

Raine's Foundation School

Public consultation on a proposal to close Raine's Foundation School from 31 August 2020 (including plans to expand nearby Oaklands Secondary School, for the transfer of Raine's pupils)

~~**This consultation closes on 24th July 2019**~~

The consultation document was amended on 3rd July 2019 and the closing date extended to 31st July 2019.

The amended sections have been struck through and replaced with new paragraphs on the following pages:

Page 3 - New date for consultation to close

Page 10 - What would happen to the children currently attending Raine's?

Page 12- 13 - Applications for admission to Year 7 for September 2019

Page 19 - New date for consultation to close

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Introduction

Tower Hamlets Local Authority, the Church of England London Diocesan Board for Schools (Diocese) and the Interim Executive Board (IEB), which is currently providing governance for Raine's Foundation School (Raine's), are considering the School's closure as part of an amalgamation with nearby Oaklands Secondary School.

This proposal is being made in response to the declining and now low number of pupils who attend the school (520 pupils attending a school with a capacity of 1050) and the significant financial problem this presents. There is every indication that the number of pupils attending Raine's will fall even further over the coming years. The Local Authority (LA) has a duty to secure high quality education for all children. Despite best efforts to find robust solutions, the LA and Diocese are unable to be confident that this School can become secure enough to provide the best quality education for the children of Tower Hamlets and surrounding areas.

The LA is therefore seeking the views of all interested parties on a proposal to close Raine's School as part of its amalgamation with Oaklands School with effect from 31st August 2020.

Please take the time to read this document and attend one of the meetings that have been arranged to discuss the proposal further, and ask any questions that you might have. Details of meetings can be found on page 18. This document provides details of the proposal, other options that have been considered, and how you can make your views known.

In reaching this stage the LA along with the IEB and the Diocese has explored a number of options to maintain the School, but none have proven to be feasible. The LA is aware that the previous Raine's Governing Body explored the potential for the School to convert to academy status, but decided against this option.

If Raine's School is to be closed a legal process will be followed and this is explained in Section 4 below. This public consultation is the first step of that process.

~~The final date for receipt of responses to this consultation is **24th July 2019.**~~

The final date for receipt of responses to this consultation has been extended because of amendments made to this document and is now **31st July 2019.**

1. Summary

Raine's School is located in the Bethnal Green area with a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 150 and a total capacity for up to 1050 pupils (11-19).

It serves the local community, as well as a small number of pupils who live in neighbouring boroughs, mainly Hackney and Newham. Map 1 on page 21 shows where pupils' currently attending Raine's live.

The number of pupils applying for Year 7 entry at Raine's has been declining for some time (see Table A. on page 19). As a consequence, the pupil roll at the school has been falling over a number of years and pupil forecasts indicate that that the number on roll in Years 7 - 11 will continue to fall over the coming years (see Table B. on page 19).

Numbers on roll in the school's 6th Form have also declined and this is having an impact on the range of options and subjects available for post 16 students (see Table C. on page 19).

Because of the increasingly low numbers of pupils at Raine's (that are not predicted to increase), financial pressures have been building at the school which makes it financially unsustainable (see pages 5 and 6 and Table D on page 20 for more information). It is therefore necessary to consider options, including whether the school needs to close. In addition, it is proposed to expand nearby Oaklands School to provide places for all of the pupils currently on roll at Raine's. Oaklands School has been consistently judged by Ofsted as 'Good' and has amongst the highest GCSE outcomes in the borough. It is popular with local families due to its performance, effective governance and strong leadership. The school has the facilities to add more capacity and is well placed to provide a good education to additional pupils, without an adverse effect on standards. Oaklands is already providing support to Raine's as part of the LA intervention plan.

The IEB of Raine's has been in discussion with the LA and the Diocese about the declining number of applications and the predicted falling roll. Discussions have included consideration of ways for the school to secure its future and provide a better quality of education for its pupils. The options discussed include federating with another school, amalgamating with an existing Church of England school, reducing the intake of the school and expanding the school. Previously, the Governing Body of Raine's had considered joining an academy trust.

More detail on these options can be found on page 7. Unfortunately, none of the options discussed to sustain Raine's going forward appear achievable. The closure of the School, as part of a process of an amalgamation with nearby Oaklands School, seems the best option.

Details of the proposed closure of Raine's and the planned expansion of Oaklands School, along with information about the process, can be found from page 9 onwards.

2. Raine's Foundation School

Raine's aims to provide an environment that ensures all pupils can be the best they can be every day and achieve their potential in all aspects of life.

To achieve its aims it is critical that the school is able to fund and deliver a full range of educational and extra-curricular activities. Schools are funded by a national formula that is based on the number of pupils registered at the school as well as a lump sum. Low and falling numbers of pupils registered at a school result in less funding available, and difficulty in providing the full range of services needed.

When inspected by [Ofsted in November 2015](#), Raine's was judged to 'require improvement'. A Targeted Intervention Group (part of the LA strategy for raising school standards) consisting of LA officers was established in December 2015 to challenge and support the school's leaders. However, the school's GCSE results were poor in August 2016.

