

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Consultation on the removal of surplus primary school places within the West Wight School Place Planning Area (SPPA) - Supplementary Consultation**

The planning area is made up of; All Saints' CE Primary, Brighstone CE Primary, Shalfleet CE Primary, St Saviour's Catholic Primary and Yarmouth CE Primary.

On 14 May the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills approved to undertake a further 4 weeks of consultation on the removal of surplus primary school places in the West Wight SPPA.

These frequently asked questions relate to the IW Council's alternative option to manage the increasing numbers of surplus places in West Wight is;

The closure of All Saints' CE Primary School on 31 December 2019 and expansion of Yarmouth CE Primary School to Published Admission Number of 30 per year group from 01 January 2020 and future relocation to the All Saints site.

### **Why are the IW Council considering closing All Saints' CE Primary school?**

#### **Pupil numbers**

The West Wight SPPA shows that the number of children joining the five schools within the area at Year R has been stable for the period 2014 to 2018, with around 30 surplus places out of a total of 119. For 2021 it is expected that this surplus will grow to 56 places, 47%, in line with the projected fall in population within the area. All Saints' CE Primary School & Brighstone CE Primary School, based upon historic trends, are the two schools likely to be most affected by this forecast drop in numbers.

Of the primary age children living in West Wight 90% typically attend a West Wight school, the remainder normally seek a school place in Newport, Ventnor and Cowes. As there is no secondary provision within the West Wight Area, children attend secondary provision across the Island with the majority attending Christ the King (46%) and Carisbrooke Schools (35%).

The table below sets out the current Published Admission Number (PAN), school capacity and pupil numbers at each school in the Autumn 2019 term.

	PAN Per year group	Total School Capacity	Current number of pupils on roll	Surplus Places	% surplus places
<i>St Saviour's Catholic Primary</i>	20	140	133	7	0.6%
<i>Yarmouth C of E Primary</i>	15	105	91	14	13%

<i>Shalfleet C of E Primary</i>	24	168	176	-8	0%
<i>All Saints' CE Primary</i>	30	210	81	129	62%
<i>Brighstone CE Primary</i>	30	210	112	98	47%

As shown in the table above, All Saints' CE Primary School has a significant level of surplus capacity, showing it is not the local school of choice. It is also, therefore, the school most likely to be adversely affected by the forecast reduction in pupil numbers. Currently All Saints' Primary Schools planned admission number (PAN) is 30 and the school have capacity for 210 children. The School has consulted on reducing their PAN to 15 with effect from September 2020. While this will show a reduction in the level of surplus places at the school and in the area as a whole, it will not address the underlying issue around the school's performance and it not being a school of choice for its local community.

Including late applications the numbers of offers made for Reception classes in West Wight schools for September 2019 are; 13 at All Saints CE Primary School and 85 overall. All Saints, Brighstone and Shalfleet schools all have places.

The table below outlines the forecast intake for the overall planning area, based on known births and trends.

	<b>PAN</b>	<b>1718</b>	<b>1819</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2122</b>	<b>2223</b>
<b>4 year old Population</b>	119	85	93	96	89	63	63
<i>Surplus/Shortfall</i>		34	26	23	30	56	56

The proposed closure of All Saints' CE Primary School and expansion of Yarmouth CE Primary School to Published Admission Number of 30 per year group would result in a net reduction of 140 surplus places in the area by 01 January 2020. Yarmouth CE Primary School would relocate to the All Saints' site in the future.

### **Educational standards**

Ofsted inspections are a key way in which the quality of provision and performance in schools is judged. Currently three of the five schools within the West Wight planning area are judged by Ofsted to be good: Shalfleet, St Saviour's and Yarmouth. Of the two that are not, Brighstone has had two Requires Improvement (RI) judgements since 2012, when it was last judged to be good. At the most recent of these in April 2018, the narrative within the Ofsted report made it clear that Brighstone had improved and was securely on its journey to good. Ofsted stated that *'leaders have stopped the decline in standards, and outcomes are continuing to improve. However, outcomes are not yet in line with other schools nationally'*.

All Saints' has not been good since being created following reorganisation. It was rated as RI in 2013, 2015 and 2017. Any improvements in the school have not

been good enough as illustrated by the July 2018 monitoring visit, in which Ofsted stated that the school was '*not taking effective action to improve*'.

All Saints' CE Primary School has a continuous track record of weak educational performance over several years and there are insufficient indications that rapid and sustainable improvement is likely. It also has a long-standing relatively weak reputation in the community relative to neighbouring schools. The issues facing the school are complex and inter-related, partly related to the number of surplus places within the planning area. The number on roll has been low for several years in comparison to capacity and this is having a significant negative impact on the budget. A change of approach may now be necessary, in order to raise standards of educational provision and outcomes for primary school age students locally and also to secure the right strategy for the local planning area.

At the end of Key Stage 2, children in primary schools are assessed as to whether they have reached either the expected standard known as Age Related Expectations (ARE), or the higher standard (H), in reading and writing and maths combined. The results of these assessments are recorded in table three below for schools in the West Wight. Also included in table three are three year averages for both measures, as with small cohorts, it can be hard to make judgements about performance on the basis of one year, for instance where small numbers of children with very low data significantly lower cohort averages.

School	2018 % children achieving ARE + combined	2018 % children achieving H combined	3 year average % children achieving ARE + combined	3 year average % children achieving H combined
<i>National average</i>	64	10	60	8
All Saints	50	0	42	0
Brighstone	40	0	45	3
Shalfleet	58	13	66	8
St Saviours	75	25	68	13
Yarmouth	71	29	48	9

In terms of both academic performance and Ofsted judgements, Yarmouth is a strong, well-performing school, as part of the successful Federation with Shalfleet C.E. Primary school, which indicates that it is well-placed to continue providing a good quality of education for the children of West Wight.

