

Diocese of Westminster

Proposal to Establish a new Voluntary-Aided Primary School through the amalgamation of Our Lady's School, Limehouse and Holy Family School, Poplar.

These proposals will only take effect in conjunction with the Proposal by the Governing body of the Federation of The Holy Family and Our Lady's Primary Schools to discontinue the schools of the Federation.

Contact Details

1. The name and address of the Proposer is: Diocese of Westminster, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN.
2. This proposal is made independently, without other proposers.

Category

3. The Proposer intends to establish a new voluntary aided primary school under Section 11 (1)(a) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011.

Consultation

4. All applicable statutory requirements to consult have been complied with.
5. Evidence of consultation: Consultation took place between 5th November 2012 and 14th December 2012. Persons and groups consulted include:
 - The London Borough of Tower Hamlets
 - The Governing Body, Staff and Parents of Our Lady's School, Limehouse
 - The Governing Body, Staff and Parents of Holy Family School, Poplar
 - All schools in the borough of Tower Hamlets
 - Public meetings were held on 12th November 2012 at Our Lady's School and 13th November 2012 at Holy Family School
 - Tower Hamlets Deanery
 - Relevant Trades Unions (ATL, GMB, NAHT, NASUWT, NUT)

Objectives

6. The objective is to establish a new two-form entry Catholic primary school through the amalgamation of Our Lady's School, Limehouse and Holy Family School, Poplar, in order to create better educational opportunities for children in Tower Hamlets and the surrounding areas.

Extended Services

7. The school will run a breakfast club from 8.00-9.00am and an after-school play centre from 3.30pm – 6.00pm. There will also be activities by outside providers on the school premises.

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

8. It is proposed that:

- (a) The school will provide 420 places.
- (b) The lower and upper age limits of the school will be 4 and 11.
- (c) No sixth form places will be provided.
- (d) The school will provide nursery education.
- (e) The school will not provide for boarding pupils.
- (f) The admission number for the new school on the opening date will be 420, with 60 children in each year group, plus the nursery. Those attending Our Lady's School, Limehouse and Holy Family School, Poplar will transfer automatically to the new school. It is proposed that the new school will open on 1st September 2014 (the amalgamation date.) The children and staff at Our Lady's School will remain in their school until 31/08/14 on which date the school will close. Children and staff at Holy Family School will move into temporary classrooms, on site, after half-term in June 2014 and remain there until 31/08/14 when the school will close.
- (g) The school will admit both boys and girls in all year groups.

Ethos / Religious Character

9. The school will be founded by and be part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with Canon Law and teachings of the Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Westminster.

10. Religious education in the school will be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church; and religious worship will be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church; and at all times the school will serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. The proposer intends to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character.

Area or Community that the School Serves

11. The school will serve the communities of Limehouse and Poplar in the borough of Tower Hamlets and surrounding areas.

Admission Arrangements

12. The proposed oversubscription criteria to be used for the purposes of admitting new children and young people to the school will be as follows:

- i. Catholic looked after children and Catholic children who have been adopted (or made subject to residence or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after.
- ii. Baptised Catholic children, on the basis of proximity to the existing school sites.

- iii. Other looked after children and children who have been adopted (or made subject to residence or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after.
 - iv. Baptised children from other eastern Churches.
 - v. Other Christian children and children of other faiths.
 - vi. Any other children.
- a) The attendance of a sibling at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category.
- b) For categories 2 and 5 a baptismal certificate will be required.
- c) For category 2, priority will be given within the category to practising Catholics where this practice is confirmed by a priest at the church where the family normally worships, using the standard diocesan priests' reference/declaration form.
- d) Where the offer of places in any of the categories would still lead to oversubscription, the places up to the admission number will be offered by proximity to the existing school sites. In the case of equidistance from the school, random allocation will be used.

In the event of a tie-breaker being needed, an independently-supervised drawing of lots will take place. If twins or triplets are competing for one or two remaining places, the school will admit both/all applicants and exceed the Published Admissions Number.

The admission of children with a statement of Special Educational Needs is dealt with by a separate procedure that is administered by the applicant's home Local Authority, to whom all enquiries in that regard should be addressed.

Grammar Schools

13. The school will not be in substitution of a discontinued grammar school and will therefore not be designated as a grammar school.

School with a religious character or particular educational philosophy – parental demand

14. The new school will be replacing two existing Catholic voluntary aided schools that are amalgamating to form one school. Both these schools are currently oversubscribed.

Sixth Form Education

15. There will be no Sixth Form.

Early Years Provision

16. a) It is proposed that the new school will have 50 full-time and 20 part-time nursery places, organised into 3 classes, with morning and afternoon sessions. The school will be able to provide for children with a range of disabilities.
- b) In addition to this, it is intended that a breakfast club and after-school club will be offered.
- c) The current nurseries at both schools are heavily oversubscribed.

- d) There are a number of independent providers as well as nursery schools and Sure Start Centres in the area.
- e) No schools/settings with spare capacity are known of in the area

Specialisms

17. It is not intended that the school will have any specialism on implementation.

Effects on Standards and Contributions to School Improvement

- 18. a) The school will be part of a network of 218 schools in the Diocese of Westminster. 23% of maintained primary schools in the Diocese are judged outstanding by Ofsted and 86% are good or outstanding (corresponding national figures for all schools are 14% and 66%). There are no Catholic maintained schools in the Diocese judged inadequate. This background of academic excellence will be built on and replicated in the new school.
 - b) The new school will work with parents, governors and the wider community to serve the local area, delivering high quality education and engaging actively with other schools and the communities from which pupils are drawn.
19. The two schools will, on amalgamation continue to make a positive contribution to the community and society, enabling the children to be healthy, stay safe and enjoy and achieve.

Community Cohesion

20. The goal of Catholic education is to draw out the potential in each person to the full, in a community which recognizes Christ as our guide and inspiration. The school's engagement in the mission of the Church is its contribution to the good of society and its culture. Community cohesion is a core value of this expression, as are ethnic and cultural diversity. These have always been a rich feature of the identity of a Catholic school.

Single sex of co-educational school

21. The new school will be a mixed primary school.

Location

- 22. a) The school will be located at: Wade's Place E14 0DE (the current site of Holy Family School).
- b) The school will occupy a single site.
- c) The school will be easily accessible to traffic, public transport and to pedestrians.
- d) The site is owned by the Diocese of Westminster. All buildings on the site, will be used for the new school. Any temporary structures will be demolished.
- e) The Diocese owns the freehold of the site.
- f) The entire site will be required for the purposes of the new school.
- g) The costs of providing the site will be met by the Diocese of Westminster.

Implementation

23. It is proposed that Our Lady's School, Limehouse and Holy Family School, Poplar will close on 31st August 2014 and that the new school will open on 1st

September 2014

24. The proposals will be implemented by the Diocese of Westminster and the capital costs of implementation will also be met by the diocese.

Project Costs

25. The estimated capital cost of the proposals is circa £10,000,000.00. These costs will be met by the Diocese of Westminster.

26. No funds will be made available by the local authority or the Secretary of State.

27. The proposer's share of the capital costs will be met by the sale of the school and site of Our Lady's School, Limehouse and from the other sources.

Travel

28. Pupils will continue to travel to school as they do currently.

Federation

29. The schools will not be federating. The schools will amalgamate on the opening date.

Curriculum

30. The new school will meet the curriculum requirements of s.78 EA 2002.

Voluntary Aided School

31. a) The new school and site is within the trusteeship of the Diocese of Westminster.

b) The governing body will be able and willing to carry out its statutory obligations under Schedule 3 to SSFA 1998.

Staff

32. This paragraph no longer applies.

Foundation Schools

33 & 34. The new school will not be a Foundation School.

Special Educational Needs

35. The new school will not have specialist provision for children with special educational needs, over and above the provision to be made by any mainstream school.

36. The proposed policy of the school in relation to children with special educational needs will comply with the requirements of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and will be published prior to the opening of the new school. Until that time the policies of the existing schools will apply.

37. The school will not replace existing provision for children with special educational needs.

Relevant experience of proposers

38. The proposer has 218 Catholic primary and secondary schools, encompassing 19 local authorities. The proposer has opened a number of Catholic schools and contributed to the improvement of standards in education in general.

Planning permission

39. Any necessary planning permission will be obtained as soon as possible.

Independent schools entering the maintained sector

40 & 41 The new school will not be an independent school entering the maintained sector.

Signed.....

Dated.....

The Federation of Our Lady's School, Limehouse and The Holy Family School, Poplar

Proposal to discontinue Our Lady's School, Limehouse and The Holy Family School, Poplar.

These proposals will only take effect in conjunction with the Proposal by the Diocese of Westminster to establish a new primary school through the amalgamation of The Federation of The Holy Family and Our Lady's Primary Schools.

Contact Details

1. The name of the proposer is: The governing body of the Federation of The Holy Family and Our Lady's Primary Schools. The person to contact is: Mr John Standen, Chair of Governors, c/o Our Lady's Primary School, Copenhagen Place, E14 7DA.

Implementation

2. It is planned that the proposals will be implemented on 31st August 2014.

Consultation

3. All applicable statutory requirements to consult have been complied with.
4. Consultation took place between 5th November 2012 and 14th December 2012. Persons and groups consulted include:
 - The London Borough of Tower Hamlets
 - The Governing Body, Staff and Parents of Our Lady's School, Limehouse
 - The Governing Body, Staff and Parents of Holy Family School, Poplar
 - All schools in the borough of Tower Hamlets
 - Public meetings were held on 12th November 2012 at Our Lady's School and 13th November 2012 at Holy Family School
 - Tower Hamlets Deanery
 - Relevant Trades Unions (ATL, GMB, NAHT, NASUWT, NUT)

Objectives

5. The objective of the proposal is to discontinue the current Federation of The Holy Family and Our Lady's Schools and to form a new school on the site of the current Holy Family School, through the amalgamation of the schools in the Federation.

Standards and Diversity

6. The effect on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area will be a positive one as the new school will create better educational opportunities for the children in Tower Hamlets and the surrounding areas.

Provision for 16-19 Year Olds

7. These proposals involve children of primary school age only.

Need for Places

8. There will be no displaced pupils as all those attending the schools of the Federation on 31st August 2014, who are still of primary school age on 1st September 2014, will transfer automatically to the new school.
9. The schools of the Federation to be discontinued are Catholic schools within the trusteeship of the Diocese of Westminster. The new school will also be a Catholic school within the trusteeship of the Diocese of Westminster. There will therefore be no impact on the balance of denominational provision in the area and no impact on parental choice.

Current School Information

10. There are 420 places in the current combined schools (60 in each year group), between 4 and 11 years of age (nursery numbers given later). The schools of the Federation are mixed throughout, there is no boarding provision and there is no specialist SEN provision.

Displaced Pupils

11. All the children in the current Federation who remain of primary school age will be transferred automatically to the new school. There will therefore be no displaced pupils.

Impact on the Community

12. It is not anticipated that there will be any adverse impact on the community.
13. The school will run a breakfast club from 8.00-9.00am and an after-school play centre from 3.30pm – 6.00pm. There will also be activities by outside providers on the school premises.

Travel

14. Pupils will continue to travel to the new school (which will be on The Holy Family site) as they do currently.

Related Proposals

15. These proposals are directly related to the proposals published concurrently by the Diocese of Westminster relating to the establishment of a new school at Wade’s Place E14 0DE. These proposals will not be implemented without the implementation of the Diocesan proposals.

Rural Primary Schools

16. This provision is not relevant to these proposals.

Maintained Nursery Schools

17. The nursery schools belonging to the Federation will be discontinued on 31st August 2014. The new nursery school at Wade’s Place E14 0DE will open on 1st September 2014 with 50 full-time and 20 part-time places, organised in 3 classes with morning and afternoon sessions. All those at the Federation nursery schools on 31st August 2014 who remain of nursery school age on 1st September 2014 will be transferred automatically to the new school.

Special Educational Provision

18. There is no specialist SEN provision at the schools of the Federation.

Signed.....

Dated.....