



**Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth**  
**West Wight School Places Consultation**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
**6 January 2020**

- **Why are you now consulting on moving the school when the previous survey says that "most parents are against the move"? Some parents and people in the community also feel that they have not been consulted on their views.**
  - The survey related to the proposal made by the Local Authority in May this year. The Governing Body felt that specific proposal had significant shortcomings and was not in the best interest of the education and well-being of all children who would be affected by it; mainly All Saints and Yarmouth School children.
  - The Local Authority was not able to propose this move as Yarmouth is a Voluntary Aided School and the distance between the schools is less than 2 miles.
  - The Local Authority met with the governing body and presented us with their options for managing too many school places in West Wight.
  - The Governors met with parents/carers and staff and is carefully considering all options and undertaking the current non-statutory consultation.
  - Governors have also met with the Yarmouth Town Council.
  - We have heard from many stakeholders and have found that now people understand the circumstances better, around the number of children in West Wight, they recognise why the governing body has to consider the move.
  - The Governing Body is undertaking an informal non-statutory consultation on their proposal to move the school to give an opportunity for parents, staff and the wider community to express their views.
- **Why does your consultation overlap with the LA's consultation to close All Saints?**
  - In principle the Governing Body could consult at any time, however the Governors felt that prolonged uncertainty would not benefit parents and the wider community. Governors decided independently when to consult and when to make their final decision.
- **Will the school actually close and what will happen to the staff?**
  - Yarmouth CE Primary School is proposed to be moved in the proposal, not closed or 'discontinued'. This means the staff will move with the school to its new location should the Governors decide ultimately to move the school.
- **Have the staff been consulted on their views?**
  - Staff have taken part in the consultation in a positive manner and are supportive of the Governors in their work. Their broad views will be taken into account when the Governors make their final decision. Governors are supporting the staff through this process.
- **If the governors decide not to move the school, what could happen?**
  - The future of the school would be out of the governors' hands and the Local Authority will decide on their next step(s) to manage the situation on school places in West Wight. The Local Authority have stated they wish to reduce the number of schools in West Wight from 5 to 4 and they have stated their intention to have a school in Freshwater. The Cabinet papers for the meeting on 9 January 2020 outlines the additional options the LA believes are available to them should the governors decide not to move the school:
    - To close Yarmouth CE Primary School and to maintain All Saints' CE Primary School; subject to further periods of consultation.
    - To close Yarmouth CE Primary School and All Saints' CE Primary School and to open a new academy on the Freshwater site subject to further periods of consultation.

- The Governors are currently seeking further clarification from the Diocese and the Local Authority on the formal positions of both parties to inform their view.
- **I have heard that if Yarmouth moves that there won't be enough space for all the children from Yarmouth and All Saints and that about 40 children will have to go to other schools. Is this true?**
  - School place planning is informed by future pupil numbers in an area, the number of schools in that area as well as the **Planned Admission Numbers** for individual schools within that area. In West Wight the pupil numbers forecast to start in Year R are dropping significantly below the number of places available which has prompted the Local Authority to take action. The PAN for a school applies only to 'relevant year groups' ie. in the case of West Wight schools in Year R (in the case of secondary schools it is Year 7). Any entries into the school system beyond Year R are managed through the Admissions Code which, should the proposal go ahead, will be done with the full support of the LA Admissions Team.
  - Parental preference plays an important role in school admissions. We are not aware that there are going to be significant difficulties with admissions at this stage. In the end the situation will only become clear once relevant decisions have been made and parents are asked to make their choice following those decisions.
  - For September 2020, should the proposals go ahead, the number of places available in West Wight for Year R children is 89. The current Local Authority forecast for 2020/21 is for the population to be 83 children and for 2021/22 this is expected to be less. In place planning forecasts the actual number of children entering the school system is expected to be below the population available. The Local Authority view is that there will be sufficient places in West Wight to accommodate all Year R children into the schools.
  - The admission of children beyond Year R will be managed in accordance with the School Admissions Code taking into account parental preference.
- **Why didn't the Governors suggest that Shalfleet School moves?**
  - Under statutory guidance: 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools' the Governing Body can be the proposer however the Local Authority would be the decision maker to move Shalfleet School.
  - In the Cabinet papers for 9 January 2020, the Local Authority have outlined the following points:
    - Shalfleet serves a distinct set of rural communities
    - Shalfleet has seen significant capital investment of £1.6 million over the past few years
    - Shalfleet could expand in the future if required.
  - We have asked both the Local Authority and the Diocese to give their response to this suggestion to inform the governors' view.
- **If the school moves will it still be federated with Shalfleet?**
  - Yes it will. There will be no change to the structure of the two schools working together in a federation.
- **What will happen to the preschool, 'Little Stars'?**
  - Should the decision be taken to move the school, then this will include 'Little Stars'. Little Stars is part of Yarmouth CE Primary School. Our official age range is 2-11 years and the Governors oversee the work of the preschool in the same way as they oversee the school's work.
- **Aren't smaller primary schools better?**
  - In national terms, schools with 210 children (1 form per year) are still considered small schools. Nationally there is a trend for the smaller schools to become part of federations or Multi Academy Trusts to deliver good education (see below).
  - Whilst smaller schools can of course be good, the operational and financial climate is more challenging the smaller the school is. For example, the most recent DfE and Ofsted

requirements for a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum are more difficult to deliver with limited funds. Overall funding available in smaller schools is lower and has to be stretched further to try and deliver more.

