
17th December 2024

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Dear Cowes Primary School community,

Following the cabinet meeting on Thursday, 12 December, the Cabinet has decided to issue public notices about the proposed closure of Cowes Primary School. Several suggestions were made during the Cabinet meeting regarding the possible educational arrangements for the children if the school closes. These included, but not limited to the possibility of some children remaining at the Cowes site under the administration of Gurnard Primary School, which would handle staffing and management. Alternatively, all children could be transferred to the Gurnard site, possibly with temporary accommodation.

At this stage, these are just suggestions. We are exploring all options to ensure we have viable, cost-effective solutions that provide the best transition for the children, if the Cabinet decides to close the school after the statutory consultation.

The statutory consultation will start on 3 January 2025 and run for four weeks. More information and details on how to participate will be provided in the new year. There will be an online survey, and paper copies will be available at the school, public libraries, and County Hall. There is also the strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk email address which you can send responses into. The consultation will end on 3 February 2025 and the Cabinet will meet in late February/early March to make a decision.

We will work closely with your Headteacher, Stephanie Praetig, throughout this process. If the decision is made to close Cowes Primary School, we will hold implementation meetings, which is a meeting between LA officers and the leaders at the school. To ensure a smooth transition for children and manage the closure process effectively, a Transition Manager would work closely with school staff and parents to oversee and support the children's transition between schools, ensuring that each child feels comfortable and well-prepared for their new environment.

I hope this provides some reassurance during this challenging time. I would like to thank your Headteacher and all the staff at Cowes Primary School for their professionalism, dignity, and respect during this period.

Further communications will be issued in the New Year.

Cont ...

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Naomi Carter', written in a cursive style.

Naomi Carter
Service Director – Education, Inclusion and Access