

Date: 19 September 2019

Carla Bradshaw

Via email
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Dear Carla

Many thanks for meeting with colleagues from the Diocese, Governing Body and Local Authority last week and for the subsequent telephone conversation we held yesterday.

I write to place on record the commitments I made to you in the meeting last week so that there is a clearer pathway moving forward. Firstly, if the Governing Body of Shalfleet / Yarmouth and the Diocese come alongside the Local Authority in proposing the move of Yarmouth CE Primary onto the vacated All Saints CE site then we will work with you to ensure that the report going to Cabinet will be co-constructed so that all three parties are comfortable with the contents, whilst recognising the formal constraints of any local authority decision making process. It is currently envisaged that the comprehensive refurbishment or rebuild of the ex-All Saints CE Primary would be completed by 31 August 2021 and that the date of the relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary would formally take place on the 1 September 2021.

Throughout the meeting you expressed concerns about the need to create a communications plan and the need for confidentiality. I would be very happy to work with Lizzie, Steve and yourself to work up the best way of handling communications and would suggest we meet urgently with a member of the media team to ensure we have a plan we are all content with. In particular, it is recognised that some of the opposition to the proposals has been distressing for governors and staff and we would need to work together to minimise this. I am also keen to ensure that the local community has clarity as the continued uncertainty isn't helpful.

You asked whether the Local Authority would seek to change the age range of Yarmouth CE Primary School as part of these proposals from a 2 - 11 school to a 4 - 11 school. The Local Authority has no plans to change the age range although we recognise that the numbers of pre-school aged pupils are falling and that will impact on the financial stability of the different providers.

There is clearly much work to be done if we are to take forward the relocation proposal together. I would envisage setting up two implementation groups as suggested in the July Cabinet paper. The first would be in relation to the closure of All Saints CE School which would focus on that aspect. The second would be about the proposal to relocate Yarmouth but also would include a focus on the interim period between closure of All Saints CE Primary and relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary School. The second implementation group would probably comprise Lizzie, key governors and lead officers from the Local Authority so that the group had access to expert advice. Lizzie's view as the headteacher and therefore the lead professional would be really important.

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I would envisage that the support from the Local Authority would be wide ranging. We have an absolute commitment to making this work for children and therefore we would want to work with you to secure:

- An agreement on where the current All Saints children would be educated during the interim period. We have made it clear in previous reports that this could be at the All Saints site or the Yarmouth site and would need to ensure that suitable interim accommodation is provided. If Yarmouth was chosen as a site, we would need to provide some interim transport arrangements.
- All the schools in the West Wight are on an improvement journey. The Local Authority will continue to provide support to ensure that children attain highly and benefit from a high quality education provision.
- The implementation group would contain HR advice as there will be HR implications.
- We will ensure the implementation group has access to high quality legal advice to ensure all legal matters are dealt with appropriately.
- Very importantly, we will have a representative of the finance team on the implementation group as we will have to carefully model the budget moving forward with the increased number on roll. I accept that there will be costs arising from the implementation that the Local Authority will have to meet. We will work flexibly with the implementation group to ensure that children continued to receive the right support for their education. Our aim would be to ensure that the Shalfleet / Yarmouth Federation was secure financially and able to provide high quality education from within the schools' budgets.

I hope that the above gives some clarity of the Local Authority's commitment to make this work if the Shalfleet / Yarmouth Governing Body and the Diocese were to jointly propose with the Local Authority the moving of Yarmouth CE Primary School. I have no doubt there will be other issues that arise, and we will work hard to overcome those and work in partnership with you.

I would be grateful if you could let me know the resolution of the Governing Body so that we can start to draft the report. You'll appreciate that I'll need that in a format that is unambiguous.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely



Brian Pope
Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion