
**Worthing and Durrington Schools-
Letter to Parents and Carers**

25th November 2022

Dear Parent or Carer

I wanted to reach out to you directly to explain that the County Council is launching a public consultation on plans to remove a number of surplus primary school places across the Worthing and Durrington localities. We are doing this as we currently have around 1500 surplus places across our primary schools in the area. Our schools have been working with us for almost a year around proposals to remove 953 of these places which will still leave sufficient space to account for parental preference. Removing these spare places will help give schools greater confidence in the numbers of children they will receive each year. It will also help schools better plan and ensure that they can use their resources efficiently within the budgets they have.

We really want to hear from you about the proposals across the area. Whilst the proposals reduce admission limits in some schools, in many schools we are not suggesting any changes. A part of the proposal is to create additional specialist places for children with special educational needs (SEND) in Specialist Support Centres attached to some of our mainstream schools. One of the proposals is to expand the site on Chesswood Road currently occupied by Chesswood Junior School to incorporate children from Lyndhurst Infant School to create a smaller all-through primary school. Our proposal is also to include Springfield Infant School in this change and for this to be part of the same all-through primary school but continuing on its current site. This will provide opportunities for parents in the area to choose a place for their child either in a smaller Key Stage 1 and early years setting (The current Springfield site on Sackville Road), or in Key Stage 1 classes on the same site as Key Stage 2 (The Chesswood Road site currently occupied by Chesswood Juniors). It will also guarantee parents a place in Key Stage 2 rather than have to apply for a place at a junior school which is currently the case.

Our consultation can be found online at:

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/worthing-primary-provision-review>

This includes a Consultation Booklet outlining the proposals and a series of questions in an online questionnaire for you to have your say. If you are unable to access the online questionnaire and need any help or paper version of the questionnaire, please do not hesitate to contact either your school or your local library for help.

I am sure you may have many questions and thoughts and please let me assure you that there is no rush to complete as the consultation continues into January. However, I am also aware that our schools, teachers and headteachers are also very busy at this time of year and will themselves have their own thoughts and will be responding as individuals.

Yours sincerely

Paul Wagstaff
Assistant Director of Education & Skills