



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Listening Period - Future of Wraxall CofE Primary School

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this closure happening now? What evidence has been used to make this proposal?

Pupil numbers at Wraxall CofE Primary have been declining for a number of years and are projected to continue fall. We have a duty to ensure the efficient and effective use of public funds and the provision of a well-rounded educational community to pupils. Schools are unable to run at a loss, and their main income comes from pupil funding. Despite previous change management processes and mixed year groups the falling pupil number and reduced school funding means that the situation at Wraxall School has, sadly, become unsustainable.

Pupil numbers have been steadily worsening for the whole wider-Nailsea area over recent years. We have reviewed the number of empty places in other schools, monitored our own numbers at Wraxall and worked with North Somerset Council (NSC) to model future trends. NSC's data is based on statistical projections on yield from housing and is tracked against birth records and registrations at GP surgeries. The pupil projections have a strong track record of reliability. You can see North Somerset's published data on their [website](#). The data has factored in the impact of new housing development which is not expected to benefit Wraxall CofE Primary School.

Who is involved in discussions to close a school?

The formal listening period is the official opportunity for school and community stakeholders to give their feedback on the proposed closure of Wraxall CofE Primary School.

A decision to close a school involves many different agencies and organisations including the Department for Education (Government), The School's Governors, the Trustees of Lighthouse Schools Partnership, the Local Authority - North Somerset Council, Local Councillors and MPs and, as Wraxall Primary is a church school, Bath and Wells Diocese.

Who will make the decision on closing the school?

Ultimately the decision is made by the Minister for School Standards with the recommendation of the DfE's Regional Director.

When will the school close?

If, following the listening period, the decision is made to close the school this will begin from September 2026.

No further admissions into the school will take place; this includes in-year admissions, and admission to Reception for September 2026 onwards.

Every year group, apart from the current Year 5, will close at the end of this academic year (July 2026) and these pupils will begin their new schools in September 2026.

Year 6 (those pupils currently in Year 5) will continue to attend Wraxall School for 2026-27 to ensure continuity of education and so they can complete their primary schooling together, before moving to secondary school in September 2027.

From September 2027 all classes at Wraxall School will be closed.

Why can you just not recruit more pupils to the school?

Birth rates projections across North Somerset show a decline in babies being born and the demand for primary school places. Simply there are not enough children to fill the places in schools. The number of pupils joining the school in Reception for the past few years has been very low with only 22 pupils in Years R to 4.

Whilst there is building planned in other areas (Nailsea and Backwell for example) the population of school age children around Wraxall is predicted to be very low. The choice of school for a child is parental choice, so we cannot direct specific children to attend the school. Most families choose the school nearest to their home, and families are not choosing to travel to send their children to Wraxall School either. School transport has in the past been provided to pupils when there was no closer school place to their home. With the current oversupply of school places that situation no longer exists.

What will happen to current students?

Should ministers agree to close the school all families will be supported in transitioning to nearby schools as they will need new school places for September 2026. This will be led by North Somerset Council who have a responsibility to ensure school places for all those who live in the local authority. More information and support will be given to families, in due course, if needed.

All student records will be securely transferred to the new schools or stored according to education department requirements and privacy laws.

Why is current Year 5 (Year 6 from September 2026) remaining open but not other year groups?

This proposal is being made to ensure continuity for the Year 6 pupils as they are at a crucial stage in their education. They are preparing for SATs, which assess their learning from primary school and help teachers understand what support they may need before moving on. Year 6 is also a key transition period as pupils get ready to move to secondary school, which can be a big change both academically and emotionally. Providing extra support at this time helps pupils build confidence, close any learning gaps, and develop important skills such as independence and resilience, ensuring they are better prepared for the challenges of secondary education.

We understand why parents/carers would wish for their children to complete their education at Wraxall Primary School - a change of school is an important transition and not a decision that is made lightly. Pupils in earlier years have more time to build key skills in both their learning as well as confidence and resilience before assessment and secondary transition. There are also sufficient places in other primary schools in the local area to accommodate these pupils.

Should the proposed closure timeline go ahead further support and information will be given to parents/carers of pupils moving into Year 6 in September 2026 later this academic year.

It is not financially affordable to allow every child at Wraxall to remain at the school to finish their education.

What will happen to the school buildings and land?

If the closure goes ahead the school site will remain open until the end of July 2027. All pupils will continue to attend Wraxall School until the end of July 2026, and Year 6 (academic year 2026-27, current Year 5) will continue to use the site until the end of Year 6 in July 2027.

Further decisions regarding the future use of the school site have not yet been finalised. The community will be informed once plans are confirmed. The Diocese of Bath and Wells are eager to work with Lighthouse Schools Partnership and North Somerset Council to keep the buildings in educational use and so the three organisations will work together to explore this possibility.

Are any other schools affected?

This listening period, and proposal, only refers to and affects Wraxall CofE Primary School. It does not apply to St Mary's CofE Primary Portbury which will remain open as usual. If Wraxall School is closed then alternative federation arrangements will be made for St Mary's, within Lighthouse Schools Partnership, in due course.

What can I do to provide my views and feedback on this proposal?

A formal listening period is running from Monday 26 January to 12noon on Monday 2 March 2026.

If you would like to comment during this listening period, please send your response to enquiries@lsp.org.uk using 'Future of Wraxall School' as the subject of your email by **12noon on Monday 2 March 2026.**

Any comments and feedback received will be considered by the Department for Education who will make the recommendation on whether the school should close.