



Cowes Primary School

Right to Learn Right to be Safe Right to be Respected

Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Praetig

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Wednesday 28th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now received the following communication from the Isle of Wight Council:

Last month, the Isle of Wight Council continued the process of looking to address a significant surplus of more than 200 primary school places across the Island. A report to the council's Cabinet contained proposals that named a number of schools for consultation on possible closure.

We have been made aware by the Isle of Wight Council that the report has been withdrawn at this time, and that at this stage, there are no proposals agreed to progress further consultations.

A number of members of the Isle of Wight community have asked for further clarity and the opportunity to ask questions about the school place planning process, and the impacts that surplus school places have on schools and children's education. In response to this, and in order to better explain what the challenges are and how these can be overcome, the council is hosting a public briefing at 6.30pm on 11 July 2023 at Medina Theatre.

We have been asked to share with you that the public briefing is an opportunity to hear more about:

- Surplus places and their impacts on schools and education
- Why surplus places must be managed and our statutory duty regarding school places
- How we forecast school place requirements – a look at the data
- Education recruitment challenges
- Education finance challenges
- The impact of having too many places in the system – financial, educational and social
- School organisation – the tools that we have at our disposal to manage surplus places



The council's Cabinet would like to make it clear that this is not a consultation and there will be no opportunity to discuss anything related to individual named schools. Council officers are not authorised to have any discussions about the previous paper or any of its contents, as that paper was formally withdrawn.

Such discussions are a right and proper part of a formal consultation process and there will be an opportunity for everyone to engage should Cabinet decide to bring a schools' planning paper back for approval to go out to consultation. Questions on the generalities of school place planning will of course be welcome.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S J Praetig', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S J Praetig
Headteacher