Pupil numbers, which were already declining, were further affected by the GCSE results alongside attendance and behaviour issues in the school. As a consequence, the school roll continued its downward trajectory. This had a detrimental impact on the budget resulting in sustained financial losses. The school applied to the LA for a licenced deficit (effectively a loan) of £1m and this was agreed in May 2017. The conditions of the licensed deficit required a staffing restructure to reduce the school's annual costs by approximately £900k and this was implemented in 2017-18. Savings were achieved largely through significant staffing reductions – a mix of redundancies and natural turnover. The ability of the school to repay the loan as well as meet its reduced running costs was based on an minimum Year 7 intake of 110 -120 pupils per year over a five year period.

Since 2014 the LA has been supporting Raine's with its pupil admissions through the development of scholarship programmes in both Modern Foreign Languages and Sports Studies; rewriting the school's admissions policy to encourage applications from children from all world faiths; and enabling the school to adopt the LA's arrangements for pupil banding to support its efforts to achieve a balanced ability intake. The LA facilitated the school efforts to boost its admissions numbers by appointing the Raine's headteacher to the [Tower Hamlets School Admissions Forum](#) and reserving places at Raine's for pupils who were unsuccessful in securing places at any of the preferred schools at secondary transfer. Development of the former Raine's Lower School at Old Bethnal Green Road in order to provide more attractive facilities was supported by a capital investment of £4m from the LA. Despite this and further extensive effort by the school and LA's School Admissions staff, Raine's could not achieve the pupil numbers required to enable it to secure its financial sustainability and reduce its budget deficit. Table D on page 20 shows the historical financial position at Raine's and the predicted budget deficit based on projected admission numbers. The school's current roll and projected numbers demonstrate that it is highly unlikely to recruit the pupil numbers necessary to address its current funding shortfall, repay its licensed deficit and move onto a financially sustainable footing.

In October 2017 Raine's was re-inspected by [Ofsted](#) and again it was adjudged to 'require improvement'. The LA continued its targeted support to the school and early in January 2018 it was agreed that the school would keep parents informed of

the situation and the improvement work that it would be undertaking with the support of the LA and the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership (THEP).

In the summer of 2018, the school had a further [Ofsted](#) visit. The inspector reported significant concerns about the standards of pupil behaviour. The LA also determined that, at that time, the school's standards and effectiveness was showing no real sign of significant improvement and this was partly due to a serious breakdown in the way the school was being governed.

The publication of the school's [GCSE results in August 2018](#) showed that school leaders and governors had overseen a further decline in standards of achievement. The progress pupils had made by the end of year 11 was very low in comparison with other schools nationally. Pupils achieved, on average, almost a grade lower than pupils in other Tower Hamlets schools.

The new support package agreed with LA and THEP for the 2018-19 school year involved the headteacher of Sir John Cass's Foundation and Redcoat Church of England Secondary School, Mr Paul Woods, joining Raine's as interim executive headteacher from September. However, the LA was also concerned that the Governing Body was not functioning effectively and was failing in its responsibilities. The Governing Body had not taken necessary or appropriate action to address the key issues identified by Ofsted or held school leaders to account. In September 2018 the LA took steps to address its concerns, the Governing Body was dissolved and an Interim Executive Board (IEB) established to provide effective governance for the School.

Since being appointed to the school, the IEB and school leaders have invested significant time, effort and determination to improve the performance at Raine's. The changes brought about in the school were noted as positive in the [Ofsted monitoring visit undertaken in December 2018](#). However, at this time parents had already made their choice of secondary school place. Only 29 pupils applied to Raine's as their first preference for entry to Year 7 in September 2019.

Following the monitoring visit and in consultation with Mr Paul Woods, it was agreed by the LA, Diocese and school governing bodies that Oaklands School, which is also in Bethnal Green, would become the support school to Raine's from April 2019 with Ms Patrice Canavan taking over as Executive Headteacher from Mr Paul Woods and Mr Simon Ramsey of Oaklands becoming interim headteacher.

Oaklands has been consistently judged as 'Good' and has one of the highest GCSE outcomes in the borough. Its close proximity to Raine's allows for a support package that draws on staff capacity from within Oaklands..

In January 2019 the school was half full with only 520 pupils on roll in Years 7 to 13, compared to a potential capacity of 1050. The low numbers of applications for admission to Year 7; the low pupil numbers across existing year groups; and the findings from a DfE commissioned financial review, made it necessary for the LA to and Diocese to consider various options before deciding on the current proposal to close the school. These options are explained below.

3. Exploring Different Options to School Closure

Converting to Academy status and joining a Multi- Academy Trust

Academy schools are state-funded and are directly funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and independent of LA control. A Multi-Academy Trust has one board of directors responsible for all schools in the trust. The LA and Diocese explored the potential for Raine's to convert to Academy status and join a Multi - Academy Trust. However, following discussions with the Diocese, and mindful of the requirements set by the DfE, it was evident that the school's current performance standard, together with the unlikelihood of it ever becoming financially self-sustainable, would prevent a successful application for it to convert to an Academy with the option to join an existing Multi -Academy Trust.

Federation

A federation is a group of maintained schools under one Governing Body. In this example the school's leadership would be taken on by a new organisation. Cost savings would be achieved through the sharing of services, and in the case of smaller secondary schools like Raine's, usually a smaller leadership structure overseen by an Executive Headteacher who manages more than one school. This was fully explored and found not to be feasible.

Amalgamating with an existing Church of England School

An amalgamation is where two schools join together to create a new school, requiring the closure of both schools. Or where one is closed and another nearby school is expanded to accommodate the pupils from the school that closes.

The option of amalgamating Raine's with an existing Church of England Secondary School in Tower Hamlets was explored with the Diocese, but this was subsequently deemed not possible, given the distance between the two schools and that they served different communities.

Reducing the school size through its Planned Admission Number

One way to improve the financing of the school is to ensure that classes are as close to full as possible (at 30 pupils per class), which can save money on teaching staff. A smaller planned admission number, say 4 form entry (120) instead of the current 5 form entry (150) would mean the school could plan for fewer pupils and therefore operate fewer classes with fewer staff whilst still accommodating a smaller number of pupils on roll. However, when reviewing the school's financial position this option did not prove viable as the school was continuing to experience a significant decline in applications for entry to year 7 and also in other year groups. It was already substantially below the 4fe pupil number necessary to secure it financially. This is because a school has a level of staffing and other fixed costs that need to be met, and these costs would not have decreased significantly by reducing its size. Please see Table D on Page 20 for a summary of Raine's financial position and the minimum numbers of registered pupils that the school would need to recruit and maintain across all year groups (7 – 11); to address its funding shortfall, repay its licensed deficit and move the school onto a financially sustainable footing.

Expanding the school

Although this may, at first, seem counterintuitive it is sometimes necessary to consider significant investment into a school to enable it to attract pupils. In this case, because the local primary aged population is declining, and there is already strong performance in other nearby schools, there was no evidence to suggest that investment in an expansion would result in a larger number of pupils on roll at Raine's. The LA was mindful of its previous longstanding and extensive efforts to boost application numbers for Raine's, which was largely unsuccessful and mainly due to the school's past poor performance. The LA also considered that the current plans for new housing in and around Tower Hamlets are focussed mainly in other areas, to the east of the Borough. The likely number of additional children that will result from new housing developments is set out in the [LA's annual report on its planning for school places](#) and taken account of when considering the number of school places required.

4. School Places and the Proposal to Close Raine's Foundation School

The LA has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient good quality school places for children living in Tower Hamlets; in order to do this the LA monitors birth rates, GP registrations, new housing developments and patterns of school preference. This information is used to project pupil numbers as well as to ensure there are sufficient school places across the borough.

A proposal to consult on the closure of Raine's on 31st August 2020, as part of an amalgamation with Oaklands School, has been agreed with the schools' Governing Bodies and the Diocese. It is being put forward in consideration of the following:

- the low and falling number of pupils attending Raine's
- the financial implications for the school,
- the need to continue to provide high quality education for Raine's pupils: and
- the strong performance and capacity of Oaklands School.

If a decision is taken progress the proposal to close Raine's School as part of its amalgamation with Oaklands School, the process will involve six steps.

Step one

Consultation (June - July 2019) - on the proposal to close Raine's School as part of its amalgamation with Oaklands School.

Step two

Decision (September 2019) - The consultation will inform the decision by Council in September 2019 on whether or not to issue a statutory notice.

Step three

Publication* (Nov 2019) – publishing of a statutory notice and proposal to close Raine's School as part of its amalgamation with Oaklands School.

Step four

Representation (Nov - Dec 2019) - period for further responses to the proposal in the statutory notice.

Step five

Decision* (Feb 2020) - to be taken by Council following the representation period.

Step six

Implementation* (Mar - Aug 2020) - if the decision is taken to close Raine's as part of its amalgamation with Oaklands School.

***These stages will apply only if the proposal is approved by the Council**

More information on the process can be found at:

The timetable for this process in relation to the closure of Raine's can be found on page 18. The next two sections contain information on the implications for current and prospective pupils and parents of Raine's and Oaklands schools, should a decision be taken to close Raine's as part of an amalgamation with Oaklands School on 31st August 2020.

5. Managing the Closure of Raine's Foundation School

The following sections answer questions that parents may have if the decision is taken to close Raine's as well as expand Oaklands School to provide places for Raine's pupils. There is also information on how to make your views on the proposal known, and the timetable that will be followed for the decision making process.

What would happen to the children currently attending Raine's?

~~If the decision is taken to close Raine's, a place at Oaklands School will be made available for any child currently attending Raine's in years 7 to 11, should their parents wish to take it up. Children who have applied to Raine's for admission to Year 7 in September 2019 have already been offered a place at Oaklands, given that Raine's will not be having a Year 7 intake for this year (see page 12). School transfers will be facilitated by the LA's School Admissions Team.~~

On 3rd July 2019 this consultation document was changed. The above struck through text was deleted. The new text states:-

If the decision is taken to close Raine's, a place at Oaklands School will be made available for any child currently attending Raine's in years 7 to 11, should their parents wish to take it up. Children who have applied to Raine's for admission to Year 7 in September 2019 have also been offered a place at Oaklands. School. Those who chose to transfer will be facilitated by the LA's School Admissions Team.

For any parents not wanting a place at Oaklands, an application can be made through the normal in-year admissions process for an alternative school for September 2019 or 2020. Applications should be made to the LA's School Admissions Team and this would then be considered in line with the particular school's published admissions criteria and the school's current number on roll in the relevant year group. These applications will be coordinated by the LA to ensure that each application is treated in the same way. Information about applying for an alternative school place is available from the School Admissions Team who can be contacted on 020 7364 5006 or school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk.

How will this affect Raine's staff?

The decision on the closure of Raine's will not be made until February 2020, which would mean the earliest closure could take place is August 2020. The LA will continue to support the school to retain staff through the current period of uncertainty. As it is difficult to recruit teaching staff, all teachers at the school will be given a retention allowance from 1st September 2019. All staff will continue to have

access to professional development opportunities and support to apply for other jobs. Raine's staff will be given first consideration for any vacancy at Oaklands School. If the decision is taken to close Raine's then for staff that have not secured alternative employment, the likely outcome is redundancy in August 2020.

A place at Oaklands School

Oaklands School has been consistently judged as a 'Good' school by Ofsted, as confirmed by its most recent [Ofsted inspection](#) in January 2017. The School's GCSE and A level results have remained amongst the highest in the borough.

If the decision is taken to close Raine's, Oaklands will welcome new children and provide support for families from Raine's that choose to take up a place. Oaklands is being supported by the LA and Diocese to do so through plans to expand and improve its existing accommodation (see pages 14 and 15).

Ms Patrice Canavan, the Interim Executive Headteacher of Oaklands and Raine's schools, will be able to show parents and children around Oaklands as well as discuss their needs should they take up a place there. Information about Oaklands can be found at:

<http://www.oaklands.towerhamlets.sch.uk/>

Will parents have to accept a place at Oaklands School?

A number of pupils attend Raine's School from some distance away, and so other schools local to their home address may be preferable than a place at Oaklands. Parents can therefore apply for other schools, both in and outside Tower Hamlets, and this will be facilitated by the LA's School Admissions Team. Map 2 on page 22 shows other local schools.

What about spiritual guidance for Raine's children transferring to Oaklands School and the Raine's legacy?

The LA is aware of the importance of keeping the name of Henry Raine alive in the borough and we are discussing how best to achieve this with the Raine's Foundation Trust.

The LA is very aware of the need to preserve the distinct aspects of a Church of England education, such as having arrangements for spiritual guidance and worship in place for Raine's students within the Oaklands provision. The LA is taking advice from the Diocese on this important matter.

What if parents want their children to continue at a Church of England school?

There are other Church of England schools in Tower Hamlets and inner London areas as follows:

- [Sir John Cass \(Tower Hamlets\)](#) – 1.4 miles
- [The Urswick School \(Hackney\)](#) – 1.8 miles

- [St Mary Magdalene Academy Secondary School](#) (Islington) – 3.6 miles
- [Bacon's College \(Southwark\)](#) – 4 miles
- [St Saviour's and St Olave's School \(Southwark\)](#) – 4.8 miles
- [St Mary Magdalene School \(Greenwich\)](#) – 5.3 miles

It is recognised that, for some parents, a place at a church school is something they value for their child. Parents are entitled to apply for other church schools in the normal way and their application would be considered under the admission arrangements for the relevant school(s). The consultation on the future of Raine's and any decision in relation to this would not disadvantage any application for any other church school.

How will this affect pupils in Years 9 and 11?

Pupils currently in Year 9 at Raine's will be able to continue at the school for the 2019/20 school year and then move to Oaklands to complete their GCSE studies from September 2020. This is currently being co-ordinated between Oaklands and Raine's staff and is being overseen by the Interim Executive Headteacher for both schools.

Year 9 pupils will also have the option to transfer to an alternative school from as early as September 2019 and for the start of their Year 10. Throughout the remainder of the summer term the arrangements for school transfer applications for Raine's students will operate separately to the published timetable. The LA's School Admissions Team will be holding regular surgeries at Raine's for parents and pupils to discuss their particular circumstances, preferences and the choices open to them.

Pupils currently in Year 11 that have been offered a place at Raine's will have the option to continue their 6th form studies at Oaklands. Raine's staff are already having detailed discussions with parents and students about the Post-16 offer at Oaklands to make sure it's right for them.

Year 11 pupils will also have the option to transfer to other 6th form provisions and this is being co-ordinated with support from the LA's School Admissions staff.

Secondary headteachers at other secondary schools are aware of the proposals and are supportive of the arrangements to ensure that Raine's pupil transfers are as smooth as possible.

Applications for admission to Year 7 for September 2019

~~The LA has decided that Raine's should not have an intake to its Year 7. This is because applications for Year 7 at Raine's has been declining over a number of years and the school received only 29 first preference applications for places in September 2019. With such a small number it would have proved very difficult, if not impossible, to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to this group of children. This would be difficult even in a securely good, well funded school and it therefore led the LA to a decision that there should not be a Year 7 intake at Raine's this year, although this will not prejudice the final decision after the consultation~~

~~Parents of these children have been offered places at alternative schools, mostly at schools where they had previously expressed a preference. Those children who~~

could not be offered a place at a school they named as an alternative preference have been reserved a place at Oaklands.

On 3rd July 2019 this consultation document was changed. The above struck through text was deleted. The new text states:-

Applications for admission to Year 7 for September 2019

Applications for Year 7 at Raine's have been declining over a number of years and the school received only 29 first preference applications for places in September 2019. With such a small number it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to this group of children.

Parents are able to enrol children for Year 7 if they chose to do so. However, they should be aware that there is a significant risk that the year group may be very small. If that proves to be the case, the school may exercise its management powers to provide the education for those children at the site of a neighbouring school, to enable them to receive a full curriculum.

To ensure that they have options in light of the uncertain future of Raine's, parents of these children have also been offered places at alternative schools, mostly at schools where they had previously expressed a preference. Those children who could not be offered a place at a school they named as an alternative preference have been reserved a place at Oaklands.

