

# Statutory proposal for the closure of Oakfield 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:

Oakfield Church of England Primary School, Appley Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 1NE

(Voluntary Aided School)

## Introduction

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

There are also vacancies at other schools in neighbouring planning areas to the Ryde Town school place planning area which may be closer to children's home address, providing Oakfield 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.
- Children's 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 Ryde Town school place planning area. This demonstrates that despite a slight increase for September 2026 the area has a sustained increase in surplus school places:

**Table 1**

School	PAN	Year R Numbers					Surplus	
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	%24/25	%28/29
Binstead Primary	30	30	26	28	23	22	0%	27%
Dover Park Primary	30	30	26	28	23	22	0%	27%
Greenmount Primary	60	34	31	33	27	26	43%	57%
Haylands Primary	60	51	43	46	39	37	15%	38%
Oakfield C of E Primary	30	24	22	22	24	20	20%	33%
St Marys RC Primary	30	20	18	20	16	16	33%	47%
<b>Area Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>40%</b>
NHS Data - Overall number of children living in area		228	203	217	182	173		

Data source: Summer census 2024

Mapping of children by postcode demonstrates that 50% of the current Year R to Year 5 cohort have an alternative school closer to their home address meaning that Oakfield 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.

St Marys RC Primary School and Oakfield CE Primary Schools sites adjoin by a shared parcel of land which is used as school playing field by both schools. When assessing the demand for school places in this area of Ryde only 1 form of entry is deemed to be required (210 places). Against physical capacity Oakfield CE Primary school is currently only half full, with 190 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 Ryde Town planning area, where Oakfield CE Primary School is situated. This means that Oakfield, along with other schools, has not had enough pupil numbers to fill its classes and despite a reduction in the schools planned admission number over the years (reducing from 60 places to 45 places, then 45 places to 30 places), as part of the 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.

It is recognised that Schools occupying and maintaining school sites with excessive levels of surplus places can lead to financial challenges. Part of Oakfield CE Primary Schools budget deficit (identified within the financial section) relates to the size of the school, declining pupil numbers, and shortfall of resources to support pupils whose circumstances may make them vulnerable. This point is recognised by the Headteacher within a financial review undertaken in April 2024, which identified that the school is currently not financially viable as a 1FE.

As a result of this significant decline in births the council has reluctantly determined to propose that Oakfield 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.

Oakfield Church of England Primary School has academically consistently underperformed, with only 29% of children reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in Summer 2024. [Oakfield Church of England Aided Primary School, Ryde - 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 - Oakfield Church of England Aided Primary School, Ryde - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK](#).

In reviewing the data from 2022 – 2023 Oakfield CE Primary School has also consistency been well below or below average in the progress measures: [Progress measures for the 2022 to 2023 academic year - Oakfield Church of England Aided Primary School, Ryde - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK](#)

Oakfield Church of England Primary school is a triple 'Requires Improvement' school and was last rated good by Ofsted in September 2013. The DFE had concerns as it instigated an additional package of support for Oakfield, through the 'Trust and Support Improvement Offer', delivered through a local Multi Academy Trust. The DFE then issued an academy order as it felt this was the only way to deliver the improvement necessary to bring about rapid improvements. This was later revoked, due to the change in government.

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 reduction in its pupil numbers has severely affected the school's budget. Protecting the quality of education has now led to Oakfield CE Primary having forecast financial difficulties. Oakfield CE Primary School is in financial difficulty and currently has a cumulative forecast deficit for the end of the 2024/25 year of just over

£243,000. With the average level of funding/expenditure across the Isle of Wight for a primary aged pupil being £4,520; the financial situation at the School means that the forecast deficit is set to increase year on year.

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](#); the consultation process and summary of responses are outlined in [Appendix 5 – Proposed closure of Oakfield Church of England 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:

Oakfield 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).

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

There were 190 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 22 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
22	23	27	25	25	21	29	40	212

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 Oakfield CE Primary School will have the offer of places at other local schools no more than 2 miles from the current school site.

