



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

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Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth Submission to the Local Authority Consultation regarding School Places in West Wight 15 April 2019

Further to the current consultation by the Isle of Wight Education Authority regarding a surplus of school places in the West Wight, the governing body of the Federation of Shalfleet and Yarmouth consider that whilst our schools have not been named in the consultation document, all schools, the children and their families in the West Wight are affected by it. We have therefore reviewed the document and the options proposed by the LA and hereby submit our response.

We accept that there is a need to review school places planning for West Wight and that some restructuring may be appropriate.

We are disappointed that the consultation document appears to be less comprehensive, accurate and transparent than wished for. The West Wight community has experienced two significant school re-organisations in recent years and in our opinion merit an earlier and more considered engagement from the Local Authority.

On the proposed closure of St Saviours School and expanding All Saints School: To close a successful 'good' school would be against current government policy and as such inappropriate. This is therefore not a realistic option.

On the proposed closure of both St Saviour's and All Saints schools and opening a free school/academy: This option could serve the local community appropriately and maintain education on the site although we understand new school applications are not straightforward. This option should receive further clarification; at least but not limited to the views of both Diocese and how such an integration could be managed.

On the proposed closure of All Saints School and allowing the admissions process to manage the impact of reduced places: Looking strategically at the future admission numbers of children in the area as quoted by the Local Authority, this option looks to be the most appropriate based on the rationale provided by the Local Authority. Our federation community will do whatever necessary to welcome and support any children and parents/carers who choose to come to our schools.

We are saddened by the proposed rationalisation of school places in West Wight and recognise that an inevitable amount of unrest and uncertainty will go with it. We will support the West Wight community to the best of our ability within the process that is before us. We remain committed to and focused on providing the best possible education for the children.

Ends

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