

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 05/04/2023 16:12:17 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Y do you need to close school we're my kids been there deom nursery |
| 05/04/2023 16:14:01 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | My question is if other school near our one is closing and going to be out together with prenses May what if parents doesn't want the kids to go their why can't they come to our school so ours wouldn't close , most people in this school is in temporary house, social housing and can not afford to take kids to new schools with buses including myself I have 3 kids and need to keep them together |
| 05/04/2023 16:15:51 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | how do you propose to commit to the adequate education required for children in year 6. There will be much anxiety for this year group as they prepare for year 7. The added stress of school closures need to be adequately supported for both the child, the school and parents. |
| 05/04/2023 18:14:18 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | I do not think De Beauvoir should be closed. In my humble opinion Hackney Education are neglectful of educational provision on this side of the borough in comparison to that in South and Central Hackney. There is already a serious lack of nursery provision and places in Dalstion and De Beauvoir especially for special needs children it is even worse. Also the lack of nursery places simply does not correlate with the vast number of spare places in De Beauvoir in various year groups. Hackney education have done nothing to promote De Beauvoir to prospective parents in recent years, despite it being rated by OFSTED as good with outstanding features. To me it feels like parents of potential students have instead been encouraged to send their children to other neighbouring schools, including Hackney New Primary school which should never have been approved due to its unsafe location on a busy road. Many parents of children there, who I spoke to on social media a while back felt like Hackney promoted Hackney New School as their only option even though they were in the catchment for De Beauvoir too. Some would have preferred to send their children to De Beauvoir. De Beauvoir have been excellent over the years with regard to nurturing my special needs children, four of whom have either passed through the school or are still there. The headteacher and previous SENCOs have bent over backwards and gone out of their way to make referrals to the relevant services and to chase up any progress. My *** is due to start *** at De Beauvoir in September 2023, this was after she was rejected for multiple other *** places in Hackney due to her being a special needs child. The way that the nursery and reception classes are in together in De Beauvoir appealed to me as it meant she would not have the stress of transitioning to a whole new class until year one. Now that looks unlikely to happen and after nursery she will be forced to transition to another setting which is likely to be a greater distance away from home and that may not be as suitable for her special needs |
| 07/04/2023 11:18:01 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School, Princess May Primary School | On my behalf | When will they close down the school? |
| 07/04/2023 11:25:04 | Staff member - at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | We've got 4 different entries in our building, which give's opportunity for others (companies that you can lend & hire for sometimes in the future) until we get to have more numbers pupil's in the future, so we can remain on the first floor as we are at the moment...or we've got apex building next to main building, is there any opportunity we can move there until we get to have more children) can you please consider other options if you can but not closure of De Beauvoir Primary school PLEASE ..? Thank you. |
| 08/04/2023 11:06:13 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | We are very sad to hear about the possible closure of De Beauvoir Primary School. My children have had access to the very best education and care. It is such a shame that the school, which provides such an important source of education, care, advice and support for the local community, could close. staff have been excellent teaching and learning role models and their professionalism and their high regard and care for the children have never faltered. They were exceptional during lockdown and the opportunities they provide in terms of trips and workshops are fantastic. The staff go above and beyond to ensure that their children get the very best and I feel sad to know that others may not get the same high standard of education and care. The school building itself has generous sized classrooms and a good-sized outdoor area. This combined with the excellent leadership and management of the school would be a significant loss to the current and future children of De Beauvoir. |
| 13/04/2023 15:17:50 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | As a parent of a child SECO need | Will you be changing the name of the Nighthingale primary . (2) Will u be turning the Nighthingale into an Academy if merge where to be passed. Finally will bigger merged school be getting more staff i.e teachers, wellbeing officer to help the children transition into this big change and not impact learning/outcomes for children. |

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| 14/04/2023 12:01:03 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School | On my behalf | I don't want that Baden Powell primary School merge with nightingale primary school. Baden Powell has a wonderful staff and a very nice big playground for all ages / all classes (nightingale don't have this) and Baden Powell is a small school so it's perfect for children they feel not well in a big school with a lot of children in a small place. My children feel very well in Badenpowell so they are very sad since they know about this problem. I don't want you to play with my children's future. So pls stop this merge and leave Baden Powell as a small wonderful primary School. Education means not new buildings with a lot of children in there, for me it's much much better in small school so everyone knows everyone and the TEACHERS HAVE MORE TIME FOR THE CHILDREN and they know the children's so they can help more like Baden Powell. |
| 14/04/2023 14:20:37 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | The factor that affect the low school capacity is that a lot of family moving out of the borough. There are not enough Social Housing within the borough. What are you going to do to attract more family to live in the borough to avoid the school been closed or merged. |
| 14/04/2023 14:30:47 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Alot of these other schools were not or equipped to take on children with SEND needs but now you want to place then in these schools we're Randal Cremer was doing what the inheritance schools could not do? |
| 14/04/2023 14:56:46 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | How are decision made and why . What's gona happen all students Teachers and staff. All parents unhappy and worried for kids education.. |
| 14/04/2023 19:14:39 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | At what percentage has the amount of pupils decreased at Randal Cremer Primary School? I find it absurd and that cannot be true, the school is based in an area surrounded with buildings and homes and majority of those homes with children come to Randal Cremer. I won't stand by this nor accept this decision. I will be looking forward to the agreement and decision making from the council. Randal Cremer has been around for years, myself, now 24, has always attended Randal Cremer. It should not shut! Me and family do not want my brother who's attending Randal Cremer, to go through such saddening changes. |
| 14/04/2023 20:23:30 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | If not because of an underhand move to acquire prime land for Real Estate purposes; I don't see why the option of merging, as opposed to closing down; is not afforded to Randal Cremer School. Especially as it has fantastic facilities and is easily accessible via public transport. |
| 15/04/2023 08:15:40 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | It was really a sad one at moment especially for the children... my question is can govt still consider Randal cr mer to stay??? |
| 15/04/2023 11:09:27 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School | On my behalf | My child would be in year* if you were to merge , Would we have to buy a whole new set of uniform just for one year ? Will children with learning difficulties have the same support or extra support put in place for them not to be affected ? |
| 15/04/2023 11:45:42 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Is there enough spaces in other local Hackney schools for the children affected by the closure? Can we be provided with the facts and figures that show us that this has been thought of and there is enough space? |
| 15/04/2023 21:07:50 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | 1)Is this going to effect on uniform too? 2)what about staff ? Is there going to be additional teaching assistant as the number if the students in the class will increase? |
