerals.
- We have hosted other schools for training sessions/CPD.
- Arreton Gardens open day used our playground and fields as part of the events.
- Lantern parade with St George's Church.
- Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre which local businesses sell their local produce.
- Coffee morning for the elderly – invited into school.
- Arreton Cricket Club are involved with the school and we use their grounds for our Sports Day.
- The community hall has a lot of bookings from our parents for events.
- The Christingle Service in the church – open to the wider community.
- Christmas nativity in the church for the wider community.
- Harvest Festival – food collected is donated to the food bank.
- Parents hire the school for birthday parties and events.
- The Mardi Gras use our hall to do parent workshops.
- Penny Crossley uses the hall for parenting workshops.
- The top field is used by the wider community for games, dog walking, extra parking for the local pub outside of school hours.
- The Pre-school uses our outside area for the after-school club.

We also do a number of things for the local community:

- Musical performances in the Hospice, Osborne House and local care home.
- Nature and explorers club – litter picking.
- The school holds events such as bingo, Beetle drive, quiz nights in the evenings for the school community.
- We have sung on IOW radio and held a Jubilee picnic for the wider community.
- Competed in the Chale Horticultural Show.
- We Take part in the County Show.

As noted within the [Report.pdf](#) alternatives have been considered, and the local authority believes the closure of Arreton St Georges CE Primary School provides the best opportunity to establish a sustainable model of provision for the educational offer in this part of the Island.

2. The availability, and likely cost to parents, of transport to other schools.

Arreton resident children would 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 Arreton St Georges CE aided Primary School closes.

In November 2024 there were 79 children on roll of which 12 attend Arreton as their nearest school and for 67 children it is not their nearest school.

An analysis of each child has been undertaken to understand their next nearest 3 schools from their home address. Calculations can be made upon the transport budget for the next nearest school however parental choice prevents exact analysis in this regard.

The table below provides an analysis of the children on roll as of November 2024 in years R-5 which could be impacted by the proposed closure, and which schools are identified as being their closest school:

	Number of children for which it is their nearest school
Arreton St Georges	9
Brading	1
Broadlea	5
Carisbrooke	2
Dover Park	2
Gatten and Lake	2
Godshill	4
Holy Cross	1
Lanesend	1
Newchurch	15
Newport	2
Niton	1
Queensgate	4
Nine Acres	1
St Francis	1
St Blasius	1
St Thomas's	1
The Bay	3
Wroxall	2
Total number of children on roll	58

A summary of this confirms that of those children on roll in Year R – 5 only 16% attend the school as their nearest school.

The average unit cost for home to school transport per child in primary mainstream schools is £2,527 per annum as of October 2024. Our assessment indicates that 9 children would be eligible and the cost to the IWC would be an estimated £22,743 per annum.

The data in the table above indicates the closure of Arreton and the subsequent relocation of children to Barton, Carisbrooke or Newport Primary Schools will therefore not necessarily increase the overall use of the motor vehicle for the school run as parents would be required to drive their children to these instead of Arreton.

3. Whether the proposal will result in unreasonably long journey times.

For children living in the immediate Arreton area Barton Primary School is the next nearest school to Arreton that is located 3.3miles away by road and takes 9 minutes to travel to in a vehicle from the school. As identified above the remaining children on roll have an alternative school closer to their home address.

The table identifies the distance to the next closest school and next closest CE Schools:

School	Direct distance miles	Walking distance miles	Drive distance miles
Barton Primary School	2.278	3.116	3.248
Carisbrooke CE Primary School	3.149	4.107	4.112
Newport CE Primary School	3.135	4.114	4.144
The Bay CE Primary School	3.588	4.443	5.29

4. 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.

Arreton St Georges CE Primary School is a small rural school that can accommodate 1FE and has a current PAN of 30. Due to declining children's numbers, classes now contain multiple year groups which could restrict the educational offer to those children. Extra-curricular activities and team sports also proves difficult to offer for smaller cohorts.

Barton Primary School is a larger school that can accommodate 1.5 FE, has greater resources available. They will have access to all the elements of the national curriculum, and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Newport Family Centre is located next door to Barton Primary School.

