

Cabinet – Thursday 10 October 2019

Written Question from Ieuan Jehu

Re:

West Wight School Places

“At the last cabinet meeting I asked Cllr Brading a question relating to the agreed reduction in PAN at All Saints’ from September 2020, in his response Cllr Brading acknowledged that “there were plans to reduce to 105” but insisted that the PAN of All Saints’ is 210.

When the council last attempted to close Yarmouth’s school ten years ago, it was shown that Government guidelines are very clear that the local authority must not use language which could be misinterpreted.

Could Cllr Brading please make it clear to the rest of the Cabinet and for the public record that All Saints’ have made a request to reduce their PAN to 105 from September of next year, that the request has been approved, and therefore the proposal to close All Saints’ and expand Yarmouth to 210 would not reduce the number of school places in the West Wight from September next?”

Response

To be clear, the PAN at All Saints’ CE Primary School is currently 30 and the school has a capacity of 210. The recommendation before Cabinet this evening is to issue a notice to consult on the closure of All Saints’ CE Primary School with effect from 31st August 2020. Following consultation, if Cabinet agree to proceed to closure, then the 210 places at All Saints’ CE Primary will be removed.

The PAN for Yarmouth CE Primary School is set by the Governing Body; the figure of 15 has been determined for September 2020. The Governing Body can keep the same admission number for 2021 or increase the admission number should they choose to do so, without consulting. That’s because where schools are their own admissions authority they are not required to consult to either increase or keep the same PAN. This is set out in the School Admissions Code Para 1.3.

Any changes to the admission number, or admissions above the admission number, that come about should we proceed with the closure of All Saints’ CE Primary on 31st August 2020 will be discussed by the implementation group set out in the paper to Cabinet and agreed by the Governing Body of Yarmouth CE Primary and Shalfleet CE Primary.