| 15/04/2023 21:08:28 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | What measures are been put in place for pupils with Special needs to make sure that this changes has no effect on their education, what will happen to the staffs at Baden Powell school, will the two schools be given a new name, how will the receiving school accept the students, how will they be made to feel welcome, how will you ensure that they are not going to be bullied and made to feel like an outsider, will the uniform be changed, will there be any support to purchase the uniform if changed, will the pupils size in this merge schools not be too much, what will happen to the Baden Powell School site, |
| 17/04/2023 07:27:30 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Many children will miss their school and impact their education . |
| 17/04/2023 13:14:09 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Why isn't De Beauvoir being put forward for closure and not put forward as potential merge with another school at the De Beauvoir site, as it has the space. |

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| 17/04/2023 19:00:05 | Hackney resident | | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Is there a plan to for the empty school sites? Could alternative provision be looked at to create provision for children who are currently unable to attend school, particularly autistic children with EBSA? What percentage of children at Nightingale school have an EHCP and how many are SEN Support? With SEN in mind, how do you predict the merger will impact on those children whose parents initially chose a small 1 form entry for their child in light of the child's needs? Nightingale is due to receive funding for an ARP. How will staff impact on the space in the school along with a potential 2 form entry? Is there room? Will there be crowding? Is Nightingale built to have 2 forms per year? Will all staff including cleaners and mod day supervisors receive training in SEN especially if the school is to expand? |
| 17/04/2023 19:02:19 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | What are you plan for SEN kids? Which school are you planning to send all the kids at the school because all our local school have no vacancies? What are your plans for siblings at the school? It took my ** good 2 years to settle at the school and still have difficulties sometimes got SEN What support and care are you going to give to settle in a another school? I can't take my ** to a school where I have to travel by bus because it will be to much overwhelming for my ** and car with all the road closure and parking and expenses I can't afford that, I need a walking distance school for my ** not to much walking as they get tired easily and refuses to walk at times how are you going to help me with this situation? To start all over again at a new school it's going to be very hard for them at Randall cremer school they know what to do with them how to handle them how can you reassure me that another school would be able give them the same care? I have ** children at the same school and one more starting in September can you reassure me that I would get place in a school of my choice for all my children? **** |
| 17/04/2023 19:02:59 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Hi could you elaborate on what would happen to the Baden Powell site in the event of a merger. Would it be demolished and used for other purposes and if so what (housing, park etc) or could it still be used as part of the new merged entity? |
| 17/04/2023 19:04:02 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Hi will the newly merged school be run by the current Nightingale head mistress and governors? |
| 17/04/2023 19:11:55 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | How will this affect the leadership team at Nightingale. Will *** continue as head mistress? How will the senior leadership team be impacted? How many children were there be per form entry? |
| 17/04/2023 20:30:51 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Unfortunately I can't make the meeting tomorrow(18.4.2023) but I have concerns about the merge. My *** attends Nightingale primary school and he is now in reception. I understand that they don't have enough students at the Baden school, thats why they will close/ merge with our school. Which means to enable to have double class in each year our children will be seperated from there friends they have been together since nursery, how will this effect them? Im concernd this will no doubt effect all children even so the sensative ones and special needs children. This in effect will reflect in their development in their studies and mentally, what support will be provided by school/ Hackney council in such case? Will there be a new headteacher or will there be 2? Will the uniform remain the same? Will the children have limited playtime, food at lunchtime or snacks. Hoe w will the,m teaching time be allocated? will there be enough time for teachers to do 1 to 1 to support children? How safe will the outings be? I look forward to receiving some sort of miutes from the meeting for parents that can't attend. Kind regards ***** |
| 17/04/2023 22:07:10 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Me and my child really shocked, shocked and shocked ya |
| 18/04/2023 09:50:23 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | I have * children one of whom is SEN. If the school closes will we be guaranteed a place in our chosen school which is local to our home. Alternatively why can't our school merge with De Beauvoir that way our SEN children will be settled, as it has taken them a long time to settle in to this school. |
| 18/04/2023 15:57:35 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Would my daughter class year will remain same or would she will be separated from her peers into the new class with new children and staffs? If yes then could you please explain how this will not affect her emotional and mental health well being. |

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| 19/04/2023 11:27:37 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | <p>1. Do you not feel this is disruptive to children at Baden Powell, Baden Powell is a small school with 1 class per year to move the pupils to such a large school would be extremely unsettling for the students - has this been taken into consideration?</p> <p>2. I sent my child to Baden Powell due to it being a small school my child has additional needs - How are you going to settle these children</p> <p>3. If parents do not want to send there child to Nightingale school will they be given the option of other primary schools? (do you not feel there is a reason parents have not sent there children to Nightingale considering it is so close to Baden Powell)</p> <p>4. Why can it not be considered that children starting from September are put into Nightingale and Baden Powell admission list closed or could consideration not be taken that those children currently in reception and nursesey start there 1st curriculum year in Nightingale</p> <p>5. Why can it not be done as secondary schools do, and leave the children currently there without taking new admissions</p> |
| 19/04/2023 14:40:50 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | Parent | <p>How do you accommodate the transition from one school to the next (do we have someone to help with applications)?</p> <p>Do the children from the schools who are closing down, entitled to there the first choice of alternative school (a priority list), due to being uprooted from their education?</p> <p>I am based somewhere else in **, however, my child attends Randal Creamer due to my ** being the secondary care giver who picks and drops my child to school. I would need to have my child attend a school situated near my mother. Would catchment area still play a part?</p> |
| 19/04/2023 18:24:05 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | On my behalf | <p>I am unhappy about this closure. The colvestone community has been through a turbulent time due to the actions of Hackney - and yet again the pupils are being uprooted. The school is in one of the best places it has been. Blossom federation has turned things around for the school and I am sure given time numbers will increase.</p> <p>How are FREE schools allowed to continue to run but state maintained are not? Choice of schools will be massively impacted for local parents - the choice will be free schools or religious schools. Hackney has investigated a significant amount of money into colvestone - federating/defederation/restructure/building works and now this</p> <p>Merging with Princess May is not a viable option for many parents that picked a small one from school for their SEND children. It seems completely unfair given the turmoil these children and families have already been faced with. I would like Hackney to reconsider this proposal.</p> |
| 19/04/2023 18:35:23 | Hackney resident | | Baden Powell Primary School, Colvestone Primary School, De Beauvoir Primary School, Nightingale Primary School, Princess May Primary School, Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | <p>I find the statement that pupil numbers are decreasing at the said schools interesting, when in fact, Hackney's population has increased.</p> <p>If it is decide to close one or more school, whatwill Hackney Council do with the building? Will Hackney Council use the property for social housing and not sell the buildings/s to property developer who bids the most?</p> |
| 19/04/2023 19:03:28 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School | On my behalf | <p>My question to the authorities is that they only take into account the money spent on school, do they harm our children mentally and physically, so how does it happen? If you were your own child, would you have behaved the same way? As a mother, I am against this. The school is closed</p> |
| 19/04/2023 20:13:43 | Staff member - at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | <p>As pupil numbers in Hackney are going to continue to decrease, what are the chances that schools that get merged now, might have to go through this again in the coming years?</p> |
| 19/04/2023 20:56:25 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | <p>How will you cater towards kids and their educwtion with less staff</p> |
| 19/04/2023 21:03:47 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | On my behalf | <p>What is going to be done for children with SEN for transition as adaptation issues and for those one that doesn't like crowned environment? As it looks like the children numbers will be done is the teacher and TA going to be enough for children with Special Education? What if we have breakdowns tantrums and what if my child doesn't want to go school because of adaptations issues?</p> |
| 20/04/2023 09:45:13 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | <p>Please we want our school to keep forever</p> |

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| 20/04/2023 14:40:24 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Have we considered working with Hackney education to prioritise the placement of children with ASD into specialist schools or ARP schools instead of moving them to another mainstream school if the De Beauvoir does close? Will additional specialist schools be built in Hackney as these facilities are full to capacity while you are considering closing De Beauvoir due to low admissions? |
| 20/04/2023 16:26:45 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | If Randal Cremer is closed, Hackney is going to lose something very special. Are you able, in your heart, to say that you have done/will do everything possible to avoid this awful loss? |
| 20/04/2023 20:46:19 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Should the school close down, children should be given automatic places in the school of their choice, waiting list or not. |
| 20/04/2023 20:50:14 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | My child starts reception next year, so I had to choose my school for them in January. Why were we not given this information before the deadline for deciding our school applications? I now have to find a place for them as an additional admission when my second and third choice schools have now filled their places. In addition to which you have created a competition for any remaining places at local schools amongst all parents who chose a closing school. |
| 20/04/2023 20:52:00 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | What help will parents of children at closing schools be given in finding a place at another school in time for academic year 2024-5? |
| 20/04/2023 21:38:14 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | You should realise that people are not as stupid as you think but is part of British culture, punch me in the face and I'd say "Sorry". Change is good but not this change, in order to make Hackney "Great" you have to push out the poor class and bring in investors to build fancy flats nobody can afford like Camden and Wembley. This is why Hackney council is doing absolutely nothing to help crowded families and not you'll scatter their kids like they're mean nothing, because you take your kids to private schools you don't care how others will adapt to change. You can even make decisions without taking a vote. I wonder if you were in France, you'd be running. So, my question is: Are the other schools better than Randal Cremer and have enough funds to take good care of my kids? Or, I may just relocate. Thinking Switzerland or Sweden. |
| 21/04/2023 09:11:41 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Why didn't Hackney council merge De Beauvoir primary and Randal Cremer primary school together on Randal Cremer site as a big school. There should be an option of that than closure, Randal Cremer primary school is very good with Autism kids which I have a kid there, when other schools refuse my kids they took me in immediately. On Randal Cremer primary school site we stay. No locking it down please |
| 21/04/2023 09:25:59 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | I'm a parent of * children all of my kids attended Randal Cremer, currently I have * in Yr * remaining in the school who are working extremely hard with the help of the amazing staff. * my siblings also attended the school in the 1990s both of them graduated from Cambridge University who are lawyers and barristers serving the community today due to the foundation of early lives at Randal Cremer was well established, this is the reason I've I choose Randal Cremer for my kids too. My elder daughter one of my * is at university at the moment studying medicine who suffered from panic attacks while at Randal Cremer yet she was supported and overcame her fears and is doing so well in her university life. So when making a decision on closing this school please take these factors into consideration. Thank you. |
| 21/04/2023 11:36:19 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | How definite is the closure of the school? This is very disruptive to the children's learning. Also breaking social bonds with their peers. Ridiculous and unheard of and shameful. |
| 22/04/2023 01:41:48 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | First off all I would like to say thank you. Next I would like to keep our school. I don't know how but sure. Something will be good. |
| 22/04/2023 20:04:59 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | I do not want the council to close Randal Cremer primary school. |
| 26/04/2023 09:50:30 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Please don't close De Beauvoir primary school! it is the best school. |
| 26/04/2023 15:02:43 | Hackney resident | | Princess May Primary School | On my behalf | I wanted to bring my child to nursery |
| 26/04/2023 16:55:50 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | The timeline for making a decision is too late. December is too long for the children, families and staff to be in limbo. And I don't think it gives much time to find school places to start in Sept 2024 |

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| 27/04/2023 14:12:03 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | We want to keep school Randal cremer primary school |
| 27/04/2023 14:28:31 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Why have you proposed to amalgamate Colvestone and Princess May, Baden Powell and Nightingale but not Randal Cremer and De Beauvoir? |
| 27/04/2023 14:43:07 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Do not close Randal Creamer Primary School, it is an amazing school and the staff and headteacher are so delicate and professional with the children. My daughter is doing amazing and was looking forward to send my other daughter there in a couple years time. Please do not close it. |
| 27/04/2023 15:07:37 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Please can you guarantee that all staff will be offered new placements in a school for work no matter the age |
| 27/04/2023 15:11:30 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | How can you ensure that our kids will have place on their local schools? Working parents cannot afford kids staying home because of lack of space. |
| 27/04/2023 15:11:35 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Alot of these schools were not SEND ready or able to offer placements for many Kids with SEND needs but all of a sudden they are supposed to be ready for all these SEND children that they could not support in the beginning |
| 27/04/2023 15:49:28 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 20:30 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council. I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering local children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Local resident near Colvestone Primary School</p> |
| 27/04/2023 17:21:11 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | We want our kids to get good education and carry on with their peers but economical reasons must be consider as well. After enough research and discussions, I am sure our borough will do the best to not waste our funds and future. |
| 27/04/2023 20:15:09 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | I would not like the school to close on the 2 of May. |
| 27/04/2023 23:48:48 | Parent / carer - for a child at another Hackney schoc | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Why is the school closing? |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 11:20:47 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Tue, 25 Apr 2023 at 13:48 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School- THE SEN perspective To: Director of Education</p> <p>I hope you are well.</p> <p>Thank you for attending the meeting at Colvestone on Monday, and thank you for giving me your email address so I could write.</p> <p>I wished to write and further express to you what this school means for my * in particular.</p> <p>* is pure joy and sunshine.</p> <p>* owns any room * walks in.</p> <p>* is creative and unique.</p> <p>The greatest superpower is that despite being autistic, * has and is able to show great empathy and a strong ability to express and discuss * emotions.</p> <p>Despite all the struggles * has had to face due to * neurodiversity, * remains self-confident in all aspects of * life.</p> <p>The biggest challenge * is facing is school and access to education, which is due to the fact * struggles with visual and auditory stimuli processing by * environment and has learning difficulties.</p> <p>Attending a school even like Colvestone that is a one form entry is already a hard mission for *.</p> <p>* first year at reception (Sep 2020) was pretty much a write off, as * needed time to climatise and adapt to the new environment.</p> <p>Despite the fact that * then teachers took things really slow with *, found the demands of school extremely challenging and cried every morning when I was dropping * off.</p> <p>At the end of the reception year we could see that academically * was more than a year behind his peers, so we decided to have him repeat reception. This decision was taken in the August before the school year started and the school supported us fully in our decision to keep * back. There was no argument or discussion, they just listened to what * needed and what * parents advocated for * and gave * that.</p> <p>I have no words for how grateful we are that * needs were respected in such an immediate and supportive way.</p> <p>Reception the second time round (Sep 2021) was hard again, * cried a lot at drop offs, but gradually became more accustomed to the school environment.</p> <p>* writing improved and * started writing * name and being able to copy letters.</p> <p>* recognition of letters was much slower, and by the end of the second year at reception * still had not mastered the letters or numbers, however * seemed more comfortable with the school setting and started to make friends.</p> <p>Forming friendships is one of the things we always worried about, so to see * play with other children, request their company and to be included was a wonderful development.</p> <p>When we started year one in (Sep 2022) * was almost fully adapted to the school environment and would only have the occasional cry in the mornings.</p> |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 11:39:15 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 20:30 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council. I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering local children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Local resident near Colvestone Primary School</p> |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 11:51:14 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | Submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 22:17 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels safe, happy and secure at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for over 8 years. My children have attended the school. Moving my child to another school will be extremely traumatic and disruptive.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school that has offered my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>My *** with ADHD and ODD went to 5 schools in Hackney, including outstanding schools. *** was facing being out of mainstream education and Colveston showed *** love, acceptance and support which totally changed things around and *** is now at a mainstream secondary. The fact that Colveston accommodates for so many children with additional needs and keeps them in mainstream schools saves Hackney a lot of money. My younger ***, like so many other children, is on a 2-3 year wait list for a diagnosis with CAMHS and therefore is not part of the SEN stats we were discussing at the meeting today which were already higher than other schools in the area.</p> <p>I believe the education department are cherry picking the figures to suit their agenda and are not looking at the bigger picture or the cost of cleaning up the mess that will be left by traumatising the SEN children who will have their fragile world torn apart, including providing for many children who will be left outside of the school system.</p> <p>Our children have been through so much from being scared that they will die due to a terrifying virus, mask wearing whereby they can't read people's facial expressions and emotions accurately, being locked down in their homes without socialising with their peers or teacher's, too returning to school and loosing their TA's and headteachers and now just as things were beginning to become "normal" again the council are taking away their normality. This is horrendous for children's social and emotional well-being.</p> <p>Putting Colvestone up for closure has sabotaged our chance to bring up numbers, who will send their kids now? The council's policies that have reduced affordable housing for families has had a direct result on these dwindling numbers. Proposing to spend millions to make Colveston Crescent into a 21st century Show road while closing the school is a ludicrous proposal that shows how inverse the council's priorities are in this.</p> <p>Please support us and oppose these short sighted proposals that will have detrimental effects on the most vulnerable young people in our community.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |
| 28/04/2023 11:54:32 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Why are you closing the school it's one of the best school |

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| 28/04/2023 11:57:19 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 12:44 Subject: Opposition to Colvestone Primary school proposal to merge To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I do not accept that Princess May proposal as a suitable alternative and i am concerned about the future of the building as a community asset.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of *** at Colvestone Primary School, I know my children feels safe, happy and secure at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for over 7 years. Moving my child to another school will be upsetting, difficult and disruptive.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary</p> |
| 28/04/2023 12:01:04 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary Scl | Princess May Primary Scl | On my behalf | Princess may school is the best |

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| 28/04/2023 12:09:15 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Sun, 23 Apr 2023 at 15:35 Subject: Colvestone Primary School (Dalston Hackney) - Consultation to close the school - Disagreement letter to the proposal To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Mr Senior,</p> <p>We are writing to express our disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Dalston (Hackney) by Hackney Council.</p> <p>We believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>We live on *** and have been part of the Dalston community for a long time, we love our diverse community. We have chosen Colvestone Primary school for our *** who is *** and autistic because it provides a required quick journey access, a safe and happy environment (that a small school offers) and a wonderful SEN support (**has a experienced SEN one to one). These are the 3 fundamental poles for *** to access education. It has taken time and great effort for *** to be happy and settled in *** school (3 years now) and changing school at this stage will have an incredible difficult impact on *** and it will be very hard for *** to access education, and this will also have an enormous impact on *** mental health.</p> <p>We are very disheartened by this proposal and in the worst case scenario that this is going ahead, in total honesty, this will have a tremendous effect on *** education and subsequently on our life. When *** was in year 1, after a week at school (Sept. 22) *** refused to go to school and leave the house, it took us 7 months to bridge *** back to school and as you can imagine, it was a real isolated work for us as *** didn't want to go out anymore but with great effort, determination and tedious work we thankfully managed for *** to be happy going out and then managed to bridge her back to school, with the School Senco we worked very hard collaboratively to get *** back and *** did for the end of year one. Now, we have complete faith in the school SEN support which as you may have heard from other families is not a given, *** has an EHCP and now a level 5 in fundings which goes towards *** SEN and *** needs to be cared by someone all the time.</p> <p>But even though, we have all in place on paper, the tremendous work we have had to do with the school in order to secure *** support has been a real effort, as well as working hard to make sure that *** is happy attending Colvestone and for the duration of Primary to year 6.</p> <p>To be honest I can't believe we have to write this and the idea of this plan going ahead is very difficult for us and we are trying not to think about it!</p> <p>We know our child feels safe and happy at Colvestone. We have been part of the school wonderful community for 3 years. Moving our child to another school will be strongly difficult and disruptive in our child's education and have consequences on her achieving long term education goals.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my child an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment, which we strongly believe in. We strongly hope that our wonderful Colvestone Primary School can stay open and all is done to support our school and for our *** to keep accessing education.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |
| 28/04/2023 12:16:32 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary School | Princess May Primary School | On my behalf | I do not feel comfortable with the two schools to be merged as I am afraid the quality of learning offered might be decreased if too many pupils are in one classroom. |

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| 28/04/2023 12:25:08 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary Sch | Princess May Primary Sch | On my behalf | Not agree |
| 28/04/2023 12:28:09 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary Sch | Princess May Primary Sch | On my behalf | When would the merge be happening and how will it affect the children moving forward |

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| 28/04/2023 12:30:03 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Sun, 23 Apr 2023 at 18:30 Subject: Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels happy at Colvestone and is thriving academically. We have been part of the school community for over four years. Moving my child to another school will be upsetting and distributive to her especially given that it took us almost three years for her to settle in and stop crying at drop off every single day.</p> <p>Only days before we were given the news of your plans, you tweeted your commitment to SEND provision in the Borough. Here is your chance to prove that commitment to the SEND children at Colvestone who would find this move particularily distressing.</p> <p>Personally, I'm particularly concerned about the move to Princess May and the children being exposed to further harmful pollution. I think it's quite frankly laughable that you love call yourselves a 'greener' Borough with a vision of 'low traffic neighbourhoods' and and yet you clearly see no issue with our children being moved right next to the A10 with constant traffic over the fence at break times. In case you've forgotten this 'vision' please, see below link:</p> <p>https://news.hackney.gov.uk/low-traffic-hackney-at-heart-of-vision-for-greener-healthier-borough/</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my child an oppotunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment. It is very narrow minded to think that closure is the only way forward here and we will fight you every step of the way!! We will not allow you the opportunity to shaft our children and families in order for to make money from the sale of the school site to the highest developer bid to create more multi-million pound 'luxury apartments' that nobody in the community can afford.</p> <p>This is absolutely disgusting behaviour from a Labour Council!!!!</p> <p>I look forward to your response on the above arguments.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 12:41:51 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 10:28 Subject: Disagreement to recent proposal - Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering the community’s children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Resident of Colvestone Crescent.</p> |
| 28/04/2023 13:28:53 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary Sch | Princess May Primary Sch | Mum | <p>Princessmay is very big and good school. Why it is very importon to full the number of the pupils in the school after the school has very big number of pupils there. Is it more worthy when they are 25 pupils in the class then 20? The lessons will be more less than there more pupils in the class ? Thank you</p> |
| 28/04/2023 13:42:32 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>On Wed, 19 Apr 2023 at 12:46, To: Director of Education</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels happy at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for over just two terms, but already we already feel a real part of the school. Which is a testament to the nurturing culture of the school. As I am sure you understand settling a child into a school is a stressful process both for the child and the family. The school made such an effort with our child, who found the whole transition to school particularly difficult and moving *** to another school will be extremely upsetting.</p> <p>Like every parent we thought very carefully when choosing our school. We chose Colvestone because of its unique close-knit community spirit and also because we felt that it reflected the wonderful diversity of Hackney. This diversity was something that we worried was not reflected in some of the more subscribed schools in the borough. It is very important to us that diverse and inclusive schools such as Colvestone should be protected as a valuable asset for the education of Hackney's children.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>Parents at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 13:45:37 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Thu, 20 Apr 2023 at 14:13 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As neighbour of Colvestone Primary School since 1980, I know children feel happy at the school. The new leadership team has made a positive impact on the school and I have also noticed the improvements to the facilities and the redecoration work carried out.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> |
| 28/04/2023 13:47:11 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Fri, 21 Apr 2023 at 15:58 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Local Resident</p> |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 13:50:20 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Fri, 21 Apr 2023 at 16:11 Subject: Closure of Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and neighbours in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>With best wishes,</p> |
| 28/04/2023 14:10:58 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Fri, 21 Apr 2023 at 15:27 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents, and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a former parent/carer of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child felt secure at Colvestone as it was close to home and continues to be part of the school community over 20 years later. I know that children to another school will be upsetting and disruptive.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Please do not close this lovely school.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Former parent at Colvestone Primary School and current resident of Colvestone Crescent.</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:30:51 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p data-bbox="1180 197 1637 256">Date: Thu, 20 Apr 2023 at 12:53 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p data-bbox="1180 363 1395 381">Dear Director of Education,</p> <p data-bbox="1180 427 2101 507">I hope this finds you well. I'm writing to express my objection to the recent proposals to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney. Aside from the damage this would do to the children of the school, it would destroy a close-knit community of pupils, parents and carers that have Colvestone Primary School at the heart of their community.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 571 2101 754">As a parent I explicitly chose to send my child to Colvestone because it is a small, academically-strong, single form intake, non-religious, non-academy/free community school run by the local authority in Dalston. To close it would be to remove that parental choice, whilst simultaneously destroying a socially-minded community school that has been in the heart of Dalston for 161 years (the school was one of the original Birkbeck schools and opened in 1862). The 'pre-informal' consultation period has been rather brief and, contrary to statutory best practice (p.29, Statutory Guidance for Opening and Closing Maintained Schools, Jan 2023), imposed over a school holiday rather than during term time, I have attempted to draw together the reasons for my objection to this proposal below. I also note that the message received by parents in the school as well as parents applying to the school have made it sound like the decision is already taken, further aggravating intake for the following year.