



The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth Achieving Together for a Brighter Future

The purpose of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives

Headteacher Shalfleet and Yarmouth: Mrs Elizabeth Grainger BEd English (Hons)

A University of Chichester
ITT Partner School



4 November 2019

Consultation

This consultation is by the Governing Body of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth, regarding the proposed relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary School to Freshwater in 2021.

Introduction & Context

The Isle of Wight Education Authority has carried out a review of school places on the Island with its initial focus on West Wight. It has undertaken 2 consultations since February 2019, details of which can be found at:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/Schools/School-Consultation>

And a survey available at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/WestWightSchoolPlacesSupplementaryConsultation

Details of the consultation responses and minutes of public meetings can be found in the two reports and appendices below:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Meetings/committees/cabinet/11-7-19/PAPER.pdf>

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/2780-10-INOD-RODDs-3-5-19.pdf>

During the consultations, evidence was presented illustrating significant surplus school places in the area, which had been the case for a number of years, as well as showing a further decline in birth rate from September 2021. This situation has caused financial pressures for schools and poses challenges in terms of resourcing, staff development and retention. In addition, the details included an overview of where children reside in the West Wight area. Overwhelmingly this showed that the majority of children live in the Freshwater area with very few children living in the town of Yarmouth.

The Authority published a Public Notice on Friday, 25 October 2019 stating it intends to discontinue All Saints' Church of England Primary School in Freshwater from 31 August 2020. Details can be viewed here:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/Schools/School-Consultation>

In response to the information published it is the duty of the Governing Body to act responsibly and in the best interests of the schools, children and staff. The opportunity now presents itself to position Yarmouth CE Primary School nearest to where most children live and in a place where the future sustainability of the school and Federation can be assured. The governors consider that proposing the move of Yarmouth CE Primary School is a positive step to providing excellent opportunities for all children and staff within a stable, well-resourced and financially viable Federation.

Our mission for all children:

The purpose of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives. This successful vision can now be shared further in the West Wight.

We aim to:

- Offer strength and depth of expertise across our Federation and to our school communities.
- Offer Federation education to a wider group of children.
- Demonstrate a commitment to inclusivity.

Shalfleet CE Primary, Station Road, Ningwood, Newport, Isle of Wight. PO30 4NN

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Website: www.fosay.co.uk





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- Ensure all children receive the best possible high quality education, directing resources effectively and efficiently across the Federation.
- Develop our Federation community across the wider West Wight and embrace all that our communities have to offer.
- Celebrate the Federation's staff commitment and dedication. Provide our staff with enriching opportunities and positive career development.
- Secure the future for the Federation and be financially sustainable in a challenging climate.

The Process before the Proposed Relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary School to continue in Freshwater in September 2021

The Local Authority's current proposal to discontinue All Saints' CE Primary School is to manage the surplus primary school places within the West Wight School Places Planning Area. It will impact on all other primary schools in the area by reducing the number of school places available. It will mean that the pupils from All Saints' CE Primary School go on to attend schools which in majority have a longer track record of strong leadership and governance and have consistently provided stronger educational outcomes for their pupils; all of which have been acknowledged by Ofsted over time.

The West Wight School Places Planning Area currently has five primary schools; four of these are Church of England and one Catholic. The closure of All Saints' CE Primary School will not therefore impact the balance or choice for parents in regard to denominational provision.

In reducing the number of schools in the West Wight, the remaining schools will be financially more sustainable and provide better value for money from the education budget. The LA have confirmed that they will meet costs arising from the implementation of the proposal.

For the duration of the transition period, that is to say between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, the governing body's preferred option would be to operate Yarmouth CE Primary School across two school sites, one Yarmouth site and one Freshwater site, pending completion of the proposed building works at the Freshwater site. This proposal means children will remain on their known school sites without significant disruption to their education throughout that time. During the transition period regular and meaningful opportunities will be planned for the children and staff of both schools along with the community to ensure a smooth and successful journey for all stakeholders now and into the future. The Local Authority and Diocese have agreed to support the implementation plan as proposed by the governing body, thereby bringing significant expertise and help to ensure the successful completion of the transition.

Feedback

Governors welcome your views on the proposals and encourage you to write to Yarmouth CE Primary School, School Consultation, Mill Road, Yarmouth, PO40 0RA or email your comments to consultation@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk by 16 December 2019. Any comments will be taken into consideration when the final decision is made whether to proceed with this change.

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