

FAQs

Q: Why have you decided to close the Isle of Wight Studio School?

A: Following discussions between the Department of Education and ourselves, both parties believe that the school is not financially viable long-term in its current form. This is evidenced by other studio schools around the country who have faced similar difficulties. Department of Education ministers have provided in-principle approval to the closure of the school at the end of the 2018/19 academic year. However, a final decision will only be taken after parents and other interested parties have had a chance to express their views through the four-week listening period.

Q: Why have you decided to keep the school open until August 2019?

A: In order to honour the commitment made to the current year 10s at the school, the school will remain open to enable these pupils to complete their courses, several of which are not offered in neighbouring schools on the Island. It also means that children will not have to move school twice in two years, which we believe would be detrimental to their educational experience.

Q: Why don't you consider expanding the age range of the school?

A: We have considered expanding the school from year 9 to year 13. However, last year the school recognised that there was insufficient demand for years 12 and 13 in the area so it closed the sixth form. We have also discussed the option of increasing admissions entry to add a Year 9 with the Local Authority. However, there is no need for more Year 9 places on the Island and there is already an over-provision on the Isle of Wight

As an age range expansion is not possible and pupil numbers are unlikely to increase, the school, in its current form, is not financially viable in the long term.

Q: Will I get a chance to have my say about this?

A: Parents, and other interested parties, are invited to submit their views on the proposed closure of IOWSS by submitting an e-mail to DFE.IOWSS@education.gov.uk by 5pm on 22nd May. All views will be considered before the final decision is made. Parents will be invited to meetings to discuss the impact for their child.

Q: How many pupils are affected by this and what will happen to them?

A: The school currently has 120 pupils - 71 in the current Year 11 and 49 in Year 10. The announcement should not affect Year 11 pupils who will finish their GCSEs this summer and then move as planned to sixth forms on the Island, Isle of Wight College or apprenticeships.

To minimise disruption for the current Year 10 pupils, should the final decision be to close, the IOW Studio School will remain open until the summer 2019, to enable these pupils to complete their GCSEs at the Studio School.

Should the closure go ahead, pupils who have applied to the school for next academic year will be able to stay at their current school or they can be offered a place at a suitable alternative school.

Q: My child currently attends the Studio School, do I need to find an alternative school?

A: No, the proposal is that the Studio School will close in August 2019 by which time all current students will have completed their education.

Q: I had planned that my child would attend the Studio School starting in September 2018, is this possible?

A: The Studio School will not be admitting new students for September 2018 as they would not be able to finish their education within that institution. If your child is already in secondary education and attending a school, they can continue to attend that school in September 2018. If your child is home educated and you wish to find a place in a school then you will need to make an application for a school place. If you wish to consider an alternative school then you have a right to apply to a different school who will admit your child if they have spaces.

If you need to apply for a school place then information can be found on the Isle of Wight Council's website and you should also contact School Admissions on school.admissions@iow.gov.uk or by phoning 01983 821000.

Q: What happens if I do not want my child to attend the school that the local authority allocate, can I apply to send my child to a different school?

A: As a parent, you have the choice to apply to send your child to the school of your choosing. If you choose not to send your child to the proposed school, please get in touch with the Isle of Wight Council, as they are responsible for pupil place planning and will discuss the process with you. The e-mail address is school.admissions@iow.gov.uk