

Statutory proposal for the closure of Brading 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:

Brading Church of England Primary School, West Street, Brading, Isle of Wight
PO36 0DS

(Voluntary Controlled School)

Introduction

On Thursday 12 December the Cabinet of Isle of Wight Council approved the publication of a statutory proposal to close Brading Church of England (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 Brading 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 Brading CE Primary School, it is proposed for the remaining pupils on roll at that time to transfer to The Bay CE School, St Helens Primary School or other primary schools in the local area. The local authority has identified sufficient vacancies at local primary schools within 2 miles from Brading CE Primary School.

There are also vacancies at other schools in the areas to the Sandown and Shanklin school place planning area, providing Brading 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 a 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 Sandown and Shanklin school place planning area. This demonstrates that despite a slight increase for September 2025 and 2026 the area has a sustained increase in surplus school places with Brading forecast to have the highest percent of surplus by 2028/29:

Table 1

School	PAN	Year R Numbers					Surplus	
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	%24/25	%28/29
Bembridge CE Primary	30	20	21	21	18	18	33%	40%
Brading CE Primary	25	13	14	14	12	12	48%	52%
Broadlea Primary School	30	23	21	21	18	19	23%	37%
Gatten and Lake County Primary	30	25	24	23	21	21	17%	30%
Newchurch Primary	30	30	28	28	24	25	0%	17%
St Blasius Shanklin CE Primary Academy	30	25	25	24	21	22	17%	27%
The Bay CE All Through (Primary)*	60	30	38	37	33	34	50%	43%
Area Total	235	166	171	168	147	151	29%	36%
NHS Data - Overall number of children living in area		176	181	176	155	158		

Data source: Summer census 2024

*Note: Due to low pupil numbers The Bay CE School (primary) reduced their PAN to 30 for September 2024 through an application to the Office of Schools Adjudicator.

Mapping of children by postcode demonstrates that 69% of the current Year R to Year 5 cohort have an alternative school closer to their home address, meaning that Brading CE Primary School is reliant upon a high percentage of families choosing to travel to the school out of preference. Should preference in the future change this could leave an unstable and unviable school. It should however be noted that children accessing a place within the resourced provision are included within this data and will be accessing the school through a named placement within their Education Health Care Plan.

As a result of this significant decline in births the council has reluctantly determined to propose that Brading 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, as despite a healthy budget at present the school's balance is forecast to rapidly decrease 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.

Against capacity the School is currently only two thirds full, with 140 children aged 4-11 years on roll of the school as of October 2024. Pupil numbers in schools on the Island are declining and more significantly currently in the Sandown and Shanklin planning area, where Brading CE Primary School is situated. This means that Brading, along with other schools, has not had enough pupil numbers to fill its classes and as part of an area review to reduce the number of surplus places the Council do not feel there will be sufficient children to fill these places in the future, as noted in Table 1 above.

The reduction in its pupil numbers will have a negative impact on the school's budget. In the latest November budget submission, the school forecast a surplus balance of £324,000 in financial year 2024/25; however future years forecasts indicate depletion of the surplus balance 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.

Brading Church of England Primary has underperformed, over time, with only 47% of children reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in Summer 2024. [Brading Church of England Controlled 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%. The percentages of disadvantaged pupils who achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in Summer 2024 was 0% [Results by pupil characteristics - Brading Church of England Controlled Primary School - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK](#).

The local authority has a statutory duty to manage the sufficiency of school places and is not allowed to continue to fund schools that are not financially viable and, after considering the alternative options available, it was determined to propose 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](#)

Pupil numbers and admissions

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

Brading CE Primary School is a mainstream primary school for pupils aged 2 to 11 years old. Gender of Entry – Mixed. This is not a special school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND), however the school does accommodate an 8-place Resourced Provision.

The school has a published admission number (PAN) of 25 for each year group, giving a total of 175 places (excluding preschool places).

There were 153 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 13 preschool-aged pupils (see Table 2 below).

Table 2

Early Years (2-4 year olds)	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
13	13	12	19	17	25	26	28	153

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 Brading CE Primary School would be offered a place at St Helens Primary School or The Bay CE School. The Bay CE School is the next closest school and is 1.9 miles by road from Brading CE Primary School. There will also be opportunity for parents to secure places at other schools within the surrounding area.

Alternatively, parents/carers who do not wish to take up the offer of a place at these schools 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.

Brading is a mainstream school, and not a special school that is reserved for delivering education to pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND). SEND Specialists will work with the school and parent/carer to ensure that those children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and those with identified additional needs are suitably supported to transition to a different school. Transition will be tailored to meet the individual needs of each pupil.

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 be 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 Sandown and Shanklin planning area. Should parents wish for their child to have a school place at The Bay CE School we would work with the school to determine if additional temporary accommodation could be added.

Subject to the approval of the statutory notice to create a new 12-place resourced provision at The Bay CE School the LA would communicate with the parents of children with an EHCP identified as requiring resourced provision to discuss the suitability of a placement and to initiate consultation should this be appropriate.

Table 3:

School Name	Direct distance from Brading Primary School (Miles)**	Reception Spaces	Year 1 Spaces	Year 2 Spaces	Year 3 Spaces	Year 4 Spaces	Year 5 Spaces	Year 6 Spaces*
St Blasius Shanklin CE Primary	3.885	4	0	2	1	7	3	6
Gatten and Lake Primary	3.102	6	2	0	0	0	0	0
Newchurch Primary	2.891	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broadlea Primary	2.638	6	10	1	18	19	8	23
The Bay CE School	1.688	29***	9	5	0	1	4	0
Bembridge CE Primary	2.749	9	2	3	4	1	0	3
Total		54	23	11	23	28	15	32

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.

***Due to low pupil numbers The Bay CE School (Primary) reduced their Planned Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 30 in September 2024 through an application to the Office of Schools Adjudicator. This number of places would require discussion with the school to admit up to their previous PAN of 60.

Mapping of children by postcode demonstrates that 69% of the current Year R to Year 5 cohort have an alternative school closer to their home address. 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).

Please refer to the Early Years section for information on the impacts for the preschool provision.

Current projections for school places indicate that there are enough places for future cohorts in the event of the closure of Brading 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 Brading CE 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.

Rural primary schools

Brading CE 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. Brading – The Local Authority has considered whether the school should join a multi-academy but becoming an academy would not resolve the surplus of places and if the school is in budget deficit this would become a barrier to an academy conversion. Schools can't have PAN reductions whilst remaining financially viable stand-alone schools as already 1FE or below.

b. While there are a number of benefits for schools from being within a federation (including broader learning and social experiences for children, sharing resources, best practice, facilities and expertise etc) forming or joining a federation would not reduce the number of surplus school places as the schools.

c. Brading do 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 see attached response.

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

- We are a 2-11 primary school that is open from 7.45 until 6pm daily. So we provide wrap around care from 2 years upwards.
- Due to lack of internet facilities at home all of our children are able to access homework at school.
- We work closely with the local community especially with the Brading Community Partnership for their youth provision, HAS project, my plot scheme, youth club, creating special village events, food bank / surplus food project.
- We also work closely with St Mary church, methodist church and have links with the town council where they have used our building for meetings.

As noted within the report a number of alternatives have been considered, and the local authority believes the closure of Brading CE Primary School provides the best opportunity to ensure 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.

Brading 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 Brading CE Primary School closes.

In November 2024 there were 135 children on roll of which 41 attend Brading as their nearest school and for 97 children it is not their nearest school.

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
Brading	33
Barton	2
Bembridge	1
Broadlea	9
Dover Park	10
Gatten & Lake	1
Greenmount	3
Haylands	6
Newchurch	1
Nine Acres	1
Oakfield	3
Queensgate	2
St Blasius	5
St Helens	1
St Mary's	1
The Bay	25
Wootton	1
A Ryde school. PO box address	1
	106

A summary of this confirms that of those children on roll in Year R – 5 only 31% 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 is that 16 children could be eligible and the estimated cost to the IWC would be £40,432 per annum.

The data in the table above indicates that the closure of Brading and the subsequent relocation of children to The Bay or St Helens 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 The Bay or St Helens, or an alternative school closer to their home address instead of Brading.

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

The Bay CE School is the next nearest school to Brading which is located 1.9miles away by road and takes 7 minutes to travel to in vehicle.

St Helens is the next nearest school to Brading which is located 2.6 miles away by road and takes 6 minutes to travel to in a vehicle.

Direct distance	Walking distance miles	Drive distance miles
1.69	1.893	1.908

Direct distance	Walking distance miles	Drive distance miles
1.928	2.294	2.564

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.

Brading CE Primary School is a small rural school that can accommodate 1Form of Entry (FE) and has a current Planned Admission Number of 25. Closing Brading could lead to better education outcomes by consolidating resources and children into fewer, better-performing schools. Enabling a broad and balanced curriculum with appropriate staffing including extra-curricular activities and team sports that proves difficult to offer for smaller cohorts.

The Bay CE Primary School is a larger school that can accommodate 2FE and due to also being in a larger federation has greater resources available. They will have access to all the elements of the national curriculum, and a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

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 135 children on roll in Years R – 6 at Brading Primary School in November 2024 only 41 attend Brading 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 traveling into the Brading 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 Brading CE Primary School site. It has been proposed that the school buildings could be repurposed for education. Therefore, education provision could remain onsite, subject to feasibility and legal work.

The ownership of the site has 2 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 owned by 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 this will be considered once the outcome of the consultation is known.

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 community use of the school building as mentioned in the school's response.

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

Brading is 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 Assistant's, Family Liaison Officers, Special Educational Needs etc, purchase minibuses to enable extra-curricular programme and afford days trips.

The next nearest school would become St Helens Primary or The Bay CE Primary for most children's and the increase in numbers supports the long-term viability and sustainability of these schools 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).

To accommodate the displaced children currently on roll at Brading CE Primary School there are sufficient surplus places to accommodate children living in planning area at The Bay CE Primary School and St Helens Primary School.

It is recognised that a number of children attending Brading live within the Ryde Town and Ryde Rural planning areas. 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.

Children 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	Current Ofsted
Bembridge CE Primary School	Good
Brading CE Primary School	Good
Broadlea Primary School	Good
Gatten and Lake Primary School	Good
Newchurch Primary School	Good
St Blasius CE Primary Academy School	Good
The Bay CE School	Good

Balance of denominational provision

Closure of Brading 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 and 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 based primary schools to Brading CE Primary School:

Table 4:

Order	Dfe Number	School	School Type	Direct Distance (miles)
1	2044	The Bay CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	1.688
2	3001	Bembridge CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	2.749
3	3303	Oakfield CE Primary *	Voluntary Aided	3.049
4	3310	St. Marys Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	3.187
5	2000	St Blasius CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	3.885
6	3000	Arreton St Georges CE Primary *	Voluntary Aided	4.321
7	2045	St. Francis Catholic and CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	6.477
8	3315	Newport CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	7.143

9	3004	Carisbrooke CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	7.284
10	3314	St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	7.355
11	3313	Holy Cross Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	8.11
12	3300	Brighstone CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	11.318
13	3011	Shalfleet CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	12.868
14	3304	Freshwater & Yarmouth CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	16.495
15	3311	St. Saviours Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	17.335

*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

Brading CE Primary School is a school for children aged 2-11 years old. Therefore, the proposed closure could impact on the early years provision in the area. 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
Berry Hill Childcare	1-8	50	76
Brading CE Primary School	2-11	24	13
Furzehill Childcare Centre	0-11	49	101
Gatten & Lake Childcare	2-4	22	34
St Johns Nursery & Preschool	2-4	105	60
The Island Day Nursery - Sandown	0-4	60	25
Windmills Preschool Ltd	2-4	28	42

Data source:

Early Years Headcount data or communication through email or telephone.

Summary:

- There are currently no concerns around the sufficiency of Early Years places.
- Brading numbers have decreased from 30 to 13 children from June 2024 to the November 2024 headcount.
- The 6 Private Voluntary Independent providers would remain in the area if Brading CE Primary School closed. This would leave capacity for 13 children.

Special educational needs provision

Brading CE Primary School has an 8-place resourced provision recognised by the local authority as being reserved for children with special educational needs. Within the mainstream school there are 34 pupils on roll (Data source: Autumn Census - October 2024) who have been identified as having special educational needs (SEN support) and 29 pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan, of which 11 pupils are on roll of the resourced provision.

The LA does not underestimate the potential impact of this proposed change on the children at the school, whose circumstances may already make them vulnerable. In particular as the school has a resourced provision supporting children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP). Additional support would be provided by the LA to ensure children accessing a place within the resourced provision would be offered suitable transition and future placements.

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.

As previously reported, 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 be 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.

Travel

The approximate distances for home to school travel for pupils from YrR to Year 6 currently attending Brading CE Primary School ranges from 1.9 to 2.6 miles. There are sufficient places at other nearby schools to ensure that the maximum distance any child would travel to school would be no more than 2.6 miles from their home address, unless the families decide to secure places at alternative schools with vacancies further away.

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 Brading CE Primary School closes.

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

Our current data indicates as of October 2024, 16 children on roll of Brading CE Primary School could be eligible under the nearest school criteria.

With the next closest school being The Bay CE Primary School being 1.908 miles by road from Brading CE Primary School. Mapping of pupils by postcode identifies that a high percentage of children do not attend Brading 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 Brading 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:

Table 6 below identifies the 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):

Table 6

Site	Number of permitted dwellings / dwellings left to construct	Type of approval / site status
Wight City Leisure Centre, 37 Culver Parade	24	Under construction

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 children 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 6 primary aged children (aged 4 to 11 years old).

Total of 24 dwellings in planning area x 0.25 = 6

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
Broadlea Primary School	30	45

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 student 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 Sandown and Shanklin 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
St Blasius Shanklin CE Primary	193.00	30%	46%	2%	5%	17%	2%	0%
Gatten and Lake Primary	208.00	23%	46%	8%	5%	17%	1%	0%
Newchurch Primary	209.00	40%	39%	12%	7%	2%	0%	0%
Broadlea Primary	244.00	31%	29%	15%	20%	5%	0%	0%
The Bay CE School*	1306.00	54%	38%	80%	18%	8%	3%	0%
Bembridge CE Primary	193.00	45%	40%	5%	9%	2%	0%	0%
Brading CE Primary	155.00	10%	16%	25%	39%	5%	5%	0%

* All through school

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 £175,000 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 Thursday 3rd October 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 2 – Proposed closure of Brading Church of England 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-14-equality-impact-assessment-proposed-closure-of-brading-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

(objections and comments)

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 Town 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