

**Updated Appendix Five**  
Petitions raised during the Representation period

Petition posted on Lewisham.gov.uk

We are parents of children at Sir Francis Drake (SFD). Most of us have chosen SFD because it is a small primary school with a good record of academic achievement and has been part of our local community for over 50 years now. The School is located on a small site which we believe is appropriate for the current size of the School (210 pupils). Our children enjoy good inside and outside space and although the school might not be sleek and modern it is still in a good condition and has all the facilities necessary to ensure that its pupils and staff can work together as one happy family.

We are very concerned about the proposed plans to enlarge SFD. We believe that doubling the school to 420 pupils will completely change the school's personality. The size of the school and the close-knit community that arose from this, were the key reasons why we chose SFD in the first place. The expansion would result in having a large building on the same size of land which could potentially lead to significant reduction class spaces, cramped common areas and smaller outdoor facilities, which would simply not accommodate 420 children appropriately.

We are particularly concerned about the lack of information on the proposed building plans and how the Lewisham Council proposes to carry out building works alongside the ongoing functioning of the school. A number of us tried to obtain this information from your department but none was provided. In order for it to be a fair consultation process rather than a tick-box exercise we request the following:

- Details of proposed building works and detailed plans of the proposed school layout
- The budget for these works and who will be providing it
- How the proposed changes will affect the current classroom sizes and the outdoor space
- What is the added value that the proposed expansion will bring to the CURRENT users of the school
- How the Council is going to handle the teaching process while the proposed building works take place
- How and when would new staff be recruited to deal with the additional numbers

Until we receive the above information we will continue to strongly oppose the expansion of our School.

Although we understand that there is a need for further primary school places in the area we do not feel that it is fair for our school to bear the responsibility to provide these in the manner which is currently being proposed. The Council has approved a lot of new building in the area close to SFD but failed to secure the provision of new schools to meet the demand. This is utterly irresponsible and can only be met with opposition from the local residents and particularly from families with children in SFD.

Online 38 DEGREES

# SAVE SIR FRANCIS DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM DEMOLITION

**TO: STEVE BULLOCK MAYOR OF LEWISHAM**

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*Dear Mayor,*

*Please don't demolish our well maintained school to replace it with the governments first ever "Baseline design" Austerity school.*

## **Why is this important?**

Statutory Public notice is on the school gate and ends on June 10 Local people have not been made aware of the councils plans and so have not been able to be fully engaged in the process of consultation.

Sir Francis Drake Primary school is in one of Lewisham boroughs most deprived areas Evelyn Ward, it a local one form entry community school with capacity for 210 children.

52% of school pupils are have English as a second language,

41% are on free school meals and the proportion of disabled pupils and special educational needs is above average.

Despite the disadvantages -Currently it is in the top 8% of school in the country for the 2013 SATS and recognised by the DFE as in the top 250 schools in the country measured by the progress made by disadvantaged pupils. The RT Hon David Laws MP Secretary of State congratulated the school for "being exceptionally effective in educating disadvantaged children providing them with a good start in life and a strong springboard into secondary education".

Ofsted: Pupils thoroughly enjoy school and this is reflected in their attendance, which is above average.

The school provides a very positive and vibrant learning environment, and pupils therefore feel safe and secure. All pupils are equally valued, as the school motto indicates, 'Everyone is valued and all succeed.' This ensures that the school strongly promotes equality of opportunity, and does not tolerate any form of discrimination.

Pupils have extremely positive attitudes towards learning, and engage thoughtfully in all activities. Their behaviour around the school is often exemplary. They get on well together, and show considerable respect and care for each other.

Despite its success the school has become earmarked for demolition and on its tiny site the plan is to rebuild it as a 3 storey "Pilot" Austerity "baseline design" school with reduced classroom space to provide 30 reception places for 2016 and doubling the capacity of children to 420 on the same small site.

#### Baseline Design schools (Aka Austerity schools)

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is seriously concerned about the unproven 'Austerity School' scheme. RIBA President Angela Brady said: 'Our students, teachers and local communities deserve great schools - environments that are beneficial to the best-quality teaching and learning. In these times of austerity of course we need to cut our cloth on all spending; however, the government's proposals for the design and construction of future schools are far too restrictive with too much focus on short-term savings.

They say that the scheme's overall space reduction is 'ignoring the safeguarding of environmental comfort' and it is 'not ensuring discipline and student wellbeing'. They maintain that there is 'a failure to create functional spaces for excellent teaching', that 'students and teachers will be deprived of quality environments that are proven to support teaching and learning' and the scheme is 'disregarding statutory requirements for accessibility and inclusion'.

The RIBA believe that it does 'not deliver long-term sustainability and value'.

Only time will tell the success of this scheme but for now, the children of SFD will become the first 'guinea pigs' for the success or failure of this type of building development.

Why is this happening? The council is allowing private developments to build new homes without adequate primary provision. Instead the council has over the last four years opted to enlarge 75% of their primary schools instead.

Locally we have 1432 new homes being built but the council says it has no sites to build new schools.

Demolishing Sir Francis Drake will not resolve the need for primary places for the developments the council has agreed but it will permanently disrupt and change it irreparably.

The council says "The Mayor and Cabinet report (April 9th 2014) provides evidence that there is a need for a school in this locality looking forward to the end of this decade. The due diligence conducted by the government's Education Funding Agency, which would manage the new build, also confirms this."

We are asking the council to build a new school that they truly need- a new school would bring an additional 60 reception places in to the locality.

We say no to the demolition and rebuild of our successful well maintained, inclusive and diverse little community school so that's it "exceptional work" can go on.

originals,  
SFD

# Petition to Save Sir Francis Drake Primary from Demolition.

We the undersigned object to the proposal to demolish Sir Francis Drake Primary school.

Sir Francis Drake Primary school is a one form entry local community school currently it is in the top 8% of schools in the country in the 2013 SATs and is recognised by the DfE as being among the top 250 schools in the country measured by the progress made by disadvantaged pupils. It currently has capacity for 210 children.

The plan is to demolish this successful little school, and on its tiny site rebuild it as a 3 storey "pilot" "Austerity school" with reduced size classrooms to make 30 additional reception places in 2016 and doubling capacity to 420 children on the same small site.

Why is this happening?

Lewisham council has not retained local historic school sites and is allowing private housing developments to build homes without adequate primary school provision.

To deal with this LC has over the last four years enlarged over 75% of their Primary schools instead. Locally we have 1432 new homes being built and no new schools are planned as LC says there are no sites to build new schools.

Demolishing Sir Francis Drake will not resolve the need for primary places for the housing developments Lewisham council have agreed but it will permanently disrupt and change SFD irreparably and permanently.

The money to demolish and rebuild Sir Francis Drake could be used to build a new school with 60 additional reception places.

We say no to the demolition of this successful well maintained successful community school, and ask Lewisham council to seek an alternative –