Alternatively, parents/carers who do not wish to take up the offer of a place at within the Ryde Town planning area 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 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 Ryde Town planning area. Should places be required in the upper Key Stage 2 years the LA would request Dover Park Primary School to consider an additional class for children of which the school is their closest.

**Table 3**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Direct distance from Oakfield CE Primary School (Miles)**</b>	<b>Reception Spaces</b>	<b>Year 1 Spaces</b>	<b>Year 2 Spaces</b>	<b>Year 3 Spaces</b>	<b>Year 4 Spaces</b>	<b>Year 5 Spaces</b>	<b>Year 6 Spaces*</b>
<b>Haylands Primary</b>	1.011	9	5	11	9	11	0	0
<b>Binstead Primary</b>	1.724	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Greenmount Primary</b>	1.263	30	23	16	11	18	5	0
<b>Dover Park Primary</b>	0.504	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
<b>St Mary's RC Primary</b>	0.139	9	9	10	0	10	4	2
<b>Total spaces</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 50% 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 following the closure of Oakfield CE Primary School. The local authority will 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, would 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 Oakfield CE Primary School currently provides additional services or use of its facilities which are identified 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.

To assist in understanding the community implications of the proposed closure of Oakfield CE Primary School the school has been consulted to understand the local community services, facilities and links the school has and below is a summary of the response provided by the school:

## Oakfield Community and Family Hub

- Offers a safe and warm space for families who bus from Brading to have some breakfast before school.
- Offers a safe space all year round (outside of term time). It provides a much needed safe and warm space for families and their children to meet, cook hot food, play together and socialise. Many families do live in very cramped conditions with no gardens and so this also provides a free place for families to go during the holiday periods. It also provides the children with access to a huge amount of outdoor green space, which is essential for maintaining healthy bodies and minds.
- Hosts Acorn Tots Toddler group every Tuesday - a nursery member of staff sets up and pops in, which can be invaluable for signposting local families to a variety of services available locally.
- Host Family Learning - such as Penny Crossley's 'Families finding Calm' and MHST - most recent sessions, providing sleep support and supporting children with anxiety.
- Is the venue for Oakfield Parent and Community Group meetings (PCG)\*
- Is used as a safe and playful space for supervised contact.
- Houses the Oakfield Community Pantry\*

## Community Groups involved with the school includes

- Southern Water - one project example is - installed water troughs at the school - recyclable.
- We are Tesco Extras community school and have worked with their community champion Jan for many years now, we support their community appeals, and they support us in many ways. The most recent has had to be paused until we know the outcome as to whether the school will remain open or not, if we remain open then they have secured funding to help us create a community allotment.
- Prince's Trust - The school has supported the trust for three years now. We offer placements for young individuals who live locally and for whatever reason, have found integrating into the 'real world' a huge challenge. It is an opportunity for them to regain confidence to believe they can achieve and be successful in an employment environment.
- Salvation Army
- Bible explorers and Youth for Christ - come into school regularly to work with our children. As a result, many of our UKS2 children attend 'Rock Solid' a local Christian Youth club that is run by the same individuals because they are well liked and trusted adults. This helps to keep several children from roaming the streets for one night of the week.
- TLG - Transforming Lives for Good Volunteers visit every week - *From trauma, to poverty and food insecurity, there are children across the UK facing some of the toughest starts in life. We believe change is possible and that's why in all our work lies an unchanging resolve to transform lives for good.*
- Community volunteers who have signed up to the 'School Readers Charity'. We currently have one for every class which is amazing! All live locally to



the school and give up their time at least once a week, some come in most days.

- We host IOW college student placements
- We host university student placements
- The school hosts initial teacher trainees from Ryde Academy for their Primary placement experience days.