Outcomes in both Brighstone and All Saints' need improving. The three year averages for Age Related Expectation+ in both schools are relatively weak, with All Saints' having the lowest percentage of children achieving this measure, and All Saints' has also a three year average of zero for the Higher Standard combined measure. However, the latest Ofsted monitoring report is now indicating that Brighstone have stopped the decline and the quality of provision is improving.

### **What are the problems with surplus places/declining pupil numbers?**

School's funding is directly related to the number of pupils it has on roll and is allocated based on a funding formula to ensure all school's receive an appropriate allocation based on their number on roll. Funding for schools is allocated by the Government.

A decline in pupil numbers, and a subsequent reduction in funding, presents difficulties for a school in appointing staff and delivering the full range of curriculum opportunities to pupils. Present and forecast pupil numbers at All Saints' CE Primary School raises concern in relation to their future financial stability and ability to offer wide and varied curriculum. The potential benefits from removing surplus places in existing schools are relatively small in this instance in comparison to the benefits achieved by closing a school.

**What would happen to the pupils currently at All Saints' if it was decided to close the school?**

Any changes will be managed in such a way as to minimise disruption to pupils' education.

Parents of pupils attending the closing school will be able to make an application to other schools. This application will be handled following the published admissions process: a place, either a parental preference or the next nearest school with a place, will be offered.

Every effort will be made to ensure that pupils will continue to follow the curriculum they are currently studying and support will be provided to all pupils affected by any proposed changes to minimise disruption to their learning.

**I have applied for a place at All Saints' CE Primary for my child to start Year R in September 2019. What will happen to my application?**

Your application has been processed and you have now received your offer letter. As mentioned previously 13 children have been places at All Saints' CE Primary.

If a decision is taken to close the school in December 2019, parents of Year R children at All Saints' CE Primary School can submit an application for any other school place. In the case that the decision is made to increase the number of places at Yarmouth CE Primary School then the local authority will work with Yarmouth CE Primary School in handling all applications for additional places fairly.

**Will there be any transport support?**

The council has a statutory duty to provide transport when the nearest suitable school for a compulsory school age child is more than two miles away, for children aged up to seven, and 3 miles away for children aged 8 and over. Also, when there is no safe route of less than 2 miles between home and the nearest suitable school there is a duty to provide local authority funded transport.

The council will assess the transport implications, including safe routes to school, within any options that are progressed. Temporary/transitional or permanent transport arrangements may be required. In the case that the recommendation is implemented, the council will, if required, provide free transport for those displaced pupils between All Saints' and Yarmouth until the relocation of Yarmouth to the All Saints' site takes place.

### **How can you be sure that the number of pupils expected in the future is accurate?**

Predicting school place demand is a complex task. Where children go to school involves a range of different factors such as housing growth, inward and outward population migration as well as parental preference. As a result, planning for school places uses historical trends and some assumptions and not certainties. While pupil forecasts are derived from sound methodology, external influences mean they come without a guarantee.

### **What would happen to staff?**

The retention of high quality staff is a crucial element in the IW Council's drive for improving education standards and raising pupil achievement.

Consultations will take place with all staff who may be affected by the proposals, and with their respective professional associations and trade unions.

### **What about the number of new housing developments proposed for the West Wight area?**

Currently there are c500 proposed new dwellings within the Local Plan for the West Wight area up to 2034. Detail of each development and timing is yet to be finalised. Not all new properties will be intended for families and may not attract children. 500 homes, of mixed type and tenure, typically yield about 150 children of primary school age. The impact of new homes will be factored into the school forecasting model when detail is known and school place planning decisions will take account of any new demand.

### **What will happen to the Yarmouth CE Primary School site after the school is relocated to the All Saints' CE Primary School site in the future?**

No decision has been made on the longer term future of the Yarmouth CE Primary School site. The Portsmouth CE Diocese own the school building. If the site is considered for disposal in the future, a report will be published.

### **What other options have been considered?**

In coming to its preferred option the Council has also considered:

- The closure of St Saviour's Catholic Primary School and expansion of All Saints' CE Primary School to 1 form of entry.
- The closure of All Saints' CE Primary School and expansion of St Saviour's Catholic Primary School to 1 form of entry.
- Closure of both All Saints' CE Primary School and St Saviour's Catholic Primary School and seek to open a new one form of entry free / academy school on one of the existing sites.
- The closure of All Saints' CE Primary School and allow the admissions process to manage the impact of reduced places in the area.
- That no change is pursued and the current situation is allowed to continue.

### **Can I propose other options?**

During the consultation the Council would welcome any additional viable proposals. Please submit via the Survey Response Form on the consultation webpage.

### **Will I have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and ask questions?**

There will be opportunities for parents, pupils and other interested members of the community to meet with IW Council officers at two events. People will be able to ask questions and comment on the proposals. Comments made, and issues raised, will be reported back to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills and will be fully considered before any decision is made.

Please refer to the consultation website page for details of the drop in sessions.

### **How to take part in the consultation**

Please tell us your views at the drop-in session and/or by using our online consultation survey response form.

### **The Consultation**

The consultation runs from 14 May to 11 June 2019.

Officers will collate the responses and take a report on the outcomes of the consultation to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills. If it is concluded that the closure of All Saints' CE Primary School and/or the expansion of Yarmouth CE Primary School should proceed, a statutory notice setting out this intention will be published.

Should notices be published there will be a four week period during which representations can be made. Any representations will then be taken into consideration before the IW Council finally decides whether or not to proceed with the closure of All Saints' CE Primary and expansion of Yarmouth CE Primary School. If it is agreed, the anticipated implementation date would be 1 January 2020.