

Beth Dyer
Service Manager - Education
Children's Services
Isle of Wight Council
County Hall
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD

Email: Beth.Dyer@iow.gov.uk
PA Support: Amie.Cass@iow.gov.uk

Wednesday 28th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Listening and Engagement Session

I am writing to invite you to a '*listening and engagement*' session about future school place planning on the Isle of Wight.

By school place planning, we mean how the Local Authority plans ahead to make sure the number of school places across the Island matches the changing number of children, while taking account of inclusion, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision, parental preference, travel, and the long-term sustainability of schools. We know that this can feel complex, and this session is an opportunity for us to explain things clearly, listen to your views, and think together about how we communicate and engage with families as we plan for the future.

This session is a **listening exercise**;

- No decisions will be made at the sessions.
- There are no proposals being consulted on.
- It is not about individual children, admissions cases, or specific schools.

The focus will be on the overall approach to planning school places for the future across the Island. The views shared during the session will be summarised and taken into account as part of the information presented to the Children's Services Committee in March, alongside other information used to inform future planning. We want this to be a calm, respectful, and constructive conversation, and we welcome parents and carers who would like to better understand the process or share their perspectives.

Session details are as follows:

- **Wednesday 4th February**, 10:00-11:00 and 14:30-16:00 at The Riverside Centre, The Quay, Newport, PO30 2QR (feel free to drop in)

- **Tuesday 10th February**, 10:00-11:30 Online on Microsoft Teams.
Meeting ID: 330 261 838 902 86
Passcode: Ed6Bj3ck
- **Thursday 12th February**, 18:00-19:30 Online on Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 353 697 863 810 93
Passcode: s2DU2TK2

Thank you for taking the time to engage with this work. We look forward to listening and working together as we plan for the future needs of children and young people on the Isle of Wight.

Yours sincerely,

Beth Dyer
Service Manager - Education