

Consultation on admissions arrangements for Isle of Wight community and voluntary controlled schools

This consultation is about main round and in-year admissions for the school year 2015/16. This includes the admissions policy for voluntary controlled and community primary schools. Changes are proposed for secondary schools, which may have implications on the Home to Education Transport Policy.

The Isle of Wight Council must by law determine, before 15 April 2014, the arrangements that will apply to school admissions in the academic year 2015/16. This will include an eight week consultation period which will end on 14 February 2014. This document details the matters upon which we are inviting responses. The decision that determines the arrangements will be taken by the Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet in line with the statutory timetable; it is expected the decision will be taken on 11 March 2014. You may visit County Hall or the libraries to view and respond to this consultation online if you do not have internet access.

Co-ordinated scheme

The Isle of Wight Council proposes no change to the way applications for school places are processed. This is known as its co-ordinated scheme. The current co-ordinated scheme can be accessed at <http://www.iwight.com/azservices/documents/1380-la-admissions-policy-sept-2014-secondary-intake.pdf>. The scheme will be published, in line with statutory requirements, before 1 January 2014.

Primary schools

For September 2015 no changes are proposed to the admissions policy for community and voluntary controlled primary schools. The current scheme can be accessed at: <http://www.iwight.com/azservices/documents/1380-la-admissions-policy-sept-2014-primary-intake.pdf>.

Secondary schools

In academy, voluntary-aided, foundation and trust schools the governing body decides the admissions policy. On the Isle of Wight all schools (Carisbrooke College, Christ the King College, Cowes Enterprise College, Medina College, Ryde Academy and Sandown Bay Academy) decide their own policy. They will determine their policies in line with the statutory timetable. However, please see the detail below on the secondary school priority areas, its potential impact on admissions arrangements and the transport policy.

Consultation on secondary school priority areas

A new 'free school' (with a proposed site in Ventnor) and 'studio school' in East Cowes have been established. Both will open their doors to students in September 2014. The overall Isle of Wight admission arrangements were established for September 2014 in April 2012 before the new schools were approved and so the council has applied its published 2014 arrangements when administering applications.

The council has previously used 'priority areas' in its secondary school admissions policy arrangements and for the purpose of deciding entitlement to free transport for school age students.

A priority area is a geographical area. Students living in homes inside the geographical area can have priority in admissions to certain schools and may qualify for free transport to certain schools. The existing priority area boundaries can be seen by using the link ([Appendix1](#)).

Carisbrooke College, Cowes Enterprise College, Medina College and Ryde Academy use the priority areas in their admissions policies.

For September 2015 the studio school and free school place in the admission arrangements must be determined, in particular whether or not priority areas should apply to the two new schools, which are then recognised by the council for the purpose of either admissions or transport entitlement.

The proposal for the studio school is distinct from and can be decided without reference to, the three proposals for the free school. Only one of the proposals under free school will be adopted and will then form part of the admissions arrangements.

	Proposal	Reason	Admissions implication	Transport implications*
1	Studio school			
	There would be no priority area that applies to the studio school.	The studio school takes students aged 14 and has a unique curriculum offer based on core and personal pathways.	The studio school would determine its own admissions and set its own admissions policy.	The Isle of Wight's transport policy allows for students to be transported to the studio school when the studio school is the nearest school to the attending student's address and is more than a three mile journey.
2	Free school			
A	The existing priority areas' map would continue to apply for September 2015. There would be no priority area that applies to the free school.	To provide continuity in admissions and transport arrangements on the Island. Schools could continue with their existing admission arrangements and the council's transport policy would apply in the same way.	The secondary schools would continue to write their admission policies, including the free school.	The Isle of Wight transport policy allows for students to be transported to the free school when it is the nearest school to the attending student's address and is more than a three mile journey. Some areas where this will apply are Niton, Chale and Godshill.

B	A priority area would be created that would apply to the free school.	The free school will be the nearest school for addresses in places such as Ventnor and Wroxall. The free school admissions policy gives priority to applications from students living near to the school. The south of the Island has no other secondary school. Applying this priority would increase the likelihood that students can attend their most local school.	The free school uses proximity in its admissions policy. A priority area could complement this as illustrated in (Appendix 2)	The council, in recognising a new priority area for transport purposes, would allow some students to access a free transport service when attending the free school. The free school is in Ventnor, currently part of Medina's priority area. New entrants to Year 7 in 2015 living in a priority area for the free school would, in previous years, have been transported to Medina (or depending upon the reaches of the new priority area possibly Sandown Bay Academy).
C	The existing priority area arrangements are abandoned and no priority areas apply for transport or admissions purposes.	The free school is the nearest school for addresses around Ventnor and the studio school becomes the nearest school for some addresses around East Cowes. For all addresses there is a nearest school, the map (Appendix 3) illustrates that point.	Isle of Wight secondary schools will give priority to students based on their own admissions policies. These may include nearest school, faith etc. Policies for 2013/14 can be viewed online at http://www.iwight.com/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/School-Admissions/Admissions-Policies	The council will continue to apply its transport policy and supply transport to the nearest school when it is over three miles away or on unsafe route grounds. (Students in receipt of travel under existing transitional arrangements will be unaffected)

*Where transport policy changes apply, the council will reconsider and consult on its existing transport policy in readiness for 2015 and consider if transitional arrangements need to apply, e.g. to provide transport for currently entitled children until they leave the phase of schooling providing there is no change of circumstances, whether siblings of children still attending the 'former priority area' school be entitled to transport to that school etc.

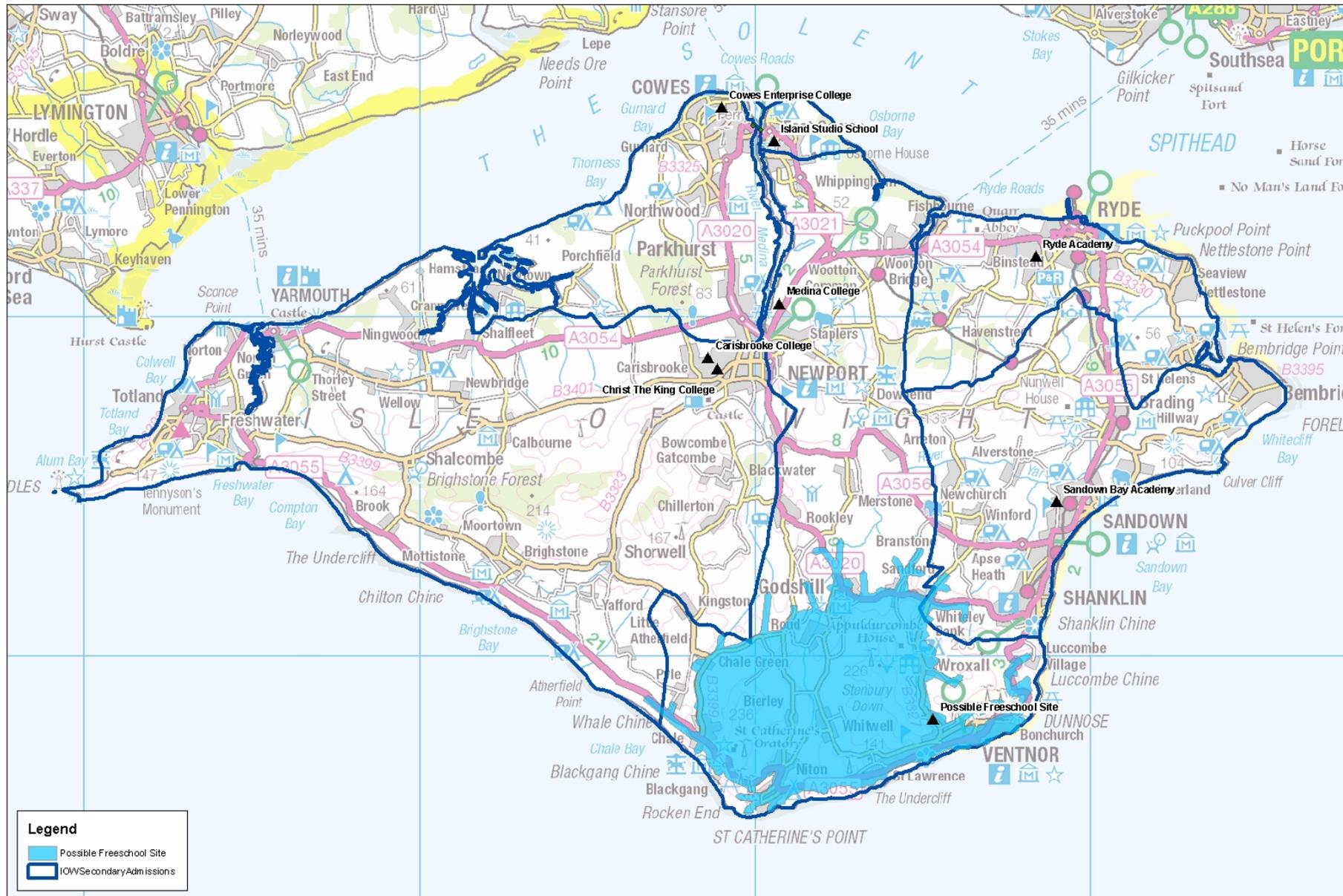
Appendix 1 [\(return to text\)](#)



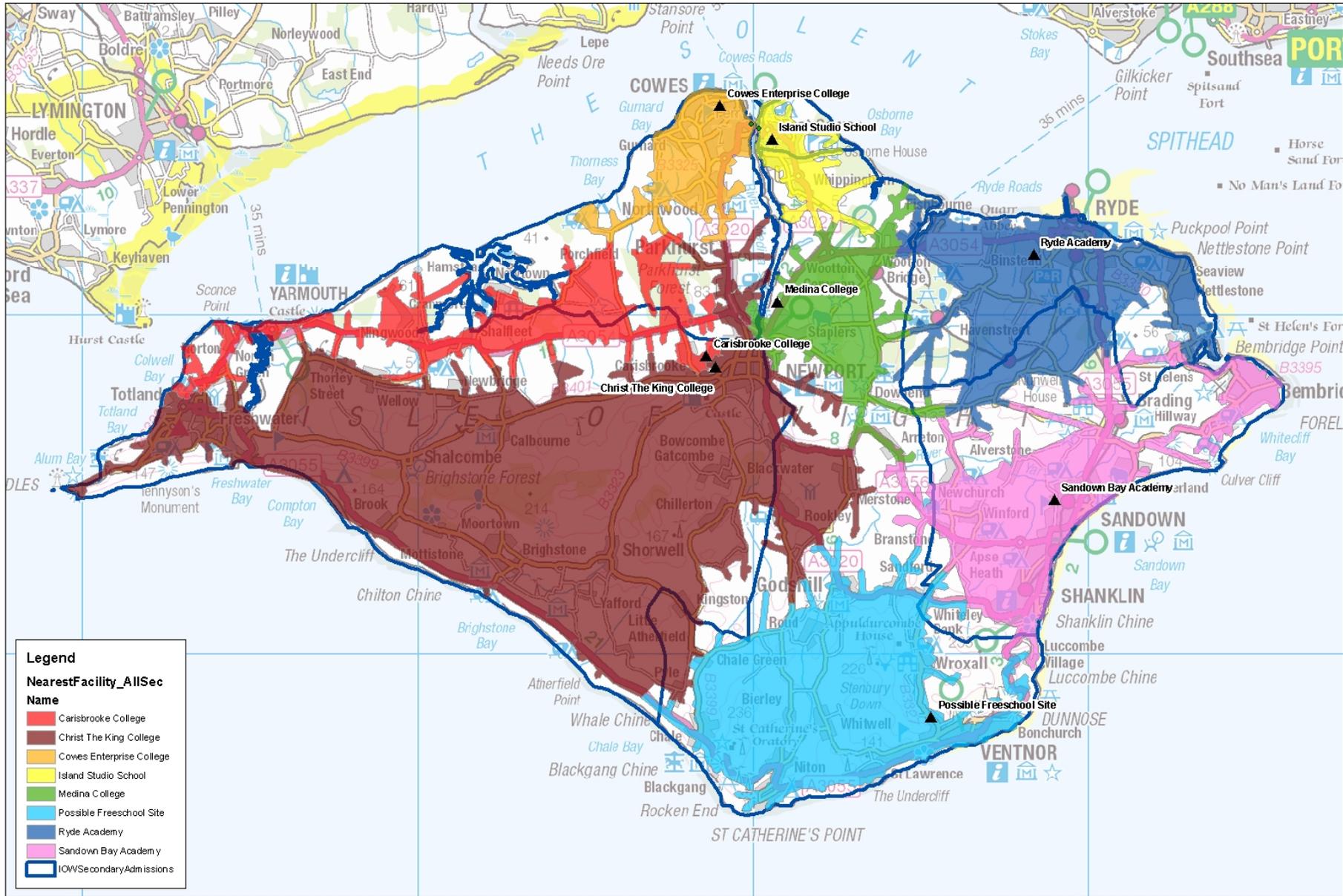
Isle of Wight: Secondary Priority Areas

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Appendix 2 [\(return to text\)](#)



Appendix 3 [\(return to text\)](#)



Isle of Wight: Nearest Facility

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