

Statutory Proposal to close St Michael's Church of England Primary School

1. Contact details

Name and address of the proposer: Governing Body of St Michael's C of E Primary School, 88 Camden Street, London NW1 0JA.

Name, address and category of school proposed to be discontinued: St Michael's C of E Primary School, 88 Camden Street, London NW1 0JA.

2. Implementation

Date on which it is proposed to close the school: **30 April 2023.**

3. Reason for closure

The proposal arises due to a fall in pupil numbers and the impact of this on the future viability of the school. The current number of primary school children in Camden is below what is needed to fill its schools. In Camden, births fell by 24% from 2012 to 2021.

The areas most affected by unused school places are in the centre of the Borough, including the areas around St Michael's C of E Primary School. There are a significant number of spare places within the Borough and in local schools, and a high percentage of unfilled reception places.

The school has not taken on any new pupils from September 2022. All pupils previously on the school's roll have been offered a school place at Our Lady's Primary School or have transferred to other schools in the Borough.

4. Pupil numbers and admissions

Numbers of pupils for whom provision is currently made at the school: St Michael's C of E Primary School is a maintained co-educational voluntary aided school for pupils aged 3 to 11. The school had a published admission number (PAN) of 30 for each year group, giving a total of 210 places. Numbers at the school fell acutely to 105 (50% vacant places) by 2022. The school did not take on any new pupils from September 2022. All pupils previously on the school's roll have been offered a school place at Our Lady's Primary School or have transferred to other schools in the Borough.

5. Displaced pupils

All pupils that attended the school have been offered and chosen places in local primary schools in Camden.

6. Impact on the community

This will not impinge on the Council's duty to provide appropriate statutory education for all residents who require it. The school has not taken on any new pupils from September 2022. All pupils previously on the school's roll have been offered a school place at Our Lady's Primary School or have transferred to other schools in the Borough.

All pupils have continued to access to Ofsted rated 'good' or 'outstanding' local provision. Existing surplus school places within all Camden primary school planning areas mean that future pupils will continue to have access to local provision. Additionally, future pupils will have access to a more sustainable school system as a result of this proposal.

7. Rural primary schools

N/A.

8. Balance of denominational provision

Currently the number of first preference applications for Church of England primary school places could be met by the current level of places, inclusive of the removal of St Michael's C of E Primary School. In addition, 10 out of 38 maintained Camden primary schools would remain as Church of England voluntary aided provision. Should the proposal be implemented, there will remain an appropriate balance of Anglican places meeting the pupil demand within the Borough.

8. Maintained nursery schools

The Council's current Childcare Sufficiency Assessment indicates that there is currently, enough childcare provision, including nursery places, to meet Borough demand.

9. Sixth form provision

N/A.

10. Special educational needs provision

No school places were specifically reserved for pupils with special educational needs at St Michael's C of E Primary School. The school does however have a significant proportion of pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) or additional needs. The Council worked to identify the additional needs of all the children. It focused on those pupils with an EHCP, ensuring that the right levels of support continue to be in place for those pupils who require it.

12. Travel

All alternative school places are within the statutory walking distance for primary aged children.

13. 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: nicholas.smith@camden.gov.uk

Post: Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation, 5PS (Floor 8),
Freepost LBC MAILROOM, London Borough of Camden,
Town Hall, London WC1H 9JE.

Closing date for responses is Thursday, 9 March 2023 at midnight. For more information on this proposal, please visit: camden.gov.uk/stmichaels