

# **Statutory proposal for the closure of Wroxall Primary School**

## **Contact details**

### **Name and address of Local authority publishing the proposal:**

Isle of Wight Council, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1UD

### **Name, address and category of school proposed to be closed:**

Wroxall Primary School, Castle Road, Wroxall, Isle of Wight, PO38 3DP

(Community School)

## **Introduction**

On Thursday 12 December the Cabinet of Isle of Wight Council approved publication of a statutory proposal to close Wroxall Primary School.

Notice is given in accordance with Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that the Isle of Wight Council proposes to discontinue Wroxall Primary School with effect from 31 August 2025.

## **Implementation**

### **Date on which it is proposed to close the school:**

Sunday 31 August 2025.

### **It is proposed to implement the closure as follows:**

Following the closure of Wroxall Primary School, it is proposed for the remaining pupils on roll at that time to transfer to other primary schools in the local area. The local authority has identified sufficient vacancies at local primary schools within 2 miles from Wroxall Primary School.

The council's own projection of pupil numbers starting Reception in the coming years forecasts that across the Isle of Wight there will be 2506 surplus primary school

places in 2025 and 2828 surplus places in 2026. The earliest indication for 2027 suggests that number will rise to 3049 unfilled places.

There are also vacancies at other schools in the areas to the Ventnor school place planning area, providing Wroxall Primary families with a range of options to secure a suitable school for their child. The local authority will endeavour to meet parental preferences for school places, where possible.

The local authority is already undertaking preliminary work on planning the transition for children and families.

### **Reason for Closure**

The council has a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient number of school places for pupils and that places are planned effectively. The council monitors surplus Reception places, a key measure of demand, and aims to maintain a 10% surplus across the primary school phase to allow for parental preference and for movers across or onto the Isle of Wight.

The council's own projection of pupil numbers starting Reception in the coming years forecasts that across the Isle of Wight there will be 2506 surplus primary school places in 2025 and 2828 surplus places in 2026. The earliest indication for 2027 suggests that number will rise to 3049 unfilled places.

The planning and provision of school places is a complex task that must take account of changing populations, parental preference, migration and new housing. Individual schools, subject to status, now have greater autonomy regarding admission numbers and decisions surrounding school expansion/reduction, adding further complexity to the statutory role the Council has in relation to ensuring a sufficiency of school places. The geography and rural nature of the Isle of Wight creates further challenges in relation to small schools. A main principle of current and future provision is that the LA will seek to provide schools which deliver high quality education standards and are financially sustainable in the longer term. As part of the school place planning review a number of key areas for consideration are identified below, along with more detailed information contained within this proposal:

- Quality of provision.
- Where the children who attend the school live.
- Childrens health and wellbeing.
- Whether the children that attend a faith school do so because of its denomination.
- Financial viability.
- Transport implications.
- Environment implications.
- Number of pupils choosing to attend the school.
- Fabric of the building and ongoing maintenance costs.
- Legal legislation restrictions.
- Department for Education guidance about rural schools.
- Pupil movement.

- Local housing building.
- Factors that arise during a consultation process.
- Restrictions outside of the local authority's control.

Table 1 below provides updated forecast data for the number of children due to start Reception each year in the Ventnor school place planning area. This demonstrates that despite a slight increase for September 2025 and 2026 the area has a sustained increase in surplus school places, with Wroxall forecast to have the greatest percent of surplus places:

**Table 1**

School	PAN	Year R Numbers					Surplus	
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	%24/25	%28/29
Godshill Primary	20	14	17	15	10	13	30%	35%
Niton Primary	30	25	30	27	18	24	17%	20%
St Francis Catholic and CE Primary School	30	17	22	20	14	18	43%	40%
Wroxall Primary School	25	12	13	12	8	10	52%	60%
<b>Area Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>38%</b>
NHS Data - Overall number of children living in area		48	62	56	38	49		

Data source: Summer census 2024

Mapping of pupils by postcode demonstrates that 63% of the current Year R to Year 5 cohort have an alternative school closer to their home address meaning that Wroxall Primary School is reliant upon a high percentage of families choosing to travel to the school out of preference. Should preference in the future change this could leave an unstable and unviable school.