Barton Primary School is not a Church of England school however if the parental preference is for a child to attend a Church of England school within the planning area the Local Authority will work with those families and the nearest Church of England schools.

Carisbrooke CE Primary School and Newport CE Primary School have confirmed that should places be required they will work with the Local Authority to provide temporary additional capacity. The distance to these schools are identified in the table below:

School	Direct distance	Walking distance miles	Drive distance miles
Barton Primary School	2.278	3.116	3.248
Carisbrooke CE Primary School	3.149	4.107	4.112
Newport CE Primary School	3.135	4.114	4.144

5. The proportion of children attending the school from within the local community i.e. whether the school is being used by the local community.

Of the 79 children on roll in Years R – 6 at Arreton only 12 attend Arreton as their nearest school.

The school has been consulted upon local community services and facilities see the list of community use contained within section 1c above.

The table provided under section 2 identifies the significant number of children travelling into the Arreton St Georges CE Primary School area to access education.

6. The overall and long-term impact on local people and the community of the closure of the school and of the loss of the building as a community facility.

No decision has been made about the future of the Arreton St Georges CE Primary School site. It has been proposed that the preschool could remain onsite, subject to feasibility and legal work (i.e. renewal of a lease arrangement), and the school buildings could be repurposed for a high anxiety and mental health provision under the SEND expansion programme. Therefore, education provision could remain onsite. The ownership of the site is complex with 5 different parcels of land within the schools red line title boundary. The Diocese owns the land that the footprint of the school building is located. The playing fields are leased to IWC. The Diocese has stated that removal of surplus places and the consultation for school closures is an entirely different issue to the future use of the site and therefore future meetings have been arranged to understand the Diocese position on potential future use of surplus school sites. There is a restricted covenant upon the site, known as a reverter that requires continued education use of the site otherwise it would revert to the original donator/donator's family and estate.

The long-term impact upon the local people and community of the closure of the school could result in the downturn of trade for local businesses if families are using those businesses whilst in the area and potential lack of suitable premises for delivery of the local services and hirers using the school building as mentioned in the schools response for community use.

7. Educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools.

Arreton has been judged as 'Requires Improvement' at the last two Ofsted inspections. Children outcomes are below national and local averages for phonics and combined KS2 measures.

The removal of surplus places is aiding the financial sustainability of other schools and so giving greater opportunity for a wide-ranging curriculum, resources in terms of physical and staffing. With too many surplus places those budgets get squeezed first and this would enable the larger schools to employ more resource such as additional Teaching assistants, Family Liaison Officers, Special Educational Needs etc, purchase minibuses to enable extra-curricular programme and afford enriching extra curriculum trips.

The next nearest school would become Barton Primary for the majority of children and the increase in numbers supports the long-term viability and sustainability of this school and to establish a sustainable education provision across the Isle of Wight.

8. Whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced children, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term).

There are sufficient surplus places within the planning area at Barton Primary School to accommodate the displaced children currently on roll at Arreton St Georges CE aided Primary School.

Carisbrooke CE Primary School and Newport CE Primary School have confirmed that should places be required they will work with the Local Authority to provide additional capacity.

However, it is recognised that a number of children attending Arreton live within the Sandown and Shanklin planning area. There is sufficient capacity within that planning area to also accommodate these children if they wish to transfer to a school within that planning area.

9. Wider school organisation and capacity of good schools in the area to accommodate displaced children.

Child numbers in the planning area and on the Island overall are forecast to fall so it is anticipated that there will be places available at good schools in the area. Please see the table below which provides evidence of sufficient 'Good' schools within this planning area:

School Name	Current Inspection Grading
Arreton St Georges CE Primary School	Requires Improvement
Barton Primary School	Good
Carisbrooke CE Primary School	Good

Hunnyhill Primary School	Requires Improvement
Newport CE Primary School	Good
Nine Acres Primary School	Outstanding
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	Good
Summerfields Primary School	Good
Wootton Primary School	Good

Balance of denominational provision

Closure of Arreton St Georges C of E Primary School would mean the loss of Christian-based education in the village. In light of the school being undersubscribed, to what degree parental choice for a place at the School is based on faith, is not known. However, there are other C of E or Catholic faith schools across the planning area which currently have vacancies and would be able to offer places should families of pupils currently attending the School wish to seek a place in a faith school. Although the number and pattern of vacancies in faith provision cannot be foreseen at the point of closure, should that decision be taken, officers would work closely with families to complete in year applications for alternative places.

Table 4 below identifies the next nearest 15 faith primary schools to Arreton St Georges CE Primary School:

Table 4:

Order	DfE Number	School	School Type	Direct Distance (Miles)
1	3315	Newport CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	3.135
2	3004	Carisbrooke CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	3.149
3	3311	St. Saviours Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	3.184
4	3314	St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	3.184
5	2044	The Bay CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	3.939
6	2000	St Blasius CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	4.202
7	3003	Brading CE Primary *	Voluntary Controlled	4.321
8	3303	Oakfield CE Primary *	Voluntary Aided	5.347
9	2045	St. Francis Catholic and CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	5.392
10	3310	St. Marys Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	5.42
11	3313	Holy Cross Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	6.054
12	3001	Bembridge CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	7.087
13	3300	Brightstone CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	7.101
14	3011	Shalfleet CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	8.639

15	3304	Freshwater & Yarmouth CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	12.19
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*Note: The proposed closure of these schools are currently being consulted on please see www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace for further information.

Early Years provision

Arreton St Georges CE Primary School does not provide early years places. The provider will be offered the opportunity to remain on site, however as the land is not owned by the IWC this will be subject to negotiation with the Portsmouth Diocesan Board of Finance.

Table 5 below provides an overview of provision within the planning area:

Table 5

Early Years Provision	Age range	Capacity	Total number of children on roll as of November 2024
Barton Primary School Nursery	3-11	29	18
Bright Sparks Preschool	2-4	32	52
Carisbrooke Clever Cloggs Day Care Ltd	2-4	60	81
Fun To Learn	0-11	60	67
Hunnyhill Primary School Preschool	3-11	32	21
Little Acres Childcare Centre Limited	2-10	45	81
St Georges Nursery & Pre School (KNL Childcare Ltd)	0-11	50	52
The Island Day Nursery - Little Herons Childcare	1-4	40	64
The Island Day Nursery - Newport	0-5	102	89
Tops Day Nurseries - Newport	0-7	92	153
YMCA Newport Nursery, St Mary's	0-5	96	116

Summary:

- There are currently no concerns around the sufficiency of Early Years places.
- There are currently 52 children attending St Georges Preschool which is located on the Arreton St Georges CE Primary School site.
- Within the planning area there is 1 maintained school nursery, 9 Private Voluntary Independent providers and 1 school managed early years provision.

Special educational needs provision

Arreton St Georges CE Primary School does not provide educational provision recognised by the local authority as being reserved for children with special educational needs. There are 19 pupils on roll (Data source: Autumn Census - October 2024) who have been identified as having special educational needs (SEN support) and 2 pupils with an education health and care plan.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) would receive tailored support to ensure their educational needs are addressed, especially in the event of a school closure. The local authority is committed to assisting school staff to create individualised transition plans for all children to support a suitable transition, as required.

This may include providing access to specialised resources, and trained staff to facilitate learning. Additionally, the authority would work closely with families to ensure they have the necessary support systems in place, such as counselling services and community programs, to help children transition smoothly. By prioritising these measures, the local authority aims to create an inclusive environment where all children, regardless of their needs, can thrive and succeed.

Where a child has an Education Health Care Plan, and if school closures are agreed, the local authority would listen to the parents' wishes and feelings and individually discuss the statutory process for their child.

Travel

Children would 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 Arreton St Georges CE Primary School closes.

See link for further information: [Home to school transport](#)

Our current data indicates as of October 2024, 9 children on roll of Arreton St Georges CE Primary School could be eligible under the nearest school criteria.

With the next closest school being Barton Primary School being 3.25 miles by road from Arreton St Georges CE Primary School and no safe walking route being available it is anticipated that pupils would not be able to walk to this school. Mapping of pupils by postcode identifies that a high percentage of children do not

attend Arreton as their nearest school, therefore by proposing to close the school could result in reduction of travel if those children accessed a school provision closer to their home address.

