



Statutory Proposal to close St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

1. Contact details

Name and address of the proposer:

Governing Body of St Dominic's Catholic Primary School, Southampton Road, London NW5 4JS.

Name, address and category of school proposed to be discontinued:

St Dominic's Catholic Primary School, Southampton Road, London NW5 4JS.

2. Implementation

Date on which it is proposed to close the school: **31 August 2023**

3. Reason for closure

The proposal arises due to a fall in pupil numbers and the associated impact on the future viability of the school.

The current number of primary school children in Camden is below what is needed to fill its schools. In Camden, births fell by 24% from 2012 to 2021.

The areas most affected by unused school places are in the centre of the borough, including the areas around St Dominic's school. There are a significant number of extra places across all years at St Dominic's Catholic Primary School, and a high percentage of unfilled reception places. In 2021-22 the school had 56.4% unfilled school places.

4. Pupil numbers and admissions - numbers of pupils for whom provision is currently made at the school

St Dominic's Catholic Primary School is a maintained, co-educational, voluntary aided school for pupils aged three to 11. The school has a published admission number (PAN) of 30 for each year group, giving a total of 210 places. In September 2022, the school had a total of 121 pupils on roll and, with 89 vacant places. This was one of the highest proportions of surplus provision in Camden. Preferences for the school have fallen acutely in the last three years, and for Reception entry in September 2022, there were only 12 first preferences for 30 places. In addition, the school has nursery provision for three to five-year-old children.

5. Displaced pupils

All children currently attending the school would be offered places in local primary schools in Camden, admitting where possible, in line with the preference of the parent.



6. Impact on the community

St Dominic's Catholic Primary School currently has a level of demand, as reflected in their existing number on roll and preference data. Closure would therefore be a restriction on potential future service users who may wish to access this specific school. This would not impinge on the Council's duty to provide appropriate statutory education for all residents who require it.

All pupils would have continued access to Ofsted rated 'good' or 'outstanding' local provision. Existing surplus school places within all Camden primary school planning areas mean that future pupils would continue to have access to local provision. Additionally, existing pupils, at St Dominic's Catholic Primary School, would be given access to a more sustainable school system as a result of this proposal.

7. Rural primary schools

Not applicable.

8. Balance of denominational provision

Should this proposal be implemented, there would be a reduction in the number of available Catholic places within the Borough. Currently the number of first preference applications for Catholic primary places could be met by the current level of places, even with the removal of St Dominic's school. In addition, if the proposal were to be implemented, five out of 38 maintained primary schools would remain as Catholic voluntary aided provision. Should the proposal be implemented, there would remain an appropriate balance of Catholic places, meeting pupil / parental demand within the Borough.

8. Maintained nursery schools

The proposal includes the closure of nursery provision. The Council's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment indicates that there is currently enough childcare provision, including nursery places, to meet Borough demand.

10. Sixth form provision

Not applicable.

11. Special Educational Needs Provision

No school places are specifically reserved for pupils with special needs at the existing St Dominic's Catholic Primary School. The school does, however, have a significant proportion of pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) or additional needs. The Council would work to identify the additional needs of all the children. It would focus on those pupils with an EHCP to ensure that the right levels of support continue to be in place for those pupils who require it.



12. Travel

All alternative school places are within the statutory walking distance for primary aged children.

13. Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by:

Email: stdominics@camden.gov.uk

Post: Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation
Floor 8, 5PS
Freepost LBC MAILROOM
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
London
WC1H 9JE.

The closing date for responses is 16 February 2023, at midnight.

For more information on the proposal, please visit: camden.gov.uk/stdominics