### Oakfield Community Pantry

- Currently has 626 members who regularly use and access the pantry (please note, 1 membership could be feeding a family of 5)
- 179 out of 200 children at Oakfield use/have food from the pantry
- 301 children who live locally in Ryde but do not attend Oakfield regularly have food from the pantry.
- Retired residents are the second highest user group after families and children.
- The Pantry provides invaluable support for the community, especially those on low income, those in debt, where individuals have changes in benefits (which lag), have ill health, are disabled, have wage delays or are job seeking.
- Delivers food, in collaboration with Keert who offer sustainable deliveries on e-bikes free of charge to our pantry, to the elderly and vulnerable (for example just out of hospital). This provides that extra bit of care out and about in the community.
- Provides wider support from agencies who come in to talk to and support families e.g. sovereign housing, Citizens Advice, Jobcentre and Footprint Trust.
- Runs Family Support events such as, cooking on a budget, pre-loved clothes sales and access to the baby bank etc.

### Little Acorns Nursery

- The only 'Nursery in Nature' on the Isle of Wight. The nursery is thriving and its communication and language matters approach has rapidly improved the starting points of children entering Reception in a short space of time. The quality of provision is second to none.
- Little Acorns is a recognised 'Benardo's Champion nursery'

### Community groups who use our site to promote the health and wellbeing of the local community include:

- Adult exercise classes such as Pilates and Zumba.
- Strictly Dance classes for seniors
- New Carnival Company - family workshops
- White Eagles U13 Girls Football Team - Our site is used to train a local Oakfield girls football team.
- Vectis Brass Band - have used Oakfield as their base to rehearse for the past 14 years and kindly use their final festive rehearsal evening to play for

the school at our Oakfield Community Christmas Songs and Carol Concert at the beginning of December.

- Theatre Train, who have hired our site for over 20 years.
- Theatre Education - HAF - Holiday activity weeks for children in the local area who are pupil premium to attend (this includes a hot meal).
- Fun Football - HAF - Holiday activity weeks for children in the local area who are pupil premium to attend (this includes a hot meal).
- The Parent and Community Group - Social events such as family disco nights, summer BBQ's and 'Oakfest' festival

Oakfield CE Aided Primary School and Community have taken part in local community events for many years, some examples include:

- When St John's Church is not accessible (undergoing repairs etc), The Sunday church service is held in the school hall.
- Messy Church at St John's once a month (average of 30 children from Oakfield attend). This is led by a teacher at Oakfield
- Fundraising for Ryde inshore lifeboat
- The Renovation of Appley Tower (we were the school National Heritage chose to be involved)
- Appley Day - celebrating what the local area has to offer - held every Summer in Appley Park
- IOW Mardis Gras
- The headteacher and a group of parents attend the Oakfield and Elmfield Ward meeting every month to keep connected with the community (part of the PCG)

The Isle of Wight Council own the playing field land and the Portsmouth Diocese own the land of which the school buildings are located on. A decision on the future of the site has not been taken yet and will not be taken until a final decision on the closure is made, and due to land ownership would not be a complete decision of the LA.

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 Oakfield 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 primary schools

Oakfield CE Primary School is not designated a rural school.

## Balance of denominational provision

Closure of Oakfield CE Primary School would mean the loss of Christian-based education in the Town. The importance of a Church of England School is understood, as is the fact that this is strongly felt in the community which stretches beyond the area the school sits within. Consideration has been made as to how children and families could be supported in any transition so that the sense of community could be given the chance to be maintained. It is expected that this will happen through the scheduling of opportunities for children and families to come together through and beyond the transition phase with the support of the council's Children's Services Department.

