



Diocese of Portsmouth



19<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Dear Parents

The creation of a joint Catholic and Church of England school on Ventnor Middle site is a proposal on which consultation is ongoing. We welcome any comments, which can be sent to either diocese or to the Isle of Wight Council and we therefore welcome this debate.

"There are differences between voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools in terms of the make-up of the governing body and admissions policies, but in practice both types of schools work in a very similar way. Both types of schools are essentially inclusive community schools, which admit local children of all faiths and none.

"For instance, it's true that a majority of governors in voluntary aided schools are 'foundation' governors appointed by the Church, but some of those governors are parents. Ironically, there are often more parents on the governing bodies of voluntary aided schools than voluntary controlled schools.

"These three schools have been coming together over a period of years. Two of them - St Boniface C of E and St Wilfrid's Catholic Primaries - have shared the same headteacher for the past year. We believe that this will create a stronger school which reflects both the C of E and Catholic traditions. The diversity of both traditions will be retained.

"Parents have been invited to public meetings that both dioceses have attended, and staff and governors have been consulted. There are two more meetings with staff and governors of St Margaret's Primary on Friday."

Do come back to me if you need any further clarification.

Best wishes,

Chris Richardson

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Tony Blackthorn

Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth



## St Boniface Church of England and St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary Schools

St. Boniface C.E Primary School  
Leeson Road  
Ventnor  
Isle of Wight  
PO38 1PR  
01983 852394  
[stboniface.cep@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stboniface.cep@tiscali.co.uk)

St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School  
Trinity Road  
Ventnor  
Isle of Wight  
PO38 1NL  
01983 852669  
[Admin.stwilfrids@lineone.net](mailto:Admin.stwilfrids@lineone.net)

19<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Dear Parents,

At the early stages of the school re-organisation consultation, the governing bodies of St Boniface Church of England and St Wilfrid's Catholic Schools met. At that stage through an overwhelming majority agreement, the Governors supported the move to a two tier system and the combination of the three Ventnor schools into one school on a new site, in a new build. We are committed to this opportunity for the immediate and long term future of education and the community in Ventnor.

For those of you who were unable to attend the Consultation Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> September we attach a letter from both the Church of England and Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth providing further detail about the plans for the future of Primary Education in Ventnor.

Your comments and feedback are essential to us. If you have reservations please make contact by letter to the Local Authority. Alternatively comments may be sent to the respective Diocese, or to the Chairs of Governors.

The formal consultation process ends next Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 5pm. Please send them to:

Alex Moffat  
School Re-Organisation Project Manager  
County Hall  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 1UD

Email [moving.forward@iow.gov.uk](mailto:moving.forward@iow.gov.uk)

We appreciate that this is a challenging time for all involved and we remain available at anytime to listen to your views.

Yours sincerely

Graham Morris  
Chair St Boniface

Michelle Kaiser  
Chair of St Wilfrid's