The council would work with schools who receive children from Arreton St Georges CE Primary School to develop their school travel plans to seek to mitigate against increased car use.

Other environmental considerations have been taken and are detailed within the 'Responding to climate change and enhancing the biosphere section' (Pg 13) of the Cabinet report:

<https://iow.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s16540/Report.pdf>

Housing data:

Significant housing developments (20 or more) in area either with planning permission, a resolution to grant planning permission, or under construction (as of 1 November 2024):

Site	Number of permitted dwellings / dwellings left to construct	Type of approval / site status
Former Whitecroft Hospital, Sandy Lane	23	Under construction
Land at Acorn Farm, 4 Horsebridge Hill, Newport	203	Full
Various land adjacent to and east of Carisbrooke College (19/01544/OUT)	115	Resolution to grant pp from Planning Committee
Former Polars residential home, Newport	44	Full
Land off Broadwood Lane (22/00629/OUT & 22/00631/FUL)	113	Outline 113 Full 36
Palmers Farm, Brocks Copse Road, Wootton Bridge, Ryde	40	RM
Land at and Rear of 69 And Part OS 8361 Station Road	29	Outline

How many School places are required if these developments are built?

To assess the long-term demand arising from a new development, Children's Services use a child yield multiplier and per eligible dwelling (dwellings with two bedrooms or more, excluding those specifically for elderly persons) for Primary Schools (ages 4 to 11) this is x 0.25.

Calculation:

The potential yield of children from these total developments is 141.75 primary aged children (aged 4 to 11 years old).

Total of 567 dwellings in planning area x 0.25 = 141.75

Note. This is calculated based on all dwellings being eligible and this number could reduce.

Within the planning area the following schools have additional building capacity to accommodate additional children should the places be required in the future:

	PAN capacity	Building Capacity
Barton Primary School	30	45
Carisbrooke CE Primary School	45	60

Deprivation:

The local authority acknowledges that the potential closure of a school in the Newport area could significantly impact some families, particularly those from deprived backgrounds. Recognising the challenges that such families face, the authority is committed to providing comprehensive support to ensure that every child continues to receive a quality education. This support may include access to transportation, wellbeing support, and additional assistance programs to help families navigate the transition. By prioritising the needs of these families, the local authority aims to foster an inclusive environment where every children can thrive, regardless of the circumstances surrounding school closures.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is a measure used in England to assess the level of income deprivation experienced by children in specific areas. It assigns scores ranging from 0 to 1, with higher scores indicating greater deprivation, based on data from sources like tax credits and benefits. IDACI scores help local authorities identify areas in need of support, guiding resource allocation and interventions aimed at improving the living conditions and opportunities for children. This index is crucial for understanding and addressing child poverty at a local level. The banding within this measure is identified under banding areas as defined below:

- **Band A:** Represents the most deprived areas, where a high percentage of children live in low-income households.
- **Band B:** Slightly less deprived than Band A but still indicates significant income challenges for children.
- **Band C:** Shows moderate levels of deprivation, with a notable proportion of children affected.
- **Band D:** Indicates lower levels of deprivation compared to the previous bands but still highlights some income-related issues.
- **Band E:** Represents areas with relatively low deprivation, where fewer children are impacted by income poverty.
- **Band F:** Indicates minimal deprivation, with a very small percentage of children living in low-income households.

- **Band G:** The least deprived band, where income deprivation is minimal, and most children are not affected.

The table below identifies the scores for each school within the Newport planning area:

School Name	NOR	IDACI Proportion Band G	IDACI Proportion Band F	IDACI Proportion Band E	IDACI Proportion Band D	IDACI Proportion Band C	IDACI Proportion Band B	IDACI Proportion Band A
Barton Primary and Early Years	256.00	13%	2%	9%	1%	37%	38%	0%
Nine Acres Primary	409.00	34%	7%	37%	0%	13%	8%	0%
Hunnyhill Primary	379.00	58%	14%	9%	0%	8%	10%	0%
Wootton Primary	208.00	74%	13%	2%	2%	3%	6%	0%
Summerfields Primary	193.00	56%	5%	2%	0%	17%	20%	0%
Arreton St Georges Primary	138.00	52%	30%	8%	1%	4%	5%	0%
Carisbrooke CE Primary	374.00	56%	5%	18%	0%	5%	16%	0%
St Thomas of Canterbury RC	205.00	60%	4%	18%	0%	6%	11%	0%
Newport CE Primary	301.00	61%	8%	17%	0%	6%	8%	0%

