

Appendix 1

EMAILED/POSTAL RESPONSES			
Name	Contact	Date Received	Comments
Bank, Lucie [Head of School, Holy Cross]	Lucie.Banks@holycrossrcpri.iow.sch.uk	08/10/2023	I wish to voice my support of the closure of Chillerton and Rookley Primary School. With the falling pupil numbers, and the lack of staffing, I support the proposal to amalgamate Chillerton and Rookley with Godshill Primary.
Bowden, Emma [Headteacher - The Bay Secondary]	ebowden@bayceschool.org	16/09/2023	With only a handful of children on roll and with the amount of money a school gets linked to their budget, it does not require more than common sense to see that an increasing deficit budget, and therefore taking it from other schools, is inevitable. The mental health of both the children and staff needs to be considered. With the small numbers of children, they cannot receive the best education with the hit to the budget and staff need other professionals around in order to support the best possible environment and professional development. The press and politics should not be taken into account. This is the future and children's lives that are being messed with. Leaders are clear this is the best for the school and with increasing energy, buildings and utilities price increases common sense should prevail and not look at the political agenda.

Bradshaw, Carla [COG - Freshwater/Shalfleet]	federationchair@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk	26/09/2023	As a Board who has been through the trials and tribulations of two school closures in the area, we wish to express our disappointment at the level of inertia Isle of Wight Councillors have displayed in the current matter. Facing up to the reality that there are too many schools on the Island and that this therefore requires a strategic plan to address surplus school places is difficult. No one will deny that. No Headteacher would willingly put their school forward for closure either. The truth of the position on the Island is though that the surplus capacity of primary places is impacting on the quality of education for the children. Armed with that knowledge, Councillors should be brave and pragmatic. Qualities that have not been on show thus far. We fully support the amalgamation of C&R Primary School with Godshill Primary School through the closure of C&R Primary School as of 31/12/23 as a step towards wider system reform. We urge Councillors to listen to their Headteachers, Governors and Officers and develop a realistic strategic school places plan that is discussed with the wider public and following effective consultation, is implemented. The Island's children deserve the best and it is the Councillors responsibility to deliver the strategic plan which allows that to be a reality.
Coates, David [Coates Property & Financial Solutions]	coatespropertysolutions@outlook.com	26/09/2023	I represent an investor whom would be interested in purchasing the property should the council decide they wish to sell. So please do keep me informed if this is the route you decide to take.
Coates, Nichola [Headteacher - Arreton]	head@arretoncepri.iow.sch.uk	17/09/2023	I confirm I am in agreement with the closure of Chillerton and Rookley. Whilst I dislike the thought of any school closing, given the current fall in the number of children on the island and the financial implications of keeping it open, closure is the only logical response.
Cordon, Angela [Staff - Lanesend]	Angela.Cordon@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk	25/09/2023	The IOW has too many primary school and decisive action needs to be taken to reduce schools for long term planning in the primary sector. This starts with the amalgamation of Chillerton and Rookley with Godshill primary school.
Evans, Gemma [IOW Resident]	gems.evans@gmail.com	24/09/2023	I am an Island resident. I would like to confirm that I support the merger of C&R and Godshill schools. Since this is currently the state of things in practise, if not in law, it seems unhelpful to try to bring a school back

			when so many other primary schools are struggling with too many vacancies.
Freeley, Sharon [Executive Headteacher - Broadlea, Holy Cross]	head@broadleapriary.co.uk	09/10/2023	With very low numbers on roll, difficulty recruiting to a vacant teaching post and the significant impact on the school budgets, I fully support the amalgamation of Chillerton and Rookley and Godshill Primary Schools.
Gatten & Lake Primary School [COG]	admin@gattenlakepri.iow.sch.uk	05/10/2023	Governing Body stand behind the view of the majority of IOW Headteachers and their view on School Place Planning & wholeheartedly agree that schools need to close on IOW for the long term benefit of every school aged child. Supports the proposal of the closure of C&R on 31/12/23.
Grainger, Elizabeth [Headteacher - Freshwater/Shafleet]	headteacher@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk	15/09/2023	I am writing to express my support for the closure of C&R Primary School. It does not make sense to keep a school with so few children open. It is not financially viable therefore it is challenging to put a broad and balanced curriculum on offer for the children without the support of another school. In these times, we need to be logical and accept that under current economic circumstances and with a falling birth rate on the Island - we would not be doing the right thing by the children if we keep C&R Primary School open. No-one wants to see schools close but we need to be realistic for the future of the Island, we need to face the challenges and ensure that children attend viable, successful schools which will enable Island children to thrive into the future.

