

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Lead Member for Children's Services |
| Date: | 19 January 2024 |
| Title: | The Future of Ampfield Church of England Primary School |
| Report From: | Director of Children's Services |

Contact name Mark Saunders, Senior Strategic Development Officer

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That approval is given to the publication of a Public Notice to close Ampfield Church of England Primary School with effect from 31 August 2024.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. A reduction in the birth rate nationally together with low levels of housing developments within the Ampfield catchment area has led to falling school rolls.
- 2.2. Running one class across three (KS1) or four (KS2) year groups, as is necessary currently to teach the 26 children on roll, impacts on the breadth of curriculum that can be offered at the school.
- 2.3. The forecast which derives from birth and vaccination data shared by the NHS, suggests that there are a maximum of six pupils living in the catchment of the school over the next five years and historic patterns suggest that not all parents living in catchment will choose to send their child to the school.
- 2.4. The closure of Ampfield Church of England Primary School can be mitigated by the proposed relocation of pupils on roll in years 1-6 in September 2024 to John Keble Church of England Primary School if parents wish to have their children educated at that school.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Do nothing - it is concluded that the closure of Ampfield Church of England Primary School provides the best opportunity to stabilise the educational offer for children in Ampfield.
- 3.2. Academy conversion - It was concluded that the low number of families living in catchment and the low number of families making a preference for the school mean that concerns around the provision of education and the national

curriculum would not be solved by conversion to an academy. It is also highly unlikely that a suitable sponsor could be found due to the low pupil numbers and on-going financial position of the school.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: Not Applicable

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: Not Applicable

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not Applicable

7. Statement from the decision maker: None

Approved by:

Date:

Cllr Edward Heron
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

19 January 2024