

**FAQs: ST ANNE'S PRE-PUBLICATION CONSULTATION**  
**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE (DISCONTINUE) A VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL**

**January 2025**

- ***What happens during the consultation period and how will you ensure it is accessible for all?***

The consultation process must follow the statutory guidance referenced in the consultation document. Over the consultation period we will be consulting with pupils, parents and carers, staff, other local schools and trade unions and the wider local community.

If there is a need and on request, we can provide translated materials into the required language, and we will pay attention to those parents and carers with additional needs to ensure their voices are heard through this engagement phase.

There will be different forms of engagement, including questionnaires and a face to face QA session at which we will arrange interpreters should the need arise.

- ***Is this a financially driven proposal?***

It is true that the overall schools' budgets have been impacted because of the falling rolls. This decline in funding makes it increasingly difficult to provide adequate resources for the school ultimately impacting the school's ability to provide quality education for pupils.

- ***Will every child affected by this proposal get a place in a local school?***

There are 5 schools within 0.5 of a mile of St. Anne's with a combined vacancy of 265 spaces from reception to Year 6. There are a further 8 schools with 1 mile of St. Anne's that have an additional 285 places to accommodate all children. It is anticipated that every child will be offered a place in a local school within a mile from their home.

We will create a separate admission process to consider all requests. We will work hard to keep siblings together and manage transitions to be a positive experience for children and their families

For children with SEND, we will work closely with the family and SENDCo to ensure appropriate provision is identified and we will aim to keep siblings together.

For children with a social worker in need of help and protection, their social worker will support their individual transitions considering their particular family circumstances.

- ***How will you assess the impact of the school closure on the community?***

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has been shared as part of this consultation and will be reviewed and updated in line with responses received.

- ***How will I be supported if I choose a school outside Wandsworth?***

We will ensure every attempt is made to support parents to transition to schools outside of the borough where possible. The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) will work with parents who would like to be placed in Church schools in other boroughs.

- ***My child has SEND, how will they be supported?***

The SEND service in the local authority where the child resides will work closely with the St Anne's SENDCo to support all children with an EHCP and their families to consider school preferences, taking into account home to school distance. They will also work together to ensure that where there are siblings, they can be placed together to avoid additional pressures on parents. They will give consideration to the wider SEND pupil cohort to manage transitions well and address any concerns parents may have.

- ***What support will be available to parents whose children will be affected by this proposal?***

Advice and guidance from a range of professionals from the Local Authority (LA) and SDBE will be available on school vacancies and the admission processes, managing the transition, supporting your children.

Financial support towards the cost of new school uniforms will also be provided to parents of children in Reception to Year 5.

All relevant documents will be translated for those who may require it and we will provide interpreters for the face to face Q&A session for ease of understanding.

We will facilitate conversations with local schools to support the transition process for your child(ren).

## **Staff**

- ***What support will be available to staff affected by this proposal?***

Governors will work together with the LA, SDBE and school leaders to support staff as we navigate this process together. We will work with all Wandsworth and wider Church of England school leaders to ensure we retain teaching and non-teaching talent into our local school community. We will be guided by staff in relation to their needs, but this may include CV writing, interviews skills to support them to secure future employment.

- ***When will we have support people we can talk to about our futures?***

We recognise that the proposals will be concerning for many staff and will ensure support is available for staff as they need it. Although the outcome of the proposal is still to be decided there will be general support from Human Resources colleagues from the LA and SDBE. Meetings will be arranged for any staff who would like to discuss options and get advice. If a decision is made to close the school, more formal advice will be given to all staff in meetings and 1-to-1 sessions.

- ***Is there a chance the school could close earlier than 31 August?***

No. Even if the decision is made to close the school, the school will remain open for all pupils and staff until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2025.