



**Diocese of Westminster**  
**The Governing Body of Our Lady's and Holy Family Catholic Primary**  
**Schools**

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR THE AMALGAMATION OF OUR**  
**LADY'S AND HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON A SINGLE**  
**SITE**

**Background**

***This consultation concerns a coming together of Our Lady's and Holy Family Schools in a new purpose built one-site school on the Holy Family site in Poplar in September 2014.***

In 2009, as a first step towards achieving this objective, and following a successful consultation process proposing a new two-form entry school on the Holy Family site, the two schools were federated under a single Governing body. The Diocese and the Governing Body now intend to create a single new school, from the existing schools. This is principally to ensure that adequate preparations can be made for the pupils and certainty of employment provided for staff in the new school as soon as is practicable. It is the intention of those involved that the minimum level of disruption and change should be experienced by pupils and staff during this change process.

The Diocese of Westminster has agreed to provide the funding necessary for the new school and the building works are expected to begin in early summer 2013.

**The Consultation & Proposal**

This Consultation is being held from 5 November until 14 December 2012 with all interested parties, particularly the parents and staff of both schools.

The Diocese of Westminster and the Governing Body have been working with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and are now proposing that the creation of a new school is the quickest practicable way to:

- Create better educational opportunity for children in a new, purpose-built and well-resourced school with a larger staff and more flexible funding on the one-site

- Promote retention and recruitment of skilled staff because a larger school can provide better opportunities for career development
- Provide a brand new, modern school building, opening in September 2014, for all the children; without this opportunity there will not be a way to overcome the constraints in size of the Our Lady's site

## **Meetings**

The Diocese and the Governing Body wants to engage with you and hear your views about the Proposal. We will be holding meetings for parents and staff:

<b>12th November:</b> 9am-10am	<i>All Parents of pupils at Our Lady's</i>	<i>At Our Lady's School</i>
3.30 – 4.30	<i>All staff at Our Lady's</i>	<i>At Our Lady's School</i>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> November:</b> 9am-10am	<i>All Parents of pupils at Holy Family</i>	<i>At Holy Family School</i>
10:00-10:45	<i>Staff of Holy Family*</i>	<i>At Holy Family School</i>
3.45 – 4.45	<i>All staff of Holy Family</i>	<i>At Holy Family School</i>

\*Staff who have commitments at Holy Family after-school activities

Please come to one of the meetings to hear more about the Proposal and tell us your views. At the meetings, you will be able to see details of the plans for the new school.

## **About the proposals**

*How will the schools become one school?*

There is a legal process to be followed which will allow a new school to replace the two existing schools.

Until the new school building is ready, it is envisaged that the organisation of the two existing schools on their current sites will continue to operate in much the same way as at present.

As part of the process and whilst the building process continues, new organisational structures will need to be established before the whole school moves in to the new buildings. For that to happen, the Diocese will propose a formal date for the establishment of the new school, which is called 'the amalgamation date'. At that time the two existing schools will become part of the new school. We are currently proposing that the amalgamation date will be between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

We are seeking views on this proposal.

*What happens to the children at each school?*

Children on the roll of each school on the amalgamation date will become pupils of the new school on that date. Children starting after the amalgamation date will apply for admission to the new school in the normal way.

*How long will the building scheme take?*

The plan is for the building works to start during the summer term 2013. The new school building will be ready for all the children and staff to move into for September 2014.

*What happens to the children during the works?*

Children and staff at Our Lady's will stay in place at their school. Children and staff at Holy Family will move into temporary classrooms on site after half-term in May 2013 and remain there until the summer holidays 2014. Every effort will be made to ensure that the school site is safe for everyone whilst the works are going on.

*What will happen about admission arrangements for the new school?*

The admission arrangements for September 2013 remain those established by the existing Governing Body. Admission Arrangements for the new school after that will be determined by the new Governing Body once it has been established.

*What happens to the staff of the schools?*

If the amalgamation process goes ahead, the Governing Body of the new school will begin the process of appointing a Head Teacher as soon as it is established. We expect that most of the existing staff of both schools will automatically transfer to the new school.

*What will be the name of the new school?*

The Diocese has not yet decided on a new name but intends to take a decision after the Consultation.

We therefore seek your views on possible names for the new school.

*What will happen to the Our Lady's School site?*

The Diocese owns the school and its site. When the school moves out, the Diocese intends to sell the site and use the proceeds of sale towards the costs of building the new school.

*What happens next?*

5 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	Consultation opens
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	Consultation closes
End of December 2012	Diocese and Governing Body consider consultation responses and decide whether to publish statutory proposals for the amalgamation
January 2013 (if the Diocese and Governing Body has decided to publish proposals).	Statutory proposals are published: there follows a 6 weeks period for comments on the proposals to be made to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
By April 2013	London Borough of Tower Hamlets decide whether or not to approve the statutory proposals
From January 2013	The Diocese establishes a Temporary Governing Body for the new School to make any required new arrangements.
Between 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014 (subject to consultation)	The amalgamated school replaces the existing two schools.

PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE HOLY FAMILY & OUR LADY'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

	Please tick as appropriate
<b>I support</b> the vision put forward by the Diocese and Governing Body to amalgamate the schools	Yes / No
<b>I agree</b> with the amalgamation proposal	Yes / No
My suggestion for the <b>new name of the school</b> is:	

Other comments

NAME	
ADDRESS	
DATE	

**Disclaimer: Your Name and Address will only be used for the purpose of contacting you with regards to this consultation.**

Please return this page by 14th December 2012 to:  
the school office at either Holy Family School or Our Lady's School or to  
[admin@holyfamily.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holyfamily.towerhamlets.sch.uk) or [admin@ourladys.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourladys.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

