

Cabinet – 12 October 2023

Written question from Simon Richards to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Corporate Functions

I welcome the Cabinet Member for Education and Corporate Services to their new role. Will the Cabinet Member publicly commit to collaborating with headteachers and chairs of governors on reducing the surplus of school places in the island's primary school system, including the option to close schools, and agree to commence discussions at the earliest opportunity?

Response

I thank Mr Richards for his welcome. I am more than happy to publicly commit to working with stakeholders, including Headteachers and Governors, who represent the full range of views relevant to identifying the issues, and the means of addressing those issues, that face our local education system and the role and importance of our schools within our local communities. The issue of surplus school places is plainly one of the issues that needs to be addressed. I will be bringing together an appropriate group to pursue these discussions and to look at all viable options to deal with the issues that need to be addressed. These discussions will start as soon as practically possible.

It is also necessary to ensure that the issues are as widely understood as possible within the wider orbit of those who stand to be affected by measures that may need to be taken. As such public communication, engagement and interaction will also be key going forward and will be key to reaching the right decisions that support our Island and our children.