



The proposed Closure of St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary school

On the 19th April 2021 the governing body of St Mary Magdalen's Primary School, Lewisham began the process of consultation on a proposal to close the school, in the light of a significant reduction in school roll and the financial position at the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the current position and provide you with an outline and explanation of the next steps in the process.

A statutory consultation took place between the 19th April and the 28th May 2021. The consultation was available to access online via both the school and Diocesan websites and also included two open meetings, to which all groups affected by the proposed closure were invited. This consultation period involved a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, local residents, past pupils and parishioners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who took the time to join the two open meetings that took place and those who completed the questionnaire. The minutes of these meeting will be available on the school and Diocesan websites and hard copies will be available from the school office.

The schools' governing body met on Tuesday 8th June 2021 to consider all views and comments that were submitted during the consultation period. There were no substantive objections from stakeholders, neither were there any viable alternative proposals submitted. In light of this, the governing body of St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School have taken the decision to proceed to the next stage of the process which is to publish a statutory proposal to close the school. The next stages of the process are listed below.

Timeline of Statutory Process	
11 th June 2021	Stage 2 - Publication of the Proposal to close the school
11 th June – 9 th July 2021	Stage 3 – Governing Body Representation period commences. Any comments to be returned to the Lewisham Education Authority.
14 th July 2021	Stage 4 – Decision report to Mayor and Cabinet
Autumn term 2021	Bespoke admissions round for those pupils still at the school.
31 st December 2021	Stage 5 – Proposed implementation of school closure.

Full details of this statutory proposal will be sent out to a proscribed list of consultee as set out in the regulations covering this process. These details will also be made available on both the school's and the Diocesan website. This Representation period will last from 11th June to the 9th July 2021. From this point any comments should be returned in writing to the Lewisham Education Authority. Preferably via email to: matt.henaughan@lewisham.gov.uk

or via post to: Matt Henaughan, Education Services,
2nd Floor, Laurence House,
1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU,

The Governing Body would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude to you for your engagement in this process and to the whole school community for their continued commitment and dedication throughout this difficult and painful time.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of Governors