

**Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 6 June 2023**

**Written question from Oliver Tucker of Ryde to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee**

In point 6 of the school place planning document, we are told that “popular schools remain in full or close to full and this may mean that a large drop in numbers could significantly affect a small number of ‘less popular’ schools. When schools are disproportionately affected by falling rolls, those schools are at risk of spiralling decline. This means that we need to consider removing places.”

How exactly has St Mary’s school been identified by yourselves as less popular and deserving of closure when it has a rising roll and 28 children due to start in September  
- Does this not qualify as being ‘close to full’?

## **Response**

*Thank you for your recent question submitted to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee about the primary school place planning paper that was due to be discussed at the Isle of Wight Cabinet on Thursday 8 June 2023.*

*The Isle of Wight Council’s Children’s Services Management Team were asked to draft this paper following a discussion on forecast pupil numbers at the September 2022 Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children’s Services, Education and Skills.*

*However, as the Cabinet has decided that the paper will no longer be presented and therefore the recommendations will not be taken forward for public consultation, a response to your questions is no longer appropriate.*

*It is important to note that the questions submitted are exactly the type of queries we would have been seeking during the consultation, had the decision been made on 8 June for the consultation to begin. It was intended that officers would have attended public meetings to explore these issues in full. After the consultation the views of all those contributing to the debate would have been shared with Cabinet and fully considered before any final proposals were made for further consultation.*

*It is our experience that such consultations have been meaningful and have often led to better decision making with proposals being refined before further statutory consultation.*

*Should Cabinet decide to undertake a consultation in the future I would urge you to contribute with queries such as these to the discussions at that time.*