

**THE STATES OF DELIBERATION**  
**of the**  
**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

**REQUÊTE**

**Herm Island School Closure**

The States are asked to decide:-

Whether, after consideration of the Requête entitled “Herm Island School Closure” dated August 7, 2023 they are of the opinion:

1. To direct the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture to reinstate the on-island provision of primary education for children who are resident on Herm and to direct the Committee and, if the resources of the Committee are insufficient, the Policy & Resources Committee to provide the resources necessary to reinstate the primary education facilities that were previously on island for the benefit of the Herm Island community and its businesses.

**Rule 4(1) information**

- (a) The proposition contributes to the States’ objectives and policy plans by seeking to ensure suitable on-island primary educational provision is available for Herm Island’s community, which will help support healthy living and maximise the sustainable social and economic use of the island.
- (b) In preparing the proposition, consultation has been undertaken with the President and Vice President of the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture and the States in Question time on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. Further consultation with the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- (c) The propositions have been submitted to His Majesty’s Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- (d) On the basis that the Prayer seeks the resources necessary to reinstate the primary education facilities that were previously on island, the costs of provision are not likely to be materially different from those in place prior to the upcoming 12-month trial.

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**REQUÊTE**

**Herm Island School Closure**

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the undersigned Members of the States of Deliberation  
SHEWETH THAT:

1. Education at primary level for the children of families living on Herm has been provided on Herm, with support from the States.
2. On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture announced that primary-school aged children living in Herm would travel to attend school in Guernsey as from September 2023. The announcement indicated that there were currently 4 children being educated on Herm, across three year groups. It also confirmed that the *“Committee will trial the new arrangements for one academic year to inform the longer-term future delivery of education for Herm children”*
3. The suggestion that the new arrangements are a trial is not satisfactory in circumstances where the 4 children who will be part of the trial are aged 8, 9 and 10. Sending an 8+ year old daily on a ferry is a totally different situation to sending a 4 year old.
4. Parents living on Herm with pre-school children have not been consulted by the Committee. All such parents have indicated that given the Committee’s decision, they will resign from their jobs and leave Herm before their children reach the age of 4 if ESC close Herm School permanently. They have no wish during the Winter months to send their children, when they reach the age at which they must attend school, on a ferry every day to Guernsey.
5. Amongst other negative consequences, the decision to close Herm School (even if expressed to be on a one year trial basis) will discourage applications to fill job vacancies on Herm from anyone who has young children, as no parent is likely to want to contemplate sending their young child (particularly any 4 year old) on a daily ferry especially through the winter months, let alone anytime of the year when so small.
6. The decision will further undermine the sustainability of the island of Herm, as affected are key employees including the chief engineer, island plumber, chief gardener, and head chef at the Mermaid Hotel all of whom have young children

who have indicated that they will not stay on the Island without on-island education being provided via the school.

7. Closure of the school will deny the parents who have chosen to live and work and to educate their children on Herm the right to do so.
8. Closure will also make Herm's difficulties in recruitment to provide services more difficult than they already are.

THESE PREMISES CONSIDERED, YOUR PETITIONERS humbly pray that the States may be pleased to resolve:

1. To direct the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture to reinstate the on-island provision of primary education for children who are resident on Herm and to direct the Committee and, if the resources of the Committee are insufficient, the Policy & Resources Committee, to provide the resources necessary to reinstate the primary education facilities that were previously on island for the benefit of the Herm Island community and its businesses.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS WILL EVER PRAY

GUERNSEY

This 7th day of August 2023

Deputy D de Garis De Lisle

Deputy J A B Gollop

Deputy C P Meerveld

Deputy C P A Blin

Deputy L C Queripel

Deputy S J Falla

Deputy Y Burford

**THE STATES OF DELIBERATION**  
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**REQUÊTE**

Herm Island School Closure

The President  
Policy & Resources Committee  
Sir Charles Frossard House  
La Charroterie  
St Peter Port

7th August, 2023

Dear Sir,

**Preferred date for consideration by the States of Deliberation**

In accordance with Rule 4(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees, the seven Members listed below request that the **Propositions** be considered at the States' meeting to be held on **6<sup>th</sup> September** due to the intended travel logistics for all Herm primary-aged children to and from Guernsey at the beginning of the new term in September, 2023.

Yours faithfully,

Deputy D de Garis De Lisle  
Deputy J A B Gollop  
Deputy C P Meerveld  
Deputy C P A Blin  
Deputy L C Queripel  
Deputy S J Falla  
Deputy Y Burford