



**ALL SAINTS' CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**FULL GOVERNING BODY RESPONSE TO WEST WIGHT SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING**  
**(CONSULTATION OUTCOMES)**

*'Supporting opportunities for all to achieve and succeed'*

**Catherine Powell**

**Chair, on behalf of the Governing Body of All Saints' CE Primary School**

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

*The closure of All Saints' CE Primary School on 31 December 2019 and expansion of Yarmouth CE Primary School to Published Admission Number of 30 per year group from 01 January 2020 and future relocation to the All Saints' site.*

## **1.0 Preamble**

1.1 The Full Governing Body (FGB) have met to debate and discuss the new option (above) put forward in the next stage of the West Wight Schools Planning consultation. We are pleased to have had an opportunity to hear from stakeholders, including those within the school and wider Freshwater community. We broadly support the latest option, with some caveats, discussed later in this response.

1.2 As an inclusive Church School, welcoming those of all abilities, we abide by the Church of England Diocese Vision for Education to be 'deeply Christian, serving the common good'. We are thus somewhat dismayed to find that the consultation process has raised responses from others that challenge the values of equality, diversity and equal opportunities. In short, we suggest that these views marginalise some of the most vulnerable children and families in West Wight. Furthermore, they promote 'pre-emptive off-rolling of children', at complete odds with current education policy, and of fairness. The notion of 'dispersal' is anathema when referring to our children.

1.3 We reiterate our disappointment in the selective use of the School's progress and achievement measures in the latest delegated decision report (and elsewhere). As a reminder, in 2018, All Saints' CE Primary School was ranked second out of the five West Wight Primary Schools for overall performance at Key Stage Two (KS2), with progress scores in line with the national average. If compared with progress scores across the island, All Saints' CE School was ranked ninth out of 44 schools.

1.4 Whilst a three-year *average* score for SATS will look less favourable, when compared to other schools, including national measures, the three-year *trend* for those achieving age-related expectations is undeniably one of improvement i.e. from 35% (2016), to 40% (2017) and 50% (2018). Results for KS2 at the end of the current school year look set to continue this improving picture.

1.5 In their original report, the Council noted that the issues facing All Saints' CE Primary School are 'complex and inter-related'. As an FGB we have developed our strategic vision to 'support opportunities for all to achieve and succeed', become more robust in our monitoring and scrutiny activities, and have collaborated positively with school leaders, governor services and officers from the Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS) to address these challenges.

1.6 We expect all children to make progress. However, the stark gaps in attainment between those who are disadvantaged, and their more advantaged peers, highlighted in the recent report from the Social Mobility Commission, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-mobility-in-great-britain-state-of-the-nation-2018-to-2019> needs to be acknowledged. Furthermore, this report's finding that '**Ofsted outcomes largely reflect the socio-economic make up of a cohort**' is critical, albeit this should not diminish aspirations for improvement in the educational outcomes for all children.

## 2.0 Response

2.1 The Governing Body's priority is to continue to ensure the best option for local children and families, as well as the wider community of Freshwater. We accept the over-arching reasons for the need for the removal of surplus primary school places within the West Wight i.e. the convincing forecast intake data, and the fact that this will lead to the closure of one (or more) schools in the area.

2.2 We see this time of change as an exciting opportunity to raise standards of educational provision and outcomes for local primary school-age children. We are delighted that this latest option recognises the importance of the All Saints' site and the many benefits it offers, as well as the opportunity for a new-build school fit for the 21st Century. Funds available from the Department for Education Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP2) have already been earmarked for this development.

2.3 The FGB believe that the latest proposal is positive for our children, and the future for children and families in Freshwater, and the wider West Wight. We are pleased that it meets Governors' previous submission on the importance of the location. As we noted, the site is in the centre of the village, close to a large number of family homes (with more being built), the local shops, the health centre, the library, a country park, a multi-use games area (MUGA), a playground and the West Wight Sports Centre. Employment opportunities are close-by, and expanding, in line with wider plans for growth and regeneration. The site is also close to All Saints' Church and the Freshwater Methodist Church; both provide family friendly activities (e.g. Messy Church).

2.4 The site is large, safe and accessible. The unrivalled grounds include a 'secret garden' and hosts a very successful after-school gardening club. The co-location of the 'Outstanding' (Ofsted, 2016) pre-school provides opportunities for smooth transition and joint activities.

2.5 The new school will protect the site and reduce carbon emissions linked both to travel and the more environmentally friendly expectations of a new build. The public health benefits of active and sustainable travel are clear, and this latest option will almost certainly contribute to achieving a significant net reduction in vehicle transport (i.e. school runs) across the West Wight.

2.6 The proposal also protects the religious identity of the school as being Church of England. The Reverend Leisa Potter, Priest in Charge of the West Wight, has specific responsibility for the Parishes of All Saints, Freshwater with St Agnes, St James, Yarmouth and Christ Church, Totland. Rev Leisa is an experienced school governor, as well as an excellent leader of school-based worship. Her role enables continuity of the children's religious education journey and she will be a familiar figure at a time of change.

2.7 However, whilst broadly accepting the proposal, there are details yet to be worked through and agreed. These include ensuring as smooth a transition as possible and that the amalgamation is undertaken with the protection of the best interests of current pupils and school staff, including any arrangements for TUPE (transfer of undertaking for protection of employment).

2.8 We are concerned about the disruption likely to be caused by the initial suggestions for the movement of children between the Freshwater and Yarmouth sites. The FGB suggest that consideration should be given to children remaining on site, whilst building works are in progress. The detail of this would need to be thought through, but we believe that there is scope within the current footprint to

provide classrooms and safe access by straightforward provision of pedestrian and vehicle (i.e. contractor) entrances. Any travel solution, if required, should be both safe and effective and at no extra financial burden to families.

2.9 We would also wish to ensure that the operational leads of both schools work together from the earliest opportunity to ensure joint curriculum planning and delivery is agreed and in place for the beginning of the new School Year (September 2019). Consideration should also be given to ensuring that class structures are matched to support integration of pupils and of combining YR from the outset.

2.10 Finally, in order to protect the interests of current pupils, families and staff, we would have an expectation that the Chair of Governors, plus a second governor, and the headteacher from All Saints', are invited to be members of the proposed Implementation Group.