As a result of this significant decline in births the council has reluctantly determined to propose that Wroxall Primary School should now close. This decline has been sustained over an extended period and the main factors leading to the closure proposal are low and falling pupil numbers impacting on the School's financial viability and consequent concerns around the ability to sustain a high quality education for pupils.

Schools are mainly funded by an amount of money for each child attending the school. Low pupil numbers make it challenging for schools to operate within budget. Managing a school and maintaining high-quality provision with quality teaching and learning can be difficult on a low budget.

Wroxall Primary has underperformed, with only 39% of children reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in Summer 2024. [Wroxall Primary](#)

[School - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK](#)

compared to the England average of 61%. The percentages of disadvantaged pupils who achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in Summer 2024 was 13% [Results by pupil characteristics - Wroxall Primary School - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK](#) . Wroxall Primary is a double Requires Improvement school and was last rated good by Ofsted in November 2013.

Against physical capacity the School is currently only half full, with 107 children aged 4-11 years on roll of the school as of October 2024. Pupil numbers in schools on the Island are declining and more significantly currently in the Ventnor planning area, where Wroxall Primary School is situated. This means that Wroxall, along with other schools, has not had enough pupil numbers to fill its classes and as part of an area review to reduce the number of surplus places the Council do not feel there will be sufficient children to fill these places in the future, as noted in Table 1 above.

Due to the significant level of surplus places the closure of Godshill Primary School was consulted upon. However, Cabinet took the decision to remove this as an option in response to the presumption on the closure of rural schools places a requirement on the LA to carefully consider the impacts for rural areas. By retaining Godshill Primary School this retains an alternative school for the community of Wroxall. Godshill is located 2 miles from Wroxall Primary School.

The reduction in its pupil numbers will have a negative impact on the school's budget. The school had a cumulative surplus balance of £160,000 at the end of financial year 2023/24 which is forecast to reduce to £38,000 in 2024/25 as per school's November submission. Future years forecasts indicate depletion of the surplus balance which puts the school at a high risk of falling into a deficit position.

Continued low pupil numbers mean the School will be unable to maintain a balanced budget and while it may be possible to identify some cost savings through efficiency, the School would not be able to achieve the scale of saving necessary without also cutting back even further on staff, which would be unacceptable in terms of the impact on education quality.

The local authority has a statutory duty to manage the sufficiency of school places and is not allowed to continue to fund schools that are not financially viable and, after considering the alternative options available, it was determined that it would be necessary to propose for the school to close. This notice should be read in conjunction with the full report and findings presented to [Report.pdf](#); the consultation process and summary of responses are outlined in [Appendix 6 – Proposed closure of Wroxall Primary School](#).

Paper copies of this report and appendix can be made available upon request.

## **Pupil numbers and admissions**

**The numbers for whom provision is currently made at the school:**

Wroxall Primary School is a mainstream primary school for pupils aged 2 to 11 years old. Gender of Entry – Mixed. This is not a special school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND).

The school has a published admission number (PAN) of 25 for each year group, giving a total of 175 places (excluding preschool places).

There were 123 pupils on roll at the school as of the autumn term in October 2024 (data source: autumn 2024 School Census), all of whom are pupils of mainstream school age with 16 preschool-aged pupils (see Table 2 below).

**Table 2**

Early Years (2-4 year olds)	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
16	11	4	12	21	14	23	22	123

Data source: autumn 2024 School Census

## Displaced pupils

It is expected that pupils in Year 6 would continue to attend the school until its proposed closure at the end of the academic year 2024-25.

From 1 September 2025, the pupils remaining on roll at Wroxall Primary School would have the offer of places at other local schools no more than 2 miles from the current school site.

Alternatively, parents/carers who do not wish to take up the offer of a place at within the Ventnor planning area would be able to apply for a place at another school with a vacancy, via the Council's in-year application process. Although admission to alternative schools would depend upon vacancies at that time, it is proposed to support families through the process by holding surgeries at the School in April 2025 with admissions officers available to support families in completing in-year applications.