- There can be confusion between small schools and smaller class sizes regarding statistics. Also, a recent DfE research report states that there is no clear relationship between average class size and attainment. The quality of teaching and learning, and intervention opportunities improve attainment.
- In smaller schools, activities and personalised learning can be limited due to lack of space and staff capacity.
- Transition to secondary school can be challenging for children who attended smaller primary schools.
- **If the Governors agree to move Yarmouth School, what will happen between September 2020 and September 2021?**
  - Should the Governors decide to move Yarmouth CE Primary School, their preferred option currently for the duration of the transition period, that is to say between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, would be to operate Yarmouth CE Primary School across two school sites, one Yarmouth site and one Freshwater site.
  - The arrangements for children on both sites would need to be appropriate to support their learning and ensure their safety during the transition period.
  - Whilst no detail has been agreed at this stage, as no final decision has been taken, both the Local Authority and the Diocese have agreed to support the transition thereby bringing significant expertise and support to ensure the successful completion.
  - Should the Governors decide to move Yarmouth CE Primary School, the proposal is that 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.
- **Can you disclose what the Governors' legal advice said?**
  - The legal advice obtained by the Governors is legally privileged under Section 42 of the Freedom of Information Act. It will therefore not be disclosed in full. However, we have published the following quote: 'The Governing Body has a particular role of acting in the best interests of the school. In the context of Yarmouth and Shalfleet Federation, and the demographic realities, the Governing Body would be acting responsibly by agreeing to the move'.
- **Do you actually have confirmation that there is money for a new building?**
  - The All Saints site has been identified by the government under the Priority Schools Building for the Future 2 in 2015 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-school-building-programme-2-list-of-successful-schools>). This means that funding has been identified by central government for this project. As we understand it the programme is progressing well and is on track for delivery in Summer 2021. Several schools on the Isle of Wight have been built or refurbished under this programme and governors have no reason to not expect this to be a firm commitment.
- **If the school moves will it still have the same name?**
  - At this moment in time the school would still have the same name as the final decision on whether to move the school or not has not been made yet and it is considered in appropriate to be engaged with such a process at this time.
- **If the school moves will the Headteacher and staff be in the school on the Freshwater site?**
  - If Yarmouth CE Primary School moves, the Headteacher and all staff will move with the school to Freshwater.

- **Who will manage the school in Freshwater?**
  - If Yarmouth CE Primary School moves, the current Headteacher of the Federation will manage the school with her staff.
- **If the school moves what do we do about uniform?**
  - At this point in time this has not been given consideration as the final decision on whether to move the school or not has not been made yet. However should the decision be made to move the school, the Governing Body will do all it can to mitigate any impact upon parents/carers and the children.
- **What about the pancake races, visits to Yarmouth Castle, the lifeboat and other activities in Yarmouth, will the children still be involved in this?**
  - Should the decision be made to move the school, the school leadership has every intention to remain involved with the Yarmouth community and events.
- **The school/land was donated to Yarmouth to educate its children. What are the terms of the will? Are the terms being correctly applied?**
  - The governing body is advised that there are in fact two Yarmouth trust deeds of 1854 and 1855. Both were made under the Schools Sites Act 1841. The gifts of land were made to church trustees, not to the town of Yarmouth. The deeds require the premises to be used for a school open to the children of the poor from the parish of Yarmouth. Should the school move to Freshwater, we understand legal steps will be taken that will ensure the continuation of the purposes of the trusts.
- **Where can I see the information in relation to the consultation?**
  - You can see information on the Local Authority website as follows:  
<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Meetings/committees/cabinet/11-7-19/PAPER.C.pdf>  
<https://www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/2780-10-INOD-RODDs-3-5-19.pdf>  
<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/Schools/School-Consultation>
  - The school has published relevant documents on its website for review:  
[www.fosay.co.uk/west-wight-school-consultation/](http://www.fosay.co.uk/west-wight-school-consultation/)
- **Why has the consultation been extended, how can I respond and when does it now finish?**
  - The informal consultation has been extended to give the parents/carers, staff and wider community the maximum possible time to respond to it ensuring the Governors can take all views into account and have a clear understanding of the options available.
  - The informal consultation ends on Friday, 10 January 2019. You can write a letter and drop it into school or email it at [consultation@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk](mailto:consultation@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk)
- **Have you considered the impact on the community of moving Yarmouth CE Primary School to Freshwater?**
  - During the consultation we have received and expect to receive more comments from the West Wight community and are carefully considering all points made to us.

• 06/01/2020