

Cabinet – Thursday 11 July 2019

Written Question from Jaimie Jehu

Re: West Wight School Places – Outcome of Consultation

During the public meetings, Martin Goff advised that:

- The Local Authority will provide free transport for the Freshwater **infant** children during the transition period as it is **more than two miles**
- The **Local Authority cannot propose** the reduction in PAN at Brighstone as they are **voluntary aided**.

According to the DfE guidance “Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to maintained schools” the Governing Body of voluntary schools can propose a transfer to a new site. It stipulates that the Local Authority can propose the transfer to an entirely new site for community schools, community special schools and maintained nursery schools. As Yarmouth CE Primary is a voluntary aided and the Governing Body has not proposed, nor do they support the transfer to the new site, do you feel that the Local Authority or Council have the legislative right to enforce the transfer?

Response

The local authority has been clear that it will support the transport needs of children upon the closure of All Saints’ if they choose to attend Yarmouth up until the point that the relocation of Yarmouth takes place. It will support these children as required not simply because they may live more or less than two miles away from Yarmouth. The two-mile rule linked to Home to School Transport will be put to one side in this instance.

DfE guidance on “Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to maintained schools” does set out who can propose and decide upon many aspects of school organisation.

Moving a school less than two miles falls outside the DfE guidance “Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) therefore, the Council has the authority to propose such a move. A straight-line measurement is used in these circumstances.