This is a mainstream school, and not a special school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND). However, SEND specialists would work with the school to ensure that those children with an education health and care plan (EHCP) would have that EHCP reviewed, and a new school named.

Where a pupil has an EHCP a SEND Officer would liaise with the parent/carer to discuss amending the plan, if it is determined minor or specific changes are required these would be made without the need for a full review. If it is deemed that a review is required, the SEND Officer would work with the school to arrange this and follow the statutory process in both circumstances parental preference would be secured and consultation with the EHCP will be made.

Table 3 below identifies the number of current vacant spaces within the schools in the Ventnor planning area. Should places be required in the upper Key Stage 2 years the LA would request St Francis RC/CE Primary School to consider and additional class for children of which the school is their closest.

**Table 3**

School Name	Direct distance from Wroxall Primary School (Miles)**	Reception Spaces	Year 1 Spaces	Year 2 Spaces	Year 3 Spaces	Year 4 Spaces	Year 5 Spaces	Year 6 Spaces*
St Francis Catholic and CE Primary	1.15	14	9	3	9	0	0	0
Godshill Primary	2.03	7	3	7	0	6	5	0
Niton Primary	3.449	7	2	0	1	0	1	2
<b>Total spaces</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>

Data source: The number on roll was provided from schools on 3/12/2024. Up to date information is reliant upon schools updating School Admissions.

\*Year 6 would be entering secondary schools upon 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

\*\*The distance between schools is measured direct by the local authority's geographical information system (GIS) from the centre of the building to the centre of the building. Other distance measuring tools will not give exactly the same measurement as they all measure slightly differently.

Please refer to the Early Years section for information on the impacts for the preschool provision.

Mapping of children by postcode demonstrates that 37% of the current Year R to Year 5 cohort have an alternative school closer to their home address. This means that some families are very likely to have several alternative schools within statutory walking distance of their homes (i.e. two miles for children under eight years of age, three miles for pupils aged 8–16).

Current projections for school places indicate that there are enough places for future cohorts following the closure of Wroxall Primary School. The local authority will continue to monitor the projected need for future school places and propose changes, if required, to ensure sufficient places are available.

### **Impact on the community**

While the impact on the wider community is an important consideration, the key consideration is to determine whether the proposal to reduce surplus school places and improve the quality of education across the Island is in the best interests of children who are educated at the school.

The council does not underestimate the potential impact of this proposed change on the pupils at the school, whose circumstances may already make them vulnerable. This impact could include:

- Disruption to education
- Emotional and psychological stress
- Social impact
- Logistical challenges for families

We recognise the school serves some disadvantaged families and therefore professional support, from the support services such as the Inclusion Support Service, Schools Mental Health Service and Virtual School, would be put in place to facilitate the movement of those students to local schools and minimise the impact of change upon them.

With regards to wider community services Wroxall Primary School currently provides additional services or use of its facilities which are identified in the rural primary school section below. Through local research it is possible that these services could be relocated to alternative school sites, and in the event of the school closing the LA would work with the school and community to ensure there was not a loss of provision.

The council considers that allowing surplus places to remain at current through inaction would directly and negatively impact the financial viability of many local schools, which in turn will have an impact on the quality and breadth of the education offered at those schools.

## **Rural primary schools**

Wroxall Primary School is designated as rural primary school under section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, therefore additional factors have been considered as part of the consultation process:

### Legislation:

The Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order 2023 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk)) and reference to DfE guidance [Opening and closing maintained schools](#)

### **1. Alternatives to closure including:**

- a. conversion to academy status and joining a multi-academy trust,**
- b. federation with another local school,**
- c. the scope for an extended school to provide local community services and facilities (e.g. childcare facilities, family and adult learning, healthcare, community internet access).**

1a. The Local Authority has considered conversion to academy status or joining a multi-academy trust however becoming an academy would not resolve the surplus of school places and if the school is in budget deficit this could become a barrier to an academy conversion. The school could reduce their PAN this year from 25 however this would not have the desired impact to reduce the number of surplus places. This could also add further pressures to the school finances, ultimately impacting on the ability to provide a broad and balanced education.

1b. Wroxall was previously federated with Godshill and Chillerton & Rookley Primary Schools known as The Stenbury federation. Wroxall defederated in September 2022 and appointed a new head teacher.

There are a number of benefits for schools from being within a federation including broader learning and social experiences for children leading to improvement in child performance. Schools will be able to share resources, best practice, facilities and expertise. However, federation alone will not reduce the number of surplus school places as the school's intake would remain, and overall in the planning area the number of school places would not reduce.

1c. Wroxall do provide extended community facilities as there is a preschool on the school site that also provides wraparound care.

The school has been consulted upon local community services and facilities and below is a summary of the response provided:

We currently offer Breakfast Club and After School Club. We have a lettings policy, which does permit the hall for hire, but at present we do not have any regular bookings.

As noted within the report a number of alternatives have been considered, and the local authority believes the closure of Wroxall Primary School provides the best opportunity to establish a sustainable model of provision for the educational offer in that part of the Island.

## **2. The availability, and likely cost to parents, of transport to other schools.**

Wroxall resident children would be entitled to local authority funded transport if they are eligible under the Home to School Transport Policy, to what becomes their nearest school if Wroxall Primary School closes.

In November 2024 there are 105 children on roll of which 30 attend Wroxall as their nearest school and for 75 children it is not their nearest school.

Analysis of each child has been undertaken to understand their next nearest 3 schools from their home address. Calculations can be made upon the transport budget for the next nearest school however parental choice prevents exact analysis in this regard.

The table below provides an analysis of the children on roll as of November 2024 in years R-5 which could be impacted by the proposed closure, and which schools are identified as being their closest school:

	Number of children for which it is their nearest school
Wroxall	30
Brading	1
Broadlea	1
Gatten & Lake	2
Godshill	1
Newchurch	1
Nine Acres	1
Niton	2
Northwood	2
St Blasius	7
St Francis	32
The Bay	2
	<b>82</b>

A summary of this confirms that of those children on roll in Year R – 5 only 37% attend the school as their nearest school.

The average unit cost for home to school transport per child in primary mainstream schools is £2,527 per annum as of October 2024. 34 children are eligible costing IWC £85,918 per annum.

The data in the table above indicates the closure of Wroxall and the subsequent relocation of children to St Francis RC/CE Primary or Godshill Primary School would therefore not necessarily increase the overall use of the motor vehicle for the school run as parents drive their children to St Francis or Godshill instead of Wroxall. Some families may also choose to access a school place closer to their home addresses in alternative planning areas.

### 3. Whether the proposal will result in unreasonably long journey times.

For children living immediately in the Wroxall area St Francis RC/CE Primary School is the next nearest school to Wroxall that is located 1.4 miles away by road and takes 4 minutes to travel to in a vehicle. Godshill Primary School is the next nearest school to Wroxall that is located 2.7 miles away by road and takes 7 minutes to travel to in a vehicle.

#### Wroxall to St Francis

Direct distance	Walking distance miles	Drive distance miles
1.15	1.369	1.37

#### Wroxall to Godshill

Direct distance	Walking distance miles	Drive distance miles
2.031	2.466	2.673

#### Wroxall to Niton

Direct distance	Walking distance miles	Drive distance miles
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3.449	5.7	5.981	
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**4. The size of the school and whether it puts the children at an educational disadvantage e.g. in terms of breadth of curriculum or resources available.**

Wroxall Primary School is a small rural school that can accommodate 1FE and has a current PAN of 25. Due to declining child numbers, classes now contain multiple year groups which is restricting the educational offer to those children. Extra-curricular activities and team sports also proves difficult to offer for smaller cohorts.

St Francis Primary School is a larger school that can accommodate 2FE, has greater resources available. They will have access to all the elements of the national curriculum, and a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

St Francis Primary School is a faith school however if the parental preference is for a child to attend a non-faith school within the planning area the Local Authority would work with those families and the nearest non-faith schools.

**5. The proportion of children attending the school from within the local community i.e. whether the school is being used by the local community.**

Of the 105 children on roll in Years R – 6 at Wroxall only 38 attend Wroxall as their nearest school.

The school has been consulted upon local community services and facilities see the list of community use contained within section 1c above.

The table provided under section 2 identifies the significant number of children travelling into the Wroxall Primary School area to access education.

**6. The overall and long-term impact on local people and the community of the closure of the school and of the loss of the building as a community facility.**

No decision has been made about the future of the Wroxall Primary School site. It has been proposed that the school buildings could be repurposed education. Therefore, education provision could remain onsite, subject to feasibility and legal work.

The ownership of the site is wholly Isle of Wight Council.

The long-term impact upon the local people and community of the closure of the school could result in the downturn of trade for local businesses if families are using those businesses whilst in the area and potential lack of suitable premises for delivery of the local services and hirers using the school building as mentioned in the schools response for community use.

**7. Educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools.**

Wroxall has been judged to Require Improvement at its last two Ofsted inspections. Child outcomes are below national and local averages for phonics and combined KS2 measures.

The removal of surplus places is aiding the financial sustainability of other schools and so giving greater opportunity for a wide-ranging curriculum, resources in terms of physical and staffing. With too many surplus places those budgets get squeezed first and this would enable the larger schools to employ more resource such as additional Teaching assistants, Family Liaison Officers, Special Educational Needs etc, purchase minibuses to enable extra-curricular programme and afford enriching extra curriculum trips.

The next nearest school would become St Francis RC/CE Primary or Godshill Primary for the majority of children and the increase in numbers supports the long-term viability and sustainability of these schools and to establish a sustainable education provision across the Isle of Wight.

**8. Whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced children, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term).**

There are sufficient physical surplus places within the planning area at St Francis RC/CE Primary School to accommodate the displaced children currently on roll at Wroxall Primary School.

It is recognised that a number of children attending Wroxall live within the Sandown and Shanklin planning area. There is sufficient capacity within that planning area to also accommodate these children if they wish to transfer to a school within that planning area.

**9. Wider school organisation and capacity of good schools in the area to accommodate displaced children.**

Child numbers in the planning area and on the Island overall are forecast to fall so it is anticipated that there will be places available at good schools in the area. Please see the table below which provides evidence of sufficient 'Good' schools within this planning area.

School	Current Ofsted
Godshill Primary School	Good
Niton Primary School	Good
St Francis RC/CE Primary School	Good
Wroxall Primary School	Requires Improvement

**Early Years provision**

Wroxall Primary School is a school for children aged 2-11 years old. Therefore, the proposed closure could impact on the early years provision in the area. Table 4 below provides an overview of provision within the planning area:

**Table 4**

<b>Early Years Provision</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Total number of children on roll as of November 2024</b>
Godshill Griffins	2-11	24	26
Niton Preschool	0-5	45	49
The Playroom	0-5	15	17
Ventnor Community Early Years Centre Ltd	0-4	51	49
Wroxall Robins	2-11	30	33

Data source:

Early Years Headcount data or communication through email or telephone.

**Summary:**

- 3 Private Voluntary Independent providers would remain in the planning area and 1 school based provision 2-11
- There is some concern regarding this area and early years childcare places due to the analysis of the November headcount data. However, a number of these children will transition into school in September 2025 and therefore this data will change again.
- Early Years childcare remains parental choice and some parents will decide to travel out of planning area for childcare.
- The Local Authority will monitor this area and work with remaining Early Years Providers to ensure sufficient places, and if required a tendering process will be commissioned to ensure additional capacity is created in time for September 2025.

**Special educational needs provision**

Wroxall Primary School does not provide educational provision recognised by the local authority as being reserved for children with special educational needs. There are 18 pupils on roll (Data source: Autumn Census -October 2024) who have been identified as having special educational needs (SEN support) and 4 pupils with an education health and care plan.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) would receive tailored support to ensure their educational needs are addressed, especially in the event of a school closure. The local authority is committed to assisting school staff to

create individualised transition plans for all children to support a suitable transition, as required.

This may include providing access to specialised resources, and trained staff to facilitate learning. Additionally, the authority would work closely with families to ensure they have the necessary support systems in place, such as counselling services and community programs, to help children transition smoothly. By prioritising these measures, the local authority aims to create an inclusive environment where all children, regardless of their needs, can thrive and succeed.