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 778 2101 837">I appreciate the Council's difficult position regarding falling enrolment, but I also note the Council's assurance that this pre-informal consultation is in good faith and that these arguments (and those of fellow parents, teachers, management, the local community etc.) will be integral and weight-bearing in the decision-making process.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 901 2101 1209">I do not believe that history or contemporary research supports the idea of a one-size-fits-all ideal model for education – indeed the Council itself consistently emphasizes parental choice. On a more personal level, as a parent and an educator (university professor) I have seen the positive difference a small, close-knit and diverse community school has on the quality of education for our child and expressly chose that they would go to a single-intake non-faith community school to experience the advantage of being a member of a school and local community rather than to become one of a larger year-group in a larger school. I am aware that the smaller scale of the school and its directly-related capacity to foster such a community across year groups has particular advantage for its SEND pupils, of which (at 17.6%) Colvestone has a particularly high proportion compared to other local schools. Similarly Colvestone's percentage of 7% of students with an EHCP is well above the borough average (7% vs. 4.4%). This is in addition to the positive advantages for the school cohort in general of a small school size. I see this on a daily basis as our child establishes friendship groups across school years and through their development of a particularly strong attachment to the school itself – a sense of pride and investment fostered (rather than disciplinarily-imposed) because he sees himself as an integral part of the wider school community. Closing the school would have a dire impact both on the pupil (and parent) community in general, and specifically on the unusually high proportion of vulnerable children that form an integral part of the Colvestone student body.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 1273 2101 1441">I am aware as a parent that the school has been in consultation with the Council over its structure in recent years and the new leadership team and partnership with the Blossom Foundation, agreed as I understand with the Council, has injected real impetus to the school – an impetus that has been supported by the improvements and repairs to facilities supported by the Council and finished in recent months. It is my understanding that these arrangements have also made the school more financially secure, running a budget surplus, and assured for the forthcoming academic year. In light of all this hard work recently completed, it seems bizarre that that school finds itself at risk of this consultation- one launched, it might be added, at a particularly damaging time in the reception offer/acceptance schedule (the May Council meeting occurring after the acceptance deadline).</p> <p data-bbox="1180 1505 2101 1594">The consultation suggests a merger with Princess May School. In addition to being a two-form intake school Princess May sits directly on the A10 main road that runs through Dalston. According to Council pollution data (hackney.gov.uk/air-quality) the Princess May site has concentration levels of NO2 (nitrous oxide) at an astonishing 40% higher level than the Colvestone site. With LTNs this disparity will at least remain the same if not rise. Princess May's position on the A10 was an explicit reason why we did not apply to the school. It is unclear how (indeed why)</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:33:57 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p data-bbox="1180 197 2103 240">On Wed, 19 Apr 2023 at 15:02, **** wrote: Director of Education</p> <p data-bbox="1180 260 2103 303">I am attaching my letter (in PDF, also in-line text below) of opposition to the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 341 1395 362">Dear Director of Education,</p> <p data-bbox="1180 424 2103 507">I hope this finds you well. I'm writing to express my objection to the recent proposals to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney. Aside from the damage this would do to the children of the school, it would destroy a close-knit community of pupils, parents and carers that have Colvestone Primary School at the heart of their community.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 569 2103 775">As a parent I explicitly chose to send my child to Colvestone because it is a small, academically-strong, single form intake, non-religious, non-academy/free community school run by the local authority in Dalston. To close it would be to remove that parental choice, whilst simultaneously destroying a socially-minded community school that has been in the heart of Dalston for 161 years (the school was one of the original Birkbeck schools and opened in 1862). Though the 'pre-informal' consultation period has been rather brief and, contrary to statutory best practice (p.29, Statutory Guidance for Opening and Closing Maintained Schools, Jan 2023), imposed over a school holiday rather than during term time, I have attempted to draw together the reasons for my objection to this proposal below. I appreciate the Council's difficult position regarding falling enrolment, but I also note the Council's assurance that this pre-informal consultation is in good faith and that these arguments (and those of fellow parents, teachers, management, the local community etc.) will be integral and weight-bearing in the decision-making process.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 837 2103 1147">I do not believe that history or contemporary research supports the idea of a one-size-fits-all ideal model for education – indeed the Council itself consistently emphasizes parental choice. On a more personal level, as a parent and an educator (university lecturer) I have seen the positive difference a small, close-knit and diverse community school has on the quality of education for our child and expressly chose that they would go to a single-intake non-faith community school to experience the advantage of being a member of a school and local community rather than to become one of a larger year-group in a larger school. I am aware that the smaller scale of the school and its directly-related capacity to foster such a community across year groups has particular advantage for its SEND pupils, of which (at 17.6%) Colvestone has a particularly high proportion compared to other local schools. Similarly Colvestone's percentage of 7% of students with an EHCP is well above the borough average (7% vs. 4.4%). This is in addition to the positive advantages for the school cohort in general of a small school size. I see this on a daily basis as our child establishes friendship groups across school years and through their development of a particularly strong attachment to the school itself – a sense of pride and investment fostered (rather than disciplinarily-imposed) because he sees himself as an integral part of the wider school community. Closing the school would have a dire impact both on the pupil (and parent) community in general, and specifically on the unusually high proportion of vulnerable children that form an integral part of the Colvestone student body.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 1209 2103 1374">I am aware as a parent that the school has been in consultation with the Council over its structure in recent years and the new leadership team and partnership with the Blossom Foundation, agreed as I understand with the Council, has injected real impetus to the school – an impetus that has been supported by the improvements and repairs to facilities supported by the Council and finished in recent months. It is my understanding that these arrangements have also made the school more financially secure, running a budget surplus, and assured for the forthcoming academic year. In light of all this hard work recently completed, it seems bizarre that that school finds itself at risk of this consultation- one launched, it might be added, at a particularly damaging time in the reception offer/acceptance schedule (the May Council meeting occurring after the acceptance deadline).</p> <p data-bbox="1180 1436 2103 1594">The consultation suggests a merger with Princess May School. In addition to being a two-form intake school Princess May sits directly on the A10 main road that runs through Dalston. According to Council pollution data (hackney.gov.uk/air-quality) the Princess May site has concentration levels of NO2 (nitrous oxide) at an astonishing 40% higher level than the Colvestone site. With LTNs this disparity will at least remain the same if not rise. Princess May's position on the A10 was an explicit reason why we did not apply to the school. It is unclear how (indeed why) Hackney Council could encourage students to transfer to this site given the known detrimental conditions the site proposes to their health, or how this would not open them to challenge on the basis of duty of care. Colvestone Crescent is currently a 'school street' which is in effect a no-through street with limited traffic on all sides, protected</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:42:12 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Tue, 18 Apr 2023 at 13:49 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should - I believe - remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school - run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of two children at Colvestone Primary School, I know my children feel safe, very happy, secure and stimulated at Colvestone - it is a wonderful environment for them to grow and learn in. We have been part of the school community since 2020. Being forced to move my children to another school will be upsetting, difficult, disruptive and harmful to them, and us.</p> <p>The school you propose merging Colvestone with - Princess May, next to the A10 - has almost 50% higher air pollution than Colvestone (according to Hackney Council's own figures), a more dangerous environment for children.</p> <p>Additionally, 17% of Colvestone's total pupils receive some form of SEN support, this proposed closure will be particularly harmful and cruel to those children and their parents and carers.</p> <p>Significantly, too, built in 1852, Colvestone is a Grade 2 listed building. It was one of six Birkbeck Schools founded by businessman and educational philosopher and philanthropist William Ellis. The schools were named for George Birkbeck, founder of Birkbeck, University of London, and pioneer in adult education. Colvestone is the last remaining Birkbeck School. Closing it as a school would mean shutting the last surviving example of an important 19th century radical education movement. This would be a significant educational and historical loss - not just to Dalston and Hackney - but the whole country.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made an incredibly positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment, please do not close it.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:46:33 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Tue, 18 Apr 2023 at 14:16 Subject: PROPOSED MERGER OF COLVESTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRINCESS MAY To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear All</p> <p>I am writing to strongly urge you to either reconsider your intended proposals re consultation on the merger of the above two schools, or help us rally against them, depending on your role. I have tried to include a variety of important stakeholders in the contact list of this email and I look forward to reading all of your responses.</p> <p>I am writing to you both as a parent of a child currently at Colvestone Primary School (as well as of one we were planning to send there), and as a resident of Colvestone Crescent itself, a strong and vibrant community street.</p> <p>As a parent I strongly object on many grounds, not least because Colvestone and Princess May are two completely opposing schools in style. Princess May didn't even feature anywhere on our list when making choices. It is on a main road, with much higher levels of pollution.. It has a completely different feel to it, in style and size. It does not have the community feel that is so present at Colvestone. We would need to cross a main road. I could go on. Needless to say if you go ahead with this merger I will be seeking to send my child to a different school. We have absolutely zero interest in her attending Princess May now, in the same way as we had zero interest in it when we were first making choices.</p> <p>Colvestone primary school is an integral part of the Colvestone Community. Parents old and new talk to each other. I remember before even sending my child there how we were invited to the fete as residents. Because of the size of the school and because of being very active on the FSA I know most of the children by name. The families all say hi to each other on the way to and from school. The lollipop ladies know everyone. This is so special and so completely different to my own experiences of going to school. Just because numbers are low for a few years, you need to keep the bigger picture in sight and hold on to this gem for the future.</p> <p>Which brings me to the future: ONS data shows very strongly that in just a few years 4 or 500 more spaces will be needed in reception again in Hackney. Why close schools for a few years if we are to need them again in the future? What about the Dalston plan and the new flats planned - won't those families need a primary school?</p> <p>As residents of Colvestone do we want a boarded up school in an area where drug use and antisocial behaviour are once again rife? Absolutely not! and what about the plans for the 21st century street?</p> <p>As a Labour council, why on earth would you want to be associated with this very Conservative led direction for London. Help keep families in Dalston rather than take even more steps to kick them out.</p> <p>A further note of objection: this year our *** year 3 was merged with year 4 due to low numbers. When this decision was being made, Annie Gammon (Director of education at the time) sat in the school and 100% reassured us that Colvestone was under no threat of closure. How do you explain this reverse in ideology less than a year later. Smacks of a change of director of education wanting to put their stamp on things... Also how on earth can you justify the investment that has been put into renovating the school's interior and upgrading its IT system (around £200,000 I believe) if you are to close the school a year later...</p> <p>I could go on but you can probably tell already how passionately we care about keeping the primary school that we cherish, open, and about giving the new partnership leadership team an actual proper go at reversing its fortunes.</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:50:07 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Tue, 18 Apr 2023 at 13:49 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should - I believe - remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school - run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent *** at Colvestone Primary School, I know my children feel safe, very happy, secure and stimulated at Colvestone - it is a wonderful environment for them to grow and learn in. We have been part of the school community since 2020. Being forced to move my children to another school will be upsetting, difficult, disruptive and harmful to them, and us.</p> <p>The school you propose merging Colvestone with - Princess May, next to the A10 - has almost 50% higher air pollution than Colvestone (according to Hackney Council's own figures), a more dangerous environment for children.</p> <p>Additionally, 17% of Colvestone' total pupils receive some form of SEN support, this proposed closure will be particularly harmful and cruel to those children and their parents and carers.</p> <p>Significantly, too, built in 1852, Colvestone is a Grade 2 listed building. It was one of six Birkbeck Schools founded by businessman and educational philosopher and philanthropist William Ellis. The schools were named for George Birkbeck, founder of Birkbeck, University of London, and pioneer in adult education. Colvestone is the last remaining Birkbeck School. Closing it as a school would mean shutting the last surviving example of an important 19th century radical education movement. This would be a significant educational and historical loss - not just to Dalston and Hackney - but the whole country.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made an incredibly positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment, please do not close it.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:54:45 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Director of Education | <p>Date: Mon, 17 Apr 2023, 21:26 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Mr Senior,</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>*** has been at Colvestone Primary School for 3 years and has benefitted hugely from the small single form entry setup of the school.</p> <p>*** sometimes struggles with social situations and 'joining in' with organised clubs and activities and the small size of the classes, closeness of the teachers and supportive community around the school have been a massive benefit to her development. I feel that in a larger school with larger classes and larger demands on teaching staff she may not have received the attention needed to encourage her development. This is why I feel Colvestone is such a unique and vital option for parents looking for a school in the Borough of Hackney.</p> <p>Also, as one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority. I believe merging the children from Colvestone Primary into a larger, arguably less suitable school, would be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels safe, happy and secure at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for 3 years and moving my child to another school will be difficult, disruptive and possibly damaging to her development.</p> <p>The school has already suffered the loss of a much-loved Head teacher and although the teaching team at Colvestone Primary proved to be exemplary when dealing with the challenges of home schooling during COVID, this was also a very disruptive time. To now propose the closure of the school will undoubtedly be devastating for both the children and the teachers.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school. I fully believe the Blossom Federation will make Colvestone Primary School a stand-out and much desired School within the Borough.</p> <p>The location of Colvestone Primary School also contributes positively to the character and exuberance of the surrounding area. The school has a positive relationship with Ridley Road Market and I feel that if the closed School ended up being sold to a private developer, the lack of children arriving and leaving school every day would leave a gaping hole in the exciting, bustling community surrounding the market.</p> <p>Finally, Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my child an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 15:00:25 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Director of Education | <p>On Mon, 17 Apr 2023, 13:48 S</p> <p>To the addressed: Director of Education</p> <p>I am writing to express my dismay regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area.</p> <p>When I was applying for a reception place for ***, our nearest school was Holy Trinity, but this was never an option I was able to consider owing to the religious focus of the school. Colvestone was our next closest school and I was delighted to have the opportunity to send my son there. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels safe, happy and secure at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for over 5 years, and I am at a loss to understand how Hackney can seriously consider moving children from Colvestone to Princess May, whose playground is right next to the A10.</p> <p>The Council's own air quality monitoring system shows Princess May had 40 percent higher levels of Nitrogen Oxide (NO2) in 2021 than Colvestone. Adding more students to a school closer to the A10 with higher pollution levels is a backwards step in the effort to reduce children's exposure to air pollution, and I'm really upset and disappointed to see it even considered.</p> <p>As a Dalston resident, I am also aware of the proposals in the Dalston Development Plan to build c600 new homes on the site of the current Sainsbury's car park. Colvestone would be the closest school for any children living in this development. Colvestone is a unique primary school offering children like mine an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, and community-focussed environment.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding received from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>I look forward to discussing these points, amongst others, with you at the public meeting on the 24th April 2023.</p> |
| 28/04/2023 15:03:14 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary School | Princess May Primary School | On my behalf | <p>My ** is a special needs child with Autism. If Princess May is to merge with another school, I suspect there will be more children in the class along with more children with additional needs. I worry about the pressure being put on teachers which, as a result, can impact my child's education.</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 15:10:03 | Governor - at one of the 6 Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Sun, 23 Apr 2023 at 11:29 Subject: Colvestone community questions To: <school.sufficiency@hackney.gov.uk></p> <p>Hi, These are the questions (attached) that have been amalgamated from the Colvestone community. In addition we have one question added:</p> <p>Are the proposal for consultation and consultation processes intended to inform your decision about whether to close these schools? In other words, have you already decided to close these schools or is there an opportunity for schools to be removed from the list? If schools can be removed from the list, what would you need to hear from parents/staff that would persuade you to do that?</p> <p>The governors (chair) was not copied into the email regarding communication so these have been collated in a PDF. In addition the information about the engagement event in the same email came in the school holidays and the chair was not copied in. During the holidays the engagement session has been shared with the wider community and there may be attendees at the event who are not parents/carers. We have asked the parents that priority be given to the questions of parents/carers.</p> <p>Questions for Hackney Education/Hackney Council from</p> <p>Colvestone Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the deadline for sending Paul Senior's team information for their report to the cabinet about school closures? ● Will the individual votes of cabinet members on 22 May be made public? ● Why are religious schools or free schools not being considered for closure? What conversations is Hackney having with religious schools that have low enrollment? ● How does the council reconcile the closure of two non-denominational schools, leaving only three religious schools and Princess May in the vicinity of the new development with its consultation showing 83 percent of people prefer Hackney schools to be non-denominational? ● How does the council justify sending more children to a school with higher levels of air pollution? ● What plans does the council have for decreasing air pollution at Princess May? ● What impact would closing Colvestone have on the plans for the first 21st Century Street? ● Given the plans for a significant development near Colvestone, what impact will closing the closest school and one of the few non-religious options in the area have on your ability to sell these flats to families? ● What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to amalgamate with Princess May? ● What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close? ● Why is Colvestone being considered for amalgamation rather than closure? ● What would happen to the Colvestone building if the school is closed? ● What assurances can Hackney council give the community about what will not happen to the building? ● What assurances can you offer parents who go to Princess May that that school will not close within the next five to six years? ● To what extent has Hackney council considered the large proportion of SEN students at Colvestone and the potential impact of closure on them in making a decision about whether to close the school? ● How will staff be deployed - will this be another restructure? Who pays for this? Redunances? ● Colvestone has had a large amount of building work - this has meant a large financial investment? Where is the joined up thinking around the spending of money if the school is to be used for another purpose? ● Does the lease/historic documentation allow for the school to be used for another purpose? ● It is mentioned in LP33 "Protect and enhance the value of Dalston Quarter as a concentrated area of community, creative and cultural activity". How do you explain in that case the closure of its prime primary school that is colvestone. ● In your decision making of closing Colvestone, why no consideration has been given to the school's SEN children in identifying their needs in order to access school and |

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| 28/04/2023 15:48:24 | Governor - at one of the 6 | Nightingale Primary Scho | Nightingale Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Nightingale currently has one form per year. What was the decision at the time to not go ahead with two-form year groups when there was space?</p> <p>When were the predictions for falling class sizes first made? Brexit was a while ago; was closure/merger not considered earlier? I'm a reception mum and chose this school due to one form entry.</p> <p>Why weren't prospective Nightingale and Baden Powell parents informed when they applied for reception places? When you apply for schools there is a deadline, we didn't see the enrollment figures when we applied.</p> <p>Why don't you outgrow the schools/classes over time and start transitioning pupils in reception? Importance of this forum for parents. Would have preferred an online way to join.</p> <p>Parent shared their child's experience of moving to Nightingale from Baden Powell. Resistant to merger because of reasons for moving their child to Nightingale. Concerned about how the merger and impact on children would be managed. E.g. behaviour and interaction of children. Concerned merger could be traumatic for children who moved from BP.</p> <p>Any change, good or bad, can have a negative impact; what are your predictions?</p> <p>What extra help will school be given to support with the transition? What is the impact if the merger does not take place? SEND: this school is purpose built for children with SEND. What is the current percentage of children with EHC plan and SEND support at Nightingale? And how might that number rise with merger? How would the transition be managed for children with SEND? Is there enough teaching support now at Nightingale, and will there be if the school gets bigger? Scared about impact on children who might or currently fall through the net. Concerned about the exclusion of Black children in particular.</p> <p>What will happen