

Consultation information:

Statutory Notice on the Proposal for the Closure of Shapla Primary School

XX Month XXXX



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Contact Details	3
Implementation	3
Reason for Closure	4
Pupil Numbers and Admissions	4
Displaced Pupils	4
Impact on the Community	4
Rural Primary Schools	5
Balance of Denominational Provision	5
Nursery Provision	5
Sixth Form Provision	5
Special Educational Needs Provision	5
Travel	5
Finances	6
Procedure for Making Representations (objections and comments)	6

DRAFT

Introduction

Notice is given in accordance with section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that Tower Hamlets Local Authority intends to discontinue Shapla Primary School with effect from 31 August 2021.

Contact Details

Name and address of Local Authority publishing the proposal:

Tower Hamlets Council, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG

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

Shapla Primary School, Wellclose Square, Shadwell, London, E1 8HY

Implementation

Date on which it is proposed to close the school:

31st August 2021

It is proposed to implement the closure as follows:

Following the closure of Shapla Primary School it is proposed for the remaining pupils on roll at that time to transfer to other primary schools in the local area. The Local Authority has identified sufficient vacancies at local 'good' or 'outstanding' primary schools within 0.6 miles from Shapla School, and within 0.7 miles of all current pupils' homes. There are also vacancies at other schools in the areas to the West of borough, providing Shapla families with a range of options to secure a suitable school for their child. The Local Authority will endeavour to meet parental preferences for school places, where possible.

The Local Authority is already undertaking preliminary work with Shapla and other schools in the area on the necessary transition planning for children and families, should the Council decide for the School to close on the date proposed.

Reason for Closure

The Local Authority, in partnership with the governing body of Shapla has reluctantly determined that School should now close due to a substantial decline in pupil numbers over an extended period and the associated impact on its educational and financial viability.

Pupil numbers in Tower Hamlets schools are currently falling in the West of the borough where Shapla School is situated. This means that Shapla, along with other schools, has not had enough pupil numbers to fill its classes. The School is now well below its capacity in most of its year groups and this is causing increasing difficulty in maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum with enhanced extra-curricular activities.

The reduction in its pupil numbers has badly affected the School's budget. Protecting quality education has now led to Shapla having financial difficulties, with no capacity to repay financial support received from the Local Authority within the timeframe prescribed by central government. The Local Authority is not allowed to continue to fund schools that are not financially viable and, after considering the alternative options available, it was determined that it would be necessary to propose for the School to close.

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

The numbers for whom provision is currently made at the school:

Shapla School is a co-educational mainstream Primary School for pupils aged 3 to 11. The School has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 for each year group, giving a total of 240 places (including nursery places). As at September 2020, the school had 142 pupils on roll.

Displaced Pupils

From 1st September 2021, the pupils remaining on roll at Shapla Primary School will have the offer of places at other local schools no more than 0.7 miles from their current home addresses. There will also be opportunity for parents to secure places at schools within the surrounding areas.

Current projections for school places indicate that there are enough places for future cohorts following the closure of Shapla Primary School. The Local Authority will continue to monitor the projected need for future school places and propose changes, if required, to ensure sufficient places are available.

Impact on the Community

Shapla School does not currently provide additional services or use of its facilities for the wider community and there are a number of alternative facilities available for hire

at other nearby locations. There will therefore be no loss of any enrichment clubs or programmes for local families in the community.

Rural Primary Schools

Not applicable

Balance of Denominational Provision

Not applicable

Nursery Provision

Children currently attending the nursery provision at Shapla Primary School will be able to continue to do so until end of the current school year (July 2021). They will then be able to transfer to the nursery provisions at other local schools in the area or to the reception year at these schools, if they have reached school age.

Sixth Form Provision

Not applicable

Special Educational Needs Provision

Shapla School does not provide educational provision recognised by the Local Authority as being reserved for children with special educational needs. There are 44 pupils on roll (September 2020) who have been identified as having special educational needs (SEN support) and 4 pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Travel

The approximate distances for home to school travel for pupils from Nursery to Year 6 currently attending Shapla ranges from 0.05 to 3.33 miles.

There are enough places at other nearby schools to ensure that the maximum distance any child would travel to school would be no more than 0.7 miles from their home address, unless the families decide to secure places at alternative schools with vacancies further away.

It is anticipated that pupils will walk or use other sustainable modes of travel to alternative schools in the local area and therefore any impact on road traffic would be minimal. There is also sufficient local transport provision to cover the routes from home to school of current pupils.

Finances

When a school closes its finances (any surplus or deficit) is returned to the Council. Shapla's deficit balance will transfer to the Council on the School's last business day, 31st August 2021.

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: school.organisation@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Post: School Organisation and Place Planning Manager
Pupil Services and School Sufficiency
Tower Hamlets Children's Services
Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
E14 5BG

Closing date for responses is 30th November 2020

We will not be able to consider any responses received after this date. All responses received during the representation period will be published on the Council's website in mid-December 2020. The website address is:

<https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Home.aspx>