Table 4 below identifies the next nearest 15 faith based primary schools to Oakfield CE Primary School:

**Table 4**

Order	Dfe Number	School	School Type	Direct Distance (miles)
1	3310	St. Marys Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	0.139
2	3003	Brading CE Primary*	Voluntary Controlled	3.049
3	3001	Bembridge CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	3.946
4	2044	The Bay CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	4.65
5	3000	Arreton St Georges CE Primary*	Voluntary Aided	5.347
6	3313	Holy Cross Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	6.301
7	2000	St Blasius CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	6.737
8	3315	Newport CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	7.122

9	3004	Carisbrooke CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	7.416
10	3314	St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	7.535
11	2045	St. Francis Catholic and CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	9.186
12	3300	Brighstone CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	12.286
13	3011	Shalfleet CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled	12.789
14	3304	Freshwater & Yarmouth CE Primary	Voluntary Aided	16.622
15	3311	St. Saviours Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided	17.55

\*Note: The proposed closure of these schools are currently being consulted on please see [www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace](http://www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace) for further information.

## Early Years:

Oakfield Church of England 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
Binstead Stepping Stones	2-4	35	24
Chatterbox Childcare	0-4	85	110
Cheeky Chimps Childcare	1-4	50	77
Greenmount Preschool	2-11	40	34
Haylands Preschool	2-11	24	30
Little Acorns Nursery	2-11	32	23
Little Squirrels Community Nursery (KNL Childcare Ltd)	0-4	65	42
St Marys Pre-school	2-11	26	15

Wonder House	0-4	68	90
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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.
- Little Acorns numbers have decreased from 31 children to 23 children from June to November headcount.
- Within the planning area there is 5 Private Voluntary Independent providers and 3 school managed early years provision.

## Special educational needs provision

Oakfield CE Primary School does not provide educational provision recognised by the local authority as being reserved for children with special educational needs. There are 62 pupils on roll (Data source: Autumn Census -October 2024) who have been identified as having special educational needs (SEN support) and 15 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 Oakfield CE Primary School closes.

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

Our current data indicates as of October 2024, only 1 child on roll of Oakfield CE Primary School could be eligible under the distance criteria.

With 6 alternative Schools being located within a 2-mile radius from Oakfield Church of England Primary School it is anticipated that pupils could walk or use other sustainable modes of travel to alternative schools in the local area and therefore any impact on road traffic would be minimal. However, it was raised during the consultation that due to the topography in the Ryde area, parents felt that this could prevent them walking to alternative schools further away.

The council would work with schools who receive children from Oakfield 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
Former Pondwell Holiday Camp Pondwell Hill	6	Under construction
Part OS parcels 1238, 0135 and 0952 land between Weeks Road and Asheby Road	74	Full
Rosemary Vineyard, Smallbrook Lane, Ryde	140	RM
Former Harcourt sands holiday Puckpool hill, Ryde	128	RM
Land at Ryde house, off Binstead road, Ryde	19	RM
Westridge Cross Dairy and land to north of Bullen Road	472	Full
Land of Woodland Close & Adj Cedar Lodge & Thornton Cottage Puckpool Hill Seaview	50	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 222.25 primary aged children (aged 4 to 11 years old).

Total of 889 dwellings in planning area x 0.25 = 222.25

*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
Dover Park Primary School	30	45
Greenmount Primary School	45	60

### Deprivation:

The local authority acknowledges that the potential closure of a school in the Ryde Town 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 child 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.

Table 7 below identifies the scores for each school within the Ryde Town planning area:

**Table 7**

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
Haylands Primary	362.00	23%	54%	4%	5%	5%	9%	0%
Binstead Primary	206.00	68%	12%	16%	0%	2%	1%	0%
Greenmount Primary	341.00	23%	37%	23%	5%	4%	8%	0%
Dover Park Primary	203.00	24%	41%	1%	16%	1%	16%	0%
Oakfield CE Primary	215.00	28%	12%	3%	4%	19%	34%	0%
St Mary's RC Primary	181.00	31%	32%	2%	7%	11%	17%	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 deficit of £307,000 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 26 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 5 – Proposed closure of Oakfield 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-17-equality-impact-assessment-proposed-closure-of-oakfield-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 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025. The notice will remain in force for a period of 4 weeks i.e. until Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.**

**By email:**

[strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

The website address is: [www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace](http://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](mailto:strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk)