



# 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

15<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As many of you will be aware, recently there have been a series of proposals put forward by the IW Council aiming to address the issue of surplus pupil places in primary schools in the West Wight. Those proposals generally indicated that the Council's solutions to the perceived problems would have little or no impact on our two schools. We are extremely proud of our schools and the high standards education they provide for our pupils; and the decision to not focus on us must reflect on the quality of provision our schools offer.

However, in the case of All Saints Primary School in Freshwater the Local Authority is consulting on four proposals with a favoured option. Details can be found here: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/view/delegated-decision-report-west-wight-school-place-planning>

We understand that, perfectly reasonably, the consultation has initiated a strong groundswell of emotion and action from parents, teachers and the local community of Freshwater to oppose and fight any closure. Indeed, there have been a series of protests, meetings and demonstrations in recent weeks with a wide variety of people putting forward proposals and suggesting alternative courses of action.

The Federation's Governing Body has recently met to discuss how we should respond to the proposals as we believe that the implications of these will impact our schools both in the short and long term. We are still engaged in that process. However, we now find ourselves dealing with the fallout following a proposal that appeared on Facebook suggesting that a viable solution would be for our Federation to encompass All Saints Primary as well.

Please let us state for the record that as far as we are aware, this is purely a speculative proposal from a group of concerned Freshwater residents and in no way reflects any official position. It is entirely natural that during a consultation process a variety of options are explored and discussed among the community.

We are incredibly supportive of our Headteacher and her staff and are entirely focused on giving her and them the space to do their jobs to the best of their ability, trying to protect them from any distractions that would divert their attention from the task of continuing to deliver the high quality teaching and learning we all expect.

To that end let us assure you that we will continue to engage with the official Local Authority consultation process and represent our Federation in any future negotiations with the best interests of our schools and their pupils at the core of our position. This also means that should our focus in the process change, for whatever reason, we will inform our parents and carers at the

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earliest opportunity. Please also be assured that we would never make any decisions that had a significant impact on our schools without consulting and involving our key stakeholders such as staff, parents, carers and the wider community.

We hope that this, to some extent, helps you to understand our position in what are turbulent times for the West Wight and please, if you have any questions please direct them to a member of the governing body rather than Mrs. Grainger or her staff. The governors can be contacted via the clerk on [clerk@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk](mailto:clerk@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk) or via the school offices: Shalfleet - 01983 760296 and Yarmouth - 01983 760345.

Yours sincerely,

Carla Bradshaw  
Co-chair of governors

Mark Webber  
Co-Chair of governors

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