



## **STATUTORY NOTICE OF THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE.**

### **Proposal to close St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulation 2013 that the Governing Body intends to close St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School. (Howson Road, London SE4 2BB), with an anticipated implementation date of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

#### **Name, address and contact details of proposer:**

The Governing Body of St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School. Howson Road, Brockley, London SE4 2BB. [admin@st-marymagdalens.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marymagdalens.lewisham.sch.uk)

#### **Name, address and category of school:**

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School. Howson Road, Brockley, London SE4 2BB. This is a voluntary aided school.

#### **Implementation:**

The planned implementation of this proposal is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

#### **Reason for closure (as reported to Mayor & Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021):**

The school currently has a significant budget deficit. The number of children on roll makes clear that this financial position cannot be rectified and will, over the coming years deteriorate. There are currently 142 children on roll and this does not include a significant number who have requested a Section 9 letter, for an in-year transfer. The fact that the school is around 60 children below PAN, equates to around £250,000 shortfall in annual school budget income. The school received 12 first preferences for a place in Reception for September 2021. This situation places additional pressure on numbers as 22 children will transfer to secondary school, at the end of this academic year. The falling birth rates across Lewisham and London will mean that the current reduction in demand for school places will continue in the coming years, exacerbating the current issues. School funding is directly driven by pupil numbers, the more pupils a school has, the more funding it receives. Unfilled school places have an immediate cost for schools through a reduction in their budgets, as well as affecting the overall viability and quality of education standards at the school. There is significant overcapacity with regards to school places across all year groups, across the whole local authority. The falling birth rates across Lewisham and London indicates that the current reduction in demand for school places will continue in the coming years, will only exacerbate the current position.

## Pupil numbers and admissions:

**Current school numbers** as at 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

There are currently 72 pupils on roll. The break down of this is as follows:

Year	Total	Male	Female	SEND
R	8	5	3	0
1	12	2	10	2
2	9	4	5	2
3	6	3	3	2 (1 EHCP)
4	10	7	3	3 (1 EHCP)
5	5	4	1	2
6	22	11	11	3 (1EHCP)

The school received 12 first preferences for places in Reception for September 2021. This places additional pressure on numbers, as 22 children will be leaving Year 6 in July 2021.

## Effect on other educational institutions in the area:

As stated there is significant overcapacity across Lewisham, across all year groups. Using data provided by Lewisham Education Authority, as of January 2021 there were 681 places available across all year groups within one mile of the school. For those parents seeking to continue with Catholic education, in April 2021 there were 139 places available in four Catholic schools within 30-minute travel time of St Mary Magdalen's. (Using public transport)

## Displaced pupils, Impact on the community, balance of denominational provision and travel

As stated there are 72 children on roll across all year groups. The tables below will set out how these children can be accommodated in other schools. The tables will also show the level of capacity within other Catholic schools and the availability of places at schools within 35 minutes travel time.

As of January 2021, this table sets out the number of places available across Lewisham schools within a reasonable distance of St Mary Magdalen's

Vacancies @ Jan21								
SchoolName	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total YR-Y6
Ashmead Primary School	0	11	4	22	1	1	9	48
Beecroft Garden Primary	3	2	5	2	7	10	12	41
Dalmain Primary School	6	5	10	6	10	1	18	56
Edmund Waller Primary School	5	3	8	7	9	21	3	56
Gordonbrock Primary School	3	1	2	14	1	7	5	33
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Temple Grove	0	3	3	3	4	0	2	15
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Temple Grove Free School	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
Holbeach Primary School	0	3	0	10	9	7	14	43
John Stainer Community Primary School	3	3	4	5	15	11	9	50
Lucas Vale Primary School	0	4	8	9	17	13	0	51
Myatt Garden Primary School	1	4	3	8	6	11	2	35
Prendergast Ladywell School	0	1	5	3	12	5	15	41
Prendergast Vale School	2	0	1	1	6	5	1	16
St Mary's Lewisham CofE Primary School	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	7
St Stephen's Church of England Primary School	0	5	2	1	2	3	0	13
St William of York Catholic Primary School	6	0	0	0	0	2	4	12
Stillness Infant School	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	12
Stillness Junior School	0	0	0	14	11	10	21	56
Turnham Academy	0	30	26	5	6	12	13	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>681</b>

This table evidences the number of places available at the 4 closest Catholic schools. There are an additional 5 other Catholic schools, at a greater distance, where there are also spaces.

		Places	Route	Time (Mins)	Distance (Miles)
SMM	St Matthew Academy	94	Bus (122)	28	2.5
SMM	St Saviour's	11	Bus (122)	17	2.7
SMM	St William of York	12	Bus (122)	14	1.3
SMM	St Winifred's	22	Thameslink Bus (202)	37	2.9

Our records suggest that there are very few, if any children in school who regularly attend Mass in the parish. Given this fact and the availability of places in both local non-faith schools and Catholic schools, the impact on the community will be limited. A significant number of the teaching staff have already found employment elsewhere, again limiting the impact on the community.

**Commenting on the proposal:**

Comments or responses to this proposal can be presented within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may comment on, support, or object to the proposal in writing to Matt Henaughan via email [matt.henaughan@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:matt.henaughan@lewisham.gov.uk) or post: Education Services, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU.

The closing date for the receipt of responses is 12 noon, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Signed: Pat Barber, Chair of Governors, St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School.  
 Publication date: 11 June 2021