<p>Howes, Richard [IOW Resident]</p>	<p>rhowes391@btinternet.com</p>	<p>22/09/2023</p>	<p>Am aghast at the thought the Authority believes it is good for the Island to close village schools. Having started my own educational time in such establishments they are a very important part of village life (acting also as community centres). The closures, supposedly due to falling numbers is surely as a result of house prices excluding youngsters from buying village homes and starting families. Closing these schools means parents having to resort to more car journeys to larger edifices which do zero for improving educational standards and not every child responds well to large organisations. In addition, using the smaller premises could lead to smaller classes - advocated in the 50's but ignored ever since - to improve the quality of teaching. Money? The Authority seems to be content to spend £120K per annum on the LGA (to no local advantage), to increase Councillors allowances/expenses - £16k over the last two years alone. The latest 'brief' from the newly formed Council states clearly they are there to represent the people, but their approaches and decision do little to confirm that ideal!</p>
<p>Hutchinson, Ursula [COG - Barton]</p>	<p>ursula.hutchinson@bartonpri.iow.sch.uk</p>	<p>18/09/2023</p>	<p>I believe that the closure of this school is essential. There were hardly any pupils attending and those that were, are now happily established at Godshill Primary. Keeping a school open for a handful of pupils is hugely expensive and indeed almost impossible to staff. The money saved can be redistributed by the local authority to enable larger schools to have more resources. This is very important in the current climate when schools nationally are struggling to provide satisfactory provision because of government underfunding.</p>

Kirby, Jon [Headteacher - Dover Park]	jon.kirby@doverparkpri.iow.sch.uk	09/10/2023	While I appreciate that a school is often deemed to be the hub of a community, this cannot be true if the school has no pupils. A hub, by its very definition, is 'The central or main part of something, where there is the most activity', but with such depleted numbers of pupils, the school cannot be said to be central or the main part. Being in a school with less pupils gives children more limited opportunities to meet these needs and will create more of a challenge to children when they move to secondary school. Furthermore, the pressures on managing and teaching such a low number of pupils over a wide range of year groups is a very heavy burden for staff- a burden that is not necessary. The time, effort and focus required to sustain such a small school, could be directed to the needs of a much wider audience of children (to include the current pupils, should they move primary school) - providing impact to many more pupils. I strongly believe that C&R should be closed.
Marshall, Katherine [Headteacher - Carisbrooke/Newport CE]	k.marshall@carisbrookepri.mary.uk	15/09/2023	I am in full agreement with the proposal to close C&R given the drop in pupil numbers across the IOW.
Palin, Cameron [E.Cowes Town Council]	cllr.c.palin@eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk	20/09/2023	It is with regret I now have to support the closure of Chillerton school and amalgamation with Godshill Primary. Please take this comment as support of the closure and amalgamation.
Praetig, Stephanie [Headteacher - Cowes]	Stephanie.Praetig@cowespri.iow.sch.uk	15/09/2023	I would like to support the closure of Chillerton and Rookley, with the amalgamation to Godshill Primary - this decision is long overdue.
Reader, Vikki [Headteacher - Oakfield]	headteacher@oakfieldcepri.iow.sch.uk	25/09/2023	I am in full agreement with the proposed amalgamation of Chillerton and Rookley Primary schools. This has needed to happen for some time.
Redfern, Pat [COG - Brading] Gilbert, Beverley [Headteacher - Brading]	rosie.barnard@bradingcepri.iow.sch.uk	26/09/2023	We are writing as representatives of Brading CE Primary School saying that we agree with the amalgamation of Godshill Primary School and C&R Primary School. This will be achieved through the closure of C&R Primary School.
Sanderson, Maggie [Headteacher - St Thomas]	head@stthomaspri.co.uk	15/09/2023	Please note that whilst it is always sad to see a school close, with the number of primary places being well in excess of the number of children, the closure of Chillerton and Rookley makes sense.

<p>Sillito, Samantha [Headteacher - Queensgate]</p>	<p>head@queensgateprimary.co.uk</p>	<p>22/09/2023</p>	<p>I think C&R School should be amalgamated with Godshill. The reason for this is that schools that are not at full capacity or at least close to full capacity are not sustainable and draw money from the system. I believe that all children on the IOW have an entitlement to a good quality education with good teams of teachers around them. It makes little sense to keep C&R open due to the costs to running the building as well as recruiting staff for very small numbers of children.</p>
<p>Simpson, Richard [Acting Head of School - Broadlea]</p>	<p>r.simpson@broadleaprimary.co.uk</p>	<p>09/10/2023</p>	<p>Closure of this school, along with others, is necessary for the Island's future, as these small schools and the funding required to keep them open, whilst also running others schools at below-capacity levels, is detrimental to the education of all children on the island and unsustainable.</p>

<p>Snow, Mark [Headteacher - Stenbury Federation/Barton]</p>	<p>m.snow@stenburyfederation.co.uk</p>	<p>15/09/2023</p>	<p>It is incredibly disappointing to have to consider the need to close any school. However, the simple facts are that Chillerton & Rookley Primary school is simply now an unviable entity. The Stenbury Federation have done all they can in some challenging times amongst some, quite frankly, appalling political decision making. The delaying of strategic forward planning for the wider Island school place planning will be costly economically but more importantly educationally. This has ultimately led to the very slow death of one of our oldest schools. Of which the staff and governors have managed with dignity and skill whilst negotiating a political farce. Working with a professionalism that our local politicians should take some note of and replicate it in their own work. The indecisions and gamesmanship have meant that rather than celebrate and allow the community to say goodbye properly we have been left with a school that has died in a whimper. The cold facts are that Chillerton & Rookley is likely to not be the last school to need to close and the drawn-out process cannot be replicated elsewhere. Little consideration has been made by decision makers on the impact on the staff and pupils. And the blissful ignorance of what the financial burden that could have been incurred if the governors and leaders hadn't acted as they have to manage this has certainly not been acknowledged. I am unsure council tax payers would have appreciated the realities of the deficit that could have been passed to them if we had blindly continued to maintain a school for so few children. Whether or not a school should close is ultimately down to policy makers and elected members. However, officers and educational professionals need to be heard and listened to. I urge these decision makers to not be distracted by heartfelt cries and political gamesmanship and a few loud voices to listen to the professionals, make an informed decision of what is not only right in terms of sustainability but actually to do what is right for the children of the island. At the end of the day your tenure of looking after our island is short, but the legacy of indecision is not. We all want the best for our children and our island. We want this special place to thrive and our children to have the best opportunities. Don't let them down.</p>
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Sutton, Vickie [Headteacher - Lanesend]	Vickie.Sutton@lanesendprimary.co.uk	24/10/2023	I am in favour of the proposal and agree that there is no logical choice but to close the school. The huge drop in pupil numbers, together with the significant debt which has been accruing, means that this school is no longer viable. I am very sad that the school has found itself in this position. I had the pleasure of teaching at Chillerton and Rookley from 2006 to 2009 and my children also attended the school so I know first hand what a wonderful education the school offered the children who attended. However, the situation the school is now in is, for me, clearly unsustainable and it is with regret that I support the proposed amalgamation of the school with Godshill Primary School and the closure of the school on 31/12/23.
Torrance, Lynn [Headteacher - Wroxall]	headteacher@wroxallprimary.co.uk	15/09/2023	I would like to express my support for the proposal to close the school in the light of significantly declining pupil numbers.
Wilford, Jane [Headteacher - Wootton]	headteacher@woottonprimary.co.uk	18/09/2023	On behalf of the staff and Governing Body at Wootton Primary and in support/collaboration with all schools on the Isle of Wight, we are writing to you to express our support with the consultation regarding the closure of Chillerton and Rookley Primary School. This has been a concern for some time now following the withdrawal of the proposal to close the school. It is well known that we have around 300 empty places in primary schools across the Island with many schools not at full capacity with negative projections for future September intakes. We stand together to ensure that all schools continue to drive standards for all the children across the Island and this surely will be more likely achievable if resources are deployed effectively. Whilst we recognise the impact closing the school may have on the community, we must think with a strategic view and ensure that resources are used effectively.