Data source: The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) authority proforma tool (APT) 2024/25

Staff

A separate staff consultation process, including a meeting for staff and their professional associations and unions, will run in parallel with this consultation on the closure proposal. Staff are also welcome to comment on the proposal as part of this consultation.

Finances

When a school closes mid financial year the budget share is paid up to the closing date to the school. The Local Authority will transfer the remaining budget to the growth fund and support the schools admitting the displaced pupils. The final balance of a closing school, surplus or deficit, reverts to the Council and cannot be transferred to any other school. The final balance of a closing school will be determined following closedown procedure shortly after the closure.

As per the schools November budget submission the school has potential surplus of £62,000 and this would transfer to the Council on the School's last business day, Sunday 31 August 2025.

Consultation

A six-week statutory consultation process under section 16 Education and Inspections Act process was followed from 20th September to 1st November 2024 (4 term-time weeks).

The consultation document was distributed to a wide range of stakeholders across the Island and was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation. Any interested individual or organisation were able to respond to the consultation through an online survey, email, letter and there were also face to face consultation meetings at each school proposed for closure.

Views and feedback on the proposal have been captured, along with alternative options that the Isle of Wight Council welcomed and made a commitment to consider as part of the process.

A public meeting was held at the school on Wednesday 25 September 2024.

The responses to the consultation were summarised in the report that was considered by the Cabinet of the Isle of Wight Council on 12 December 2024. The Cabinet report is available [Report.pdf](#); the consultation process and summary of responses are outlined in [Appendix 1 – Proposed closure of Arreton St Georges CE Primary School](#).

Paper copies of this report and appendix can be made available upon request.

Equality Impact Assessment:

Please review the Equality Impact Assessments in the links below which thoroughly examines the impact on individuals with protected characteristics. This assessment ensures that we are compliant with the Equality Act 2010 by considering factors such as age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and deprivation. The assessment identifies potential areas of discrimination, promotes equality, and ensures that our decisions do not adversely affect any particular group. It also includes recommendations for mitigating any negative impacts and enhancing positive outcomes for all protected groups.

- <https://www.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/view/appendix-13-equality-impact-assessment-proposed-closure-of-arreton-ce-primary-school1>
- <https://www.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/view/appendix-19-equality-impact-assessment-staffing-impacts-of-proposed-primary-school-closures-1-6-1>

Paper copies of this Equality Impact Assessments can be made available upon request.

Procedure for making representations

A statutory notice will be published in the IW County Press and IW Observer newspapers on 3rd January 2025. The notice will remain in force for a period of 4 weeks i.e. until Monday 3rd February 2025.

On Friday 3rd January 2025 the full proposal information will be sent to the following recipients:

- Parents/Carers of the school
- The Governing Board of the school
- The Diocese of Portsmouth
- Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
- Local Ward Councillors
- Local Parish Council
- The Members of Parliament for the Isle of Wight
- The Secretary of State (schoolorganisation.notifications@education.gov.uk)
- Other support services (Inclusion Team, Mental Health Support Teams, Children's Services employees, etc.)

The public notice and this full proposal are also available on the Isle of Wight Council website: www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace

Copies of the public notice and this full proposal are also available from the office of the school proposed for closure or can be requested from the council using the email or postal address below.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this statutory proposal, any person, group or organisation may object to or make comments on the proposal by email or by post.

Closing date for responses is 5pm Monday 3rd February 2025.

By email:

strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk

By post:

School Place Planning
County Hall
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD

We will not be able to consider any responses received after 5pm Monday 3rd February 2025.

The website address is: www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace

Support and translations

If you require any support with the documents or require us to provide any translated copies of this or the full proposal information, send an email to:

Strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk