

**Rodmell CE (Aided)
Primary School**



Rodmell CE School

School Audit Framework & Proposal

Index

1. Summary
2. Highlights of The Consultation Process
3. Objectives
4. Keys to Success
5. Conclusions

Summary

This report has been prepared by the campaign group Save Our Sussex Schools with input from the National Association of Small Schools and parents from several primary schools across UK who have survived proposed closures such as ours. It is not a formal proposal but will hopefully form the building blocks for a review of Rodmell CE School and help us put together a business plan for the school.

We feel that the teaching side of the school is performing exceptionally well and will not be looking to review this or have any input as this will be left in the capable hands of the wonderful teachers and staff at the school and the (hopefully soon) incoming headteacher. Following the county councils review of Rodmell CE School and its decision to consult on its closure we have been looking at concerns raised by the Lewes Area Review and its analysis of the school. Though we do not agree with all the data and proposals the review made, we accept that the school has areas it needs to improve on to help it run as an efficient and modern primary school.

We hope that the following document will set out how we would like an internal review process of the school to be carried out that will involve parents, teachers, pupils, governors and the council and diocese.

Highlights from The Consultation Process

Though the consultation has been very strenuous on all parties we must look to take the positive parts from it to move forward, we feel the following points highlight some strengths shown by the school.

- Strong support from the parents and families of the schools current and former pupils, governors and teachers/staff to save the school and the team spirit of everyone involved with the school.
- Acknowledgement of the schools Good Ofsted rating and inspirational teaching methods which the council have themselves highlighted to other schools.
- Increased public awareness of the school and the positive image it has been presented in.
- Clear objectives for the school to meet to improve the councils support for the school.
- Parents willingness to help in the running of the school and offers of help from outside sources.

Objectives

We believe we can now take the school forward; we hope to use this document as a basis to create a five-year plan to achieve the following objectives:

- Recruit a new head teacher
- Create a partnership/federation with another school to share resources and cut costs
- Strive to achieve an outstanding Ofsted rating through continued high quality teaching
- Look to implement savings on running costs and areas parents can help out in.
- Create a more formal parent group who will help run the marketing to prospective parents/pupils and increase fundraising efforts.
- Steadily increase pupil numbers year on year until capacity reached

Keys to Success

To achieve our objectives, we will be looking to develop plans and policy's in the following areas:

- Create PTA or similar group to replace “The Friends of Rodmell” who will have two main duties to the school. Marketing and Fundraising.
- Support teachers and staff and aim to raise funds for things they feel they need to achieve the outstanding Ofsted rating.
- Use parent help to try and lower costs through donations of time, materials, work that will help school budget.
- Use a team of architects, interior designers, builders, teachers and parents to look at school and its layout and see if we can increase capacity of school to around 75-80 pupils through intelligent design and reconfiguration. Funding for this has already been put in place by parents. any subsequent building works will be carried out with grants, fundraising and donations of labour and materials all organised by new parent group. Increasing capacity will help lower budget share per pupil and reconfiguration will incorporate designs to help school achieve outstanding ofsted rating. As council were willing to allow over capacity classrooms in closure plans, they must look at our request to increase our class sizes.
- Create marketing team and have new website and marketing package created to help attract more parents. Parents will help with open days and meeting with new parents to ensure Rodmell achieves higher first choices by parents.
- Create car share system to increase options for parents from Newhaven/Peacehaven to get kids to/from school.
- Try and organise new bus service from CTA or similar organization and ensure parent rota setup to make sure min of two parents are on there to get kids on/off bus and make sure they behave.
- Approach village parish council and farmer to see if we can acquire the use of any pieces of land nearby to create outside learning space, this will add an extra dimension to learning and make school more attractive to prospective parents.

Conclusions

We hope that the council will allow us to develop this plan and agree to stop the consultation to close. We have had an overwhelming public response over the past few months and the parent group have rallied together, we need to harness this support and put it to good use in keeping this school open for generations to come.

Dear Councillor Bennett, this is a good Ofsted rated school with potential to become outstanding, please do not throw this wonderful school away.