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

The Tower Hamlets SEND Team will make arrangements to meet all parents of children with special educational needs over the remainder of this term to discuss the arrangements for their future education and to plan future options, should a decision be taken to close Raine's. Reviews for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan and SEN Support will be arranged to ensure that potential transitions can be planned effectively.

Should parents choose a school other than Oaklands, the SEND Team will ensure that the distance that pupils will need to travel is minimised and that support will be in place as they move. It will also work in partnership with new schools and other LAs, where necessary, to ensure that children's learning needs continue to be met. Consideration will be given to the schools' SEND information in terms of curriculum, range of interventions and staff expertise in order to achieve pupil's planned outcomes.

Where parents have concerns and wish to receive further advice we will arrange for them to be supported by our [SENDIASS Team](#).

Will parents get travel assistance for their child to attend an alternative school?

Any application for assistance with travel to an alternative school will be considered in line with LA's current school travel assistance policy and support will be provided, if the policy criteria are met.

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/advice_and_benefits/grants/school_travel_support.aspx

What about help with a new school uniform?

The Local Authority is aware that for some families an unforeseen change of school requiring a new school uniform will be a significant additional expense. Assistance will be provided for parents to purchase a new school uniform when this is required. The payment will be in line with the current school clothing grant that is provided for children when they transfer from primary to secondary school. More information and an application form can be obtained from the LA's School Admissions Team.

6. Oaklands School.

As part of the proposal to close Raine's the LA will expand the Published Admissions Number (PAN) for Oaklands School, initially by two forms of entry, and increase its capacity so that it becomes a six form entry school with the potential to increase to seven forms of entry, if required.

The table below details the current and proposed number on roll for the school and the changes to the PAN will be the only changes to the school's admissions arrangements as a result of its expansion.

Age Range	Number on Roll	Proposed Number on Roll	Total increase in places
11-19	800	1200	400

As a result of increasing the PAN at the school to enable it to take more children, including those moving from Raine's, additional space will be required. This is discussed in more detail below. This increase in the Oaklands PAN will be in place by September 2020 and will enable Oaklands to provide places for children at Raine's, should it be determined that this school will close at the end of the 2019/20 school year.

Why does the LA need to expand an existing school?

The LA has a statutory duty to provide each child in its area with an appropriate school place and ensure that it promotes diversity, mindful of parental preference. It will therefore closely monitor the numbers of school places available and the demand for those places across its area. Despite current plans to increase secondary school places in Tower Hamlets, the LA's pupil projection data estimates that the closure of Raine's could lead to a shortfall in places in Bethnal Green, if it does not act and increase the number of places in good schools available locally.

Why did the LA decide on Oaklands School?

When deciding on which school(s) should be expanded the LA will set out a number of criteria i.e. whether the school was in the right geographical location; whether it was popular with local families; whether it was possible to add more capacity; whether it had effective governance and strong leadership; and whether it was well placed to provide a good education to additional pupils. Oaklands was chosen because it met these requirements and is therefore best placed to accommodate extra pupils without an adverse effect on standards. Oaklands is already providing support to Raine's as part of the LA intervention plan.

How will this affect pupils at Oaklands School?

Pupils will notice some changes, but these are likely to be limited. Oaklands will organise its provision slightly differently and its 6th Form will be moved offsite to provide additional classrooms at the existing building for when pupils join from Raine's. There will also be some significant modifications to the existing building to improve the facilities for all children as well as cater for the additional 60 pupils per year from 2020 onwards. It is expected that curriculum and standards will not be adversely affected by these changes and improvements to the school's facilities.

Will there be changes to the School's building(s)?

Yes, the planned expansion to the number of places means that the school will move its 6th form to a nearby remodelled provision on the site of the former Raine's Lower School at Old Bethnal Green Road.

There will also be some significant work on the school's existing building to provide additional teaching spaces and improved facilities for all students. The LA will ensure that the new teaching spaces are built in line with government standards and that the construction methods used will not disrupt pupils' learning and all users remain safe. No play space will be used for this expansion and no sports or recreational facilities will be lost and the pupils will also benefit from additional facilities on the new 6th form site.

To facilitate the planned expansion and ensure that any necessary work on the existing building can be completed in time, the 6th form will move to the former Raine's Lower School site from September 2019.

How will this affect Oaklands staff?

Staff at Oaklands will generally be unaffected, but there will be a need to increase staffing. A larger school will offer more opportunities for their professional development.

How will this affect the local community?

Children and families will benefit from there being more places at a popular nearby school enabling them to continue their education within the local area. It is also likely to be beneficial for community cohesion by providing all members of the community equal opportunity to access a high quality local school provision.

Why are we consulting on this as part of the Raine's proposal?

There is a statutory process that must be followed to make these sorts of changes to schools. At the moment we are entering the consultation stage during which we are inviting views on the proposal from anyone, including pupils, parents, staff, the local community, all schools, neighbouring authorities, local councillors, members of parliament and professional associations.

What will happen if the proposal to close Raine's as part of its amalgamation with Oaklands does not go ahead?

If the Council eventually takes the decision that Raine's will not amalgamate with Oaklands School then Oaklands will continue to operate at its current size and discussions will take place with the Diocese about terminating the lease for the Raine's Lower Site. The LA will need to reconsider how additional places at this popular and successful school can be provided.

7. How parents and the public can give their views

A series of meetings have been arranged, including two public meetings, to provide an opportunity for parents, staff, pupils and members of the local community to ask questions and express their views on the proposals outlined in this document.

At this stage no decision on the closure of Raine's as part of its amalgamation with Oaklands School has been made, and all the views received, either at the meetings or separately in writing, will be considered prior to a decision being taken as to whether to go ahead with the proposal.

While this is a consultation on a proposal to close Raine's, it also includes plans to expand nearby Oakland's Secondary School, for the transfer of Raine's pupils. Other options have been considered, and your views and opinion on other potential options to secure the future of Raine's and/or its pupils are welcome.

The following public meetings have been arranged for any who wish to attend:

Time and Date: 6pm 19th June 2019
Location: Oaklands Community School,
Old Bethnal Green Road,
Bethnal Green,
E2 6PR

Time and Date: 6pm 26th June 2019
Location: Raine's Foundation School
Approach Road,
Bethnal Green,
E2 ELY

Separate meetings have also been arranged for staff and parents at both Raine's and Oaklands Schools. Parents and staff will receive information on these meetings directly

The LA will also be seeking the views of other interested parties, such as local schools, diocesan boards, council of mosques, neighbouring local authorities and trade unions, local councillors, members of parliament and professional associations.

Prior to this consultation, meetings have taken place with Raine's staff and parents.. Pupils have been involved through assemblies and individual meetings with key year groups.

Your comments

You are invited to respond to this consultation by visiting the Council's consultations web page and completing an electronic feedback form:

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/council_and_democracy/consultations/consultations.aspx

Alternatively, you may wish to write to or email your comments to the addresses given below by **Wednesday 24th July 2019 31st July 2019**.

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

school.organisation@towerhamlets.gov.uk

All comments received through these mechanisms or made directly to Council officers or members will be collected to be included in the analysis of feedback received.

Tower Hamlets Council handles information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 2018 and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018. For more information the privacy notice for Pupil Services can be accessed [here](#).

Your answers to this consultation will only be used to assess the community's view of the proposed closure of Raine's and the proposed expansion of Oaklands School and not for any other purpose. It is an opportunity for you to draw the Council's attention to any material facts that should properly be taken into account before deciding on whether it proceeds on its proposed course of action.

If you would like to discuss the proposal you can contact Terry Bryan, Head of Pupil Services and School Sufficiency on tel: 020 7364 4304. You can also contact the Chair of the Joint Governing Body Steering Group, which has been established to lead the consultation with both school communities and undertake the necessary detailed work so that the Governing Bodies can make their recommendations to the LA:

steeringgroup@rainesfoundation.org.uk.

They will either be able to discuss your particular matters directly, or make sure you can speak to the most appropriate person to support you.

The information contained in this document can be made available in alternative formats: large print, Braille, audio tape or disk and can be translated on request.

8. Timetable for the consultation, decision making and implementation process

The consultation period will run from the Monday 10th June to Wednesday 24th July 31st July 2019

Below is the estimated timetable for the decision making process:

Date	Activity
10 June 2019	Consultation commences
19 June 2019	Public meeting for parents, carers, staff and the local community to be held at 6:00pm at Oaklands Community School, Old Bethnal Green Road, Bethnal Green, E2 6PR.
25 June 2019	This proposal will also be considered as part of the Children and Education Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on Tuesday 25 th June 2019. This meeting is open to the public to attend and the agenda is published one week in advance of the meeting. For more information please visit: http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgAgendaManagementTimetable.aspx?XXR=0&DD=2019&RP=973&ACT=Find For more information on the scrutiny function of this committee please contact Elizabeth Freer (Strategy and Policy Manager, Children and Culture): Elizabeth.Freer@towerhamlets.gov.uk
26 June 2019	Public meeting for parents, carers, staff and the local community to be held at 6:00pm at Raine's Foundation School, Approach Road, Bethnal Green, E2 ELY.
Other meetings will also be held during the consultation, specifically for staff and for parents, and they will receive information about these meetings directly.	
24 July 2019 31 July 2019	End of consultation period
July/August 2019	Report prepared for council cabinet
September 2019	Decision by Council on whether to publish a Statutory Notice and proposals to close Raine's Foundation School as part of its amalgamation with Oaklands School.
October 2019	Statutory Notice and Proposals drafted* (if decision above is to proceed with the closure and amalgamation process) and start of the formal representation period.)
4 November 2019	Publication of Statutory Notice and proposals
2 December 2019	End of statutory period for representations and final date for responses to the proposal.
January 2020	Report prepared for council cabinet
January 2020	Decision taken by Council on the closure of Raine's Foundation School as part of its amalgamation with Oaklands School*
31 August 2020	Raine's Foundation School closes as part its amalgamation with Oaklands School*

***These stages will apply only if the proposal is approved by the Council**

9. Raine's Foundation School Data

Table A - Historical 1st Preference Applications

The table below shows the number of first preference applications for admission to Raine's in Year 7 for the past six years. The number of applications for admission to Year 7 in September 2019 was so low that it may prove very difficult, if not impossible, to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to this group of children.

School Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1st Pref Applications	65	62	57	62	45	29

* Based on applications at the secondary transfer (31st October) closing date.

Table B - Historical and Predicted Number of Pupils on Roll

The table below shows the number of pupils on roll at Raine's for the past four years and the projected pupil roll for the next four years, based on current application and enrolment trends. The number of pupils on roll at Raine's has declined over several years, despite a steady increase in the borough's year 7 cohort.

School Year	Historical Number on Roll (Yr 7 - 11)				Predicted Number on Roll (Yr 7 - 11)			
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number on Roll	518	437	430	388	346	301	275	221

*Based on January Pupil Census.

Table C - Historical Number of Pupils on Roll in the 6th Form

The numbers of students in the Raine's School 6th Form has also declined since 2014, with only 132 students across the two year groups. It is also well below the DfE's recommended minimum size of 200 students for a School 6th Form. The breadth of choice available to 6th form students is also below the DfE's recommendation of at least 15 A level subjects. The School's 6th form is not therefore sustainable, given the current student numbers, limited curriculum and recent government changes to Post-16 funding arrangements.

School Year	Historical Number on Roll (Yr 12 and 13)					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number on 6 th Form Roll	157	160	151	122	132	132

*Based on January Pupil Census.

Table D - The School's Financial Position

Based on the predicted numbers on roll, Raine's Foundation School's current and projected budget is not sufficient to meet its ongoing costs. Staff pay is the single most expensive item in the school budget and it typically represents 70% of expenditure.

The school would require a minimum stable roll of 550 - 600 pupils in Years 7 -11 to address its funding shortfall, repay its licensed deficit and thereby enable it to reach a financially sustainable position.

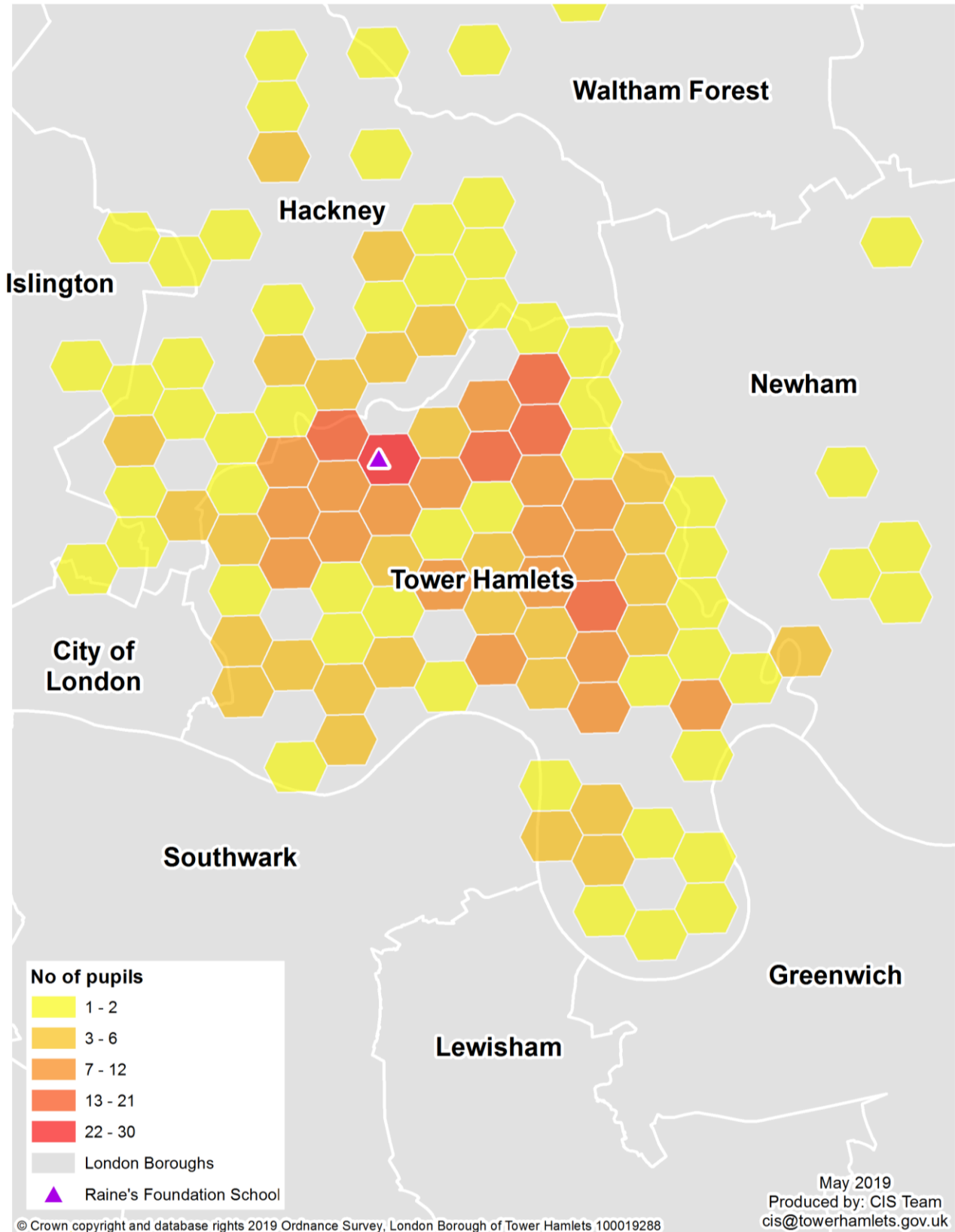
School Year	Historical Number on Roll (Yr 7 -11)				Predicted Number on Roll (Yr 7 - 11)			
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number on Roll	518	437	430	388	346	301	275	221
Budget	4.010m	3.526m	3.447m	3.136m	2.754m	2.360m	2.124m	1.681m
Running costs (exclude employee costs)	1.170m	1.170m	1.170m	1.170m	1.170m	1.170m	1.170m	1.170m
Employee costs (70%)	2.768m	2.433m	2.379m	2.164m	1.928m	1.652m	1.487m	1.177m
(Deficit) / surplus	72k	- 77k	- 102k	- 198k	- 344k	- 462k	- 533k	-666k

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. With these low numbers, and a reduced budget, Raine's will have to significantly reduce its staffing. The school is projecting deficits in year of £344k in 2019/20 and £462k in 2020/21, and a cumulative deficit of approx. £2.4m by 2022/23. A previous licensed loan from the LA for £1m in 2017-18 would also need to be added to this deficit, bringing its total to £3.4m. These figures are based on pupil number assumptions of 346 in 2019/20 and 301 in 2020/21. The position will be worse if pupil numbers decline further. The school improvement support costs are in addition to this sum.

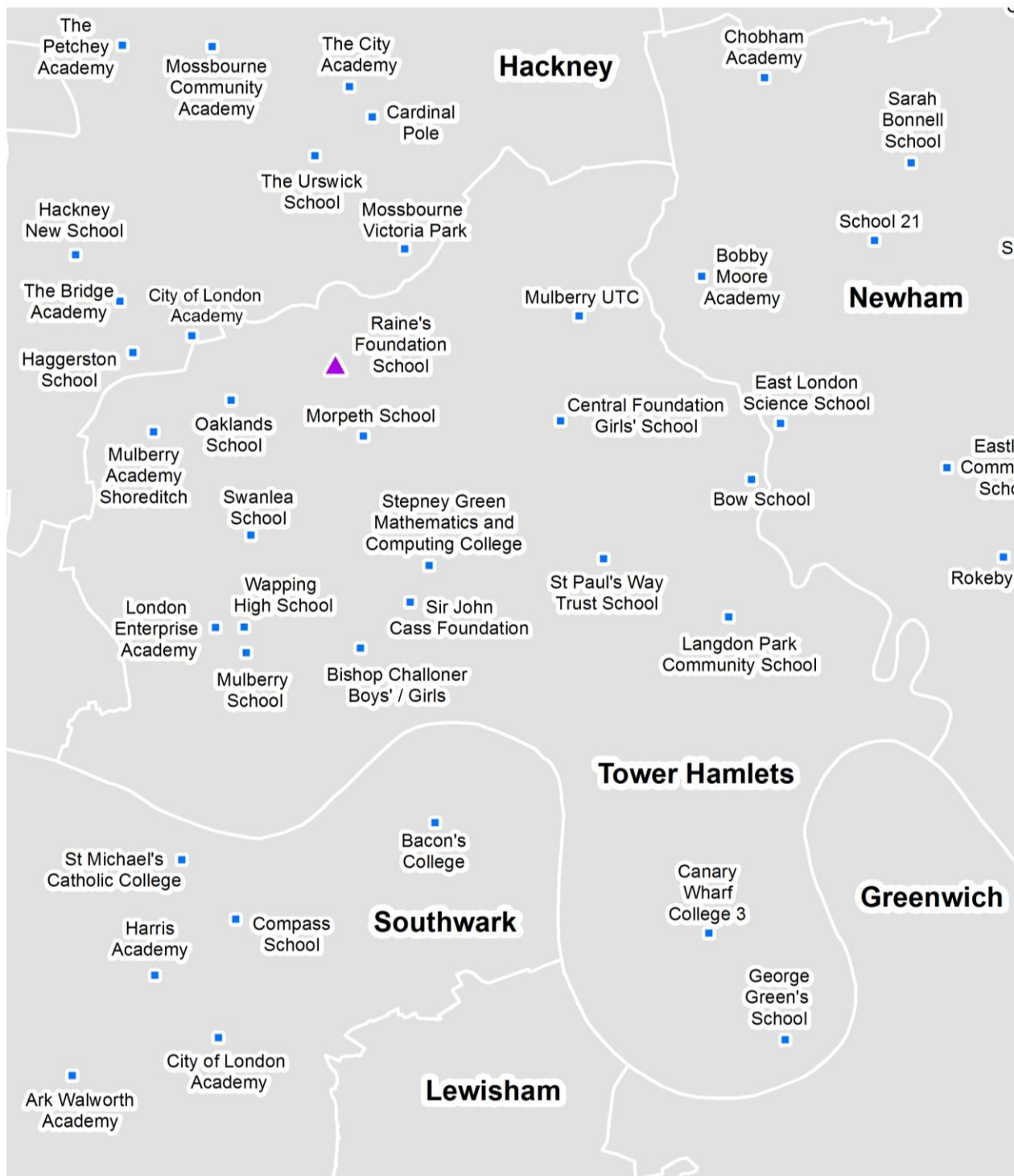
Based on the current position and the predicted number on roll over the foreseeable future, there appears to be no reasonable prospect of recovery for Raine's.

10. Maps

Map 1 - Where pupils currently attending Raine's Foundation School live



Map 2 – Secondary Schools in and around the Tower Hamlets area



- ▲ Raine's Foundation School
- Other Secondary School's
- London Boroughs

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May 2019
Produced by: CIS Team
cis@towerhamlets.gov.uk

All map data sourced from: <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>

End.