



St Aloysius Catholic Primary

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In Jesus we learn, love and grow together

Wednesday, 24th April 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

The Future of St Aloysius Primary School – a consultation

**We invite all parents to meet with us at the lower school site
on Thursday 25 April at either 2.30pm or 6pm**

Sadly, I'm writing to let you know that the governing body will be consulting you about whether St Aloysius Catholic Primary School should close - with the children being offered places at alternative schools.

Why are we considering closing the school?

This step is being taken after discussions with the Diocese of Westminster and Camden Council.

The governors' decision to consult on closing the school has primarily been made because the number of primary school-age pupils locally – and across central London - has significantly reduced. There have been fewer applications for school places at St Aloysius Catholic Primary School in recent years, and a smaller number of children in the school means that the school is no longer attracting enough funding to maintain current staffing levels in future.

In addition, the school buildings are coming to the end of their useful life, and would now require significant investment to bring them up to modern standards. Several nearby schools have benefited from new buildings and can offer state of the art education facilities to local families who may otherwise have chosen St Aloysius.

We are particularly saddened that this has happened at a time when the staff and school leadership have made great strides in improving the teaching and learning for children. Camden Council and the Diocese both recognise the positive contribution made towards improving the school and the outcomes for children.

What will happen next?

The views of parents and the local community are being sought between now and 5 June 2019. All views will be considered and reported upon before any decision is taken. Please respond to the consultation with any concerns you may have.

Feedback forms are available at both school sites, and you can return these to reception.

What will happen to the children who attend the school if it closes?

Our overriding priority is to ensure that children can continue to access the best possible Catholic teaching and learning in Camden.

- The nearest Catholic Primary School, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, is able to expand to accommodate children from St Aloysius. This is designed to provide continuity for those families who value the ethos and mission of a Catholic education;
- There are currently places available in all local primary schools, and families will have a choice of schools for their child if St Aloysius Catholic Primary School closes. The aim is to provide an offer to best fit their preferences and circumstances;
- Parents and carers will be given sufficient time to consider their options. Face to face support will be on offer for those families who need help with the decision;
- No child will be left without the offer of a suitable school place if the school closes;
- Discussions will also be taking place at an early stage with school staff and their unions to identify opportunities for future employment.

The next few weeks and months will be challenging and I wish to reassure you that every step taken will be for the benefit of our wonderful school community and that your child will have a school place to go to if the final decision to close the school is taken.

We expect a decision to be taken just before the end of the school term in July, and will communicate the outcome to you before the summer holiday starts.

- **We invite all parents to meet with us at the lower school site on Thursday 25 April at either 2.30pm or 6pm**
- **We undertake to listen and answer your questions and concerns over the following 6 weeks; information will be available on the school gates and at both receptions.**

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Harvey
Chair of Governors