



## **ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - Consultation Q&A Part Two (1.11.22)**

**Further answers to parental questions.**

### **1. What attempts have been made to bring in extra income?**

The consultation document, which we gave to parents, and which is on [the consultation website](#), explains how a school is funded. Schools are funded on a per pupil formula basis and the number of pupils attending the school drives the level of funding received by the school. St Dominic's School has seen a drop in pupils joining the school over recent years. This is typical of most of Camden's primary schools and of nearly all Inner London schools. Were the school to try to bring in extra income, such as hall lettings, car boot sales and the like, we think it is highly unlikely that these would generate the level of income required to offset the fall in per pupil funding each year. Such activities, outside of school hours, could also impact how the school is managed and take the school away from its primary purpose of children's education.

### **2. What further cuts would have to be made to make the school financially sound if it stays open?**

Over the last few years, we have taken several steps to reduce costs and, in recent months, have considered a number of options to further reduce costs. Short of making redundancies, the governors feel that there are no other ways to further reduce costs without compromising children's safeguarding and their education.

### **3. What changes have been made so far to bring costs down?**

The Headteacher and School Business Manager are already working with a local Catholic primary school and their costs are being shared across the two schools. St Dominic's has also stopped using some areas of the building to save on utility costs, and we have restructured the way staff are used in a number of areas. This has helped - but not enough to cover the loss the school is making due to reduced pupil numbers.

### **4. Are there enough places at other Catholic primary schools in Camden to accommodate the children from St. Dominic's?**

Yes, there are places available in other Camden Catholic primary schools. We understand that the two nearest primary schools - The Rosary in Belsize Park, and St Patrick's, in Kentish Town - have been able to offer some places. Further down the borough: Our Lady's in Pratt Street, Camden Town, and St Joseph's, in Holborn (both accessible by bus or tube)

have places across all classes. Some parents have asked about distances and the cost of new uniforms. We have asked the schools named here for further information, which will be conveyed to parents.

**5. If closure goes ahead, what would the Diocese plan to do with the school building?**

During the consultation, we do not believe it would be appropriate to suggest that the outcome is pre-determined, and that the land-owners are considering alternative options. The current focus of the Diocese and the school is to support the community as it debates the future of St Dominic's.

- Please also refer to the consultation document and Part One of the Governors' FAQs on [the consultation web page](#).