Where a child has an Education Health Care Plan, and if school closures are agreed, the local authority would listen to the parents' wishes and feelings and individually discuss the statutory process for their child.

## **Travel**

Children would be entitled to local authority funded transport if they are eligible under the Home to School Transport Policy, to what becomes their nearest school if Wroxall Primary School closes.

See link for further information: [Home to school transport](#)

Our current data indicates as of October 2024, 34 children on roll of Wroxall Primary School could be eligible under the nearest school criteria.

With the next closest school being St Francis RC/CE Primary School being 1.37 miles by road from Wroxall Primary School and no safe walking route being available it is anticipated that pupils would not be able to walk to this school. Mapping of pupils by postcode identifies that a high percentage of children do not attend Wroxall as their nearest school, therefore by proposing to close the school could result in reduction of travel if those children accessed a school provision closer to their home address.

The council would work with schools who receive children from Wroxall Primary School to develop their school travel plans to seek to mitigate against increased car use.

Other environmental considerations have been taken and are detailed within the 'Responding to climate change and enhancing the biosphere section' (Pg 13) of the Cabinet report:

<https://iow.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s16540/Report.pdf>

## **Housing data:**

Table 5 below identifies the significant housing developments (20 or more) in area either with planning permission, a resolution to grant planning permission, or under construction (as of 1 November 2024):

**Table 5**

Site	Number of permitted dwellings / dwellings left to construct	Type of approval / site status
Land adjoining Scotland Farm and Tresslewood Care Village, Godshill	107	Under construction

**How many School places are required if these developments are built?**

To assess the long-term demand arising from a new development, Children's Services use a child yield multiplier and per eligible dwelling (dwellings with two bedrooms or more, excluding those specifically for elderly persons) for Primary Schools (ages 4 to 11) this is x 0.25.

**Calculation:**

The potential yield of children from these total developments is 26.75 primary aged children (aged 4 to 11 years old).

Total of 107 dwellings in planning area x 0.25 = 26.75

*Note. This is calculated based on all dwellings being eligible and this number could reduce.*

Within the planning area the following schools have additional building capacity to accommodate additional children should the places be required in the future:

	PAN capacity	Building Capacity
St Francis Primary School	45	60

**Deprivation:**

The local authority acknowledges that the potential closure of a school in the Ventnor area could significantly impact some families, particularly those from deprived backgrounds. Recognising the challenges that such families face, the authority is committed to providing comprehensive support to ensure that every child continues to receive a quality education. This support may include access to transportation, wellbeing support, and additional assistance programs to help families navigate the transition. By prioritising the needs of these families, the local authority aims to foster an inclusive environment where every children can thrive, regardless of the circumstances surrounding school closures.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) is a measure used in England to assess the level of income deprivation experienced by children in specific areas. It assigns scores ranging from 0 to 1, with higher scores indicating greater

deprivation, based on data from sources like tax credits and benefits. IDACI scores help local authorities identify areas in need of support, guiding resource allocation and interventions aimed at improving the living conditions and opportunities for children. This index is crucial for understanding and addressing child poverty at a local level. The banding within this measure is identified under banding areas as defined below:

- **Band A:** Represents the most deprived areas, where a high percentage of children live in low-income households.
- **Band B:** Slightly less deprived than Band A but still indicates significant income challenges for children.
- **Band C:** Shows moderate levels of deprivation, with a notable proportion of children affected.
- **Band D:** Indicates lower levels of deprivation compared to the previous bands but still highlights some income-related issues.
- **Band E:** Represents areas with relatively low deprivation, where fewer children are impacted by income poverty.
- **Band F:** Indicates minimal deprivation, with a very small percentage of children living in low-income households.
- **Band G:** The least deprived band, where income deprivation is minimal, and most children are not affected.

The table below identifies the scores for each school within the Ventnor planning area:

School Name	NOR	IDACI Proportion Band G	IDACI Proportion Band F	IDACI Proportion Band E	IDACI Proportion Band D	IDACI Proportion Band C	IDACI Proportion Band B	IDACI Proportion Band A
St Francis Catholic and Church of England Primary	178.00	26%	11%	20%	3%	41%	0%	0%
Godshill Primary	150.00	72%	13%	5%	2%	7%	1%	0%
Niton Primary	208.00	83%	3%	7%	0%	8%	0%	0%
Wroxall Primary	122.00	25%	44%	12%	0%	19%	0%	0%

Data source: The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) authority proforma tool (APT) 2024/25

## Staff

A separate staff consultation process, including a meeting for staff and their professional associations and unions, will run in parallel with this consultation on the closure proposal. Staff are also welcome to comment on the proposal as part of this consultation.

## Finances

When a school closes mid financial year the budget share is paid up to the closing date to the school. The Local Authority will transfer the remaining budget to the

growth fund and support the schools admitting the displaced pupils. The final balance of a closing school, surplus or deficit, reverts to the Council and cannot be transferred to any other school. The final balance of a closing school will be determined following closedown procedure shortly after the closure.

As per the schools November budget submission the school has potential surplus of £22,000 and this would transfer to the Council on the School's last business day, Sunday 31 August 2025.

## **Consultation**

A six-week statutory consultation process under section 16 Education and Inspections Act process was followed from 20th September to 1st November 2024 (4 term-time weeks).

The consultation document was distributed to a wide range of stakeholders across the Island and was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation. Any interested individual or organisation were able to respond to the consultation through an online survey, email, letter and there were also face to face consultation meetings at each school proposed for closure.

Views and feedback on the proposal have been captured, along with alternative options that the Isle of Wight Council welcomed and made a commitment to consider as part of the process.

A public meeting was held at the school on Monday 30 September 2024.

The responses to the consultation were summarised in the report that was considered by the Cabinet of the Isle of Wight Council on 12 December 2024. The Cabinet report is available [Report.pdf](#); the consultation process and summary of responses are outlined in [Appendix 6 – Proposed closure of Wroxall Primary School](#).

Paper copies of this report and appendix can be made available upon request.

### **Equality Impact Assessment:**

Please review the Equality Impact Assessments in the links below which thoroughly examines the impact on individuals with protected characteristics. This assessment ensures that we are compliant with the Equality Act 2010 by considering factors such as age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and deprivation. The assessment identifies potential areas of discrimination, promotes equality, and ensures that our decisions do not adversely affect any particular group. It also includes recommendations for mitigating any negative impacts and enhancing positive outcomes for all protected groups.

- <https://www.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/view/appendix-18-equality-impact-assessment-proposed-closure-of-wroxall-primary-school>

- <https://www.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/view/appendix-19-equality-impact-assessment-staffing-impacts-of-proposed-primary-school-closures-1-6-1>

Paper copies of this Equality Impact Assessments can be made available upon request.

## **Procedure for making representations**

(objections and comments)

A statutory notice will be published in the IW County Press and IW Observer newspapers on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025. The notice will remain in force for a period of 4 weeks i.e. until Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 the full proposal information will be sent to the following recipients:

- Parents/Carers of the school
- The Governing Board of the school
- The Diocese of Portsmouth
- Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
- Local Ward Councillors
- Local Town Council
- The Members of Parliament for the Isle of Wight
- The Secretary of State ([schoolorganisation.notifications@education.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation.notifications@education.gov.uk))
- Other support services (Inclusion Team, Mental Health Support Teams, Children's Services employees, etc.)

The public notice and this full proposal are also available on the Isle of Wight Council website: [www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace](http://www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace)

Copies of the public notice and this full proposal are also available from the office of the school proposed for closure or can be requested from the council using the email or postal address below.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this statutory proposal, any person, group or organisation may object to or make comments on the proposal by email or by post.

**Closing date for responses is 5pm Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.**

**By email:**

[strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk)

**By post:**

School Place Planning

County Hall

Newport

Isle of Wight

PO30 1UD

We will not be able to consider any responses received after 5pm Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

The website address is: [www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace](http://www.iow.gov.uk/schoolplace)

**Support and translations**

If you require any support with the documents or require us to provide any translated copies of this or the full proposal information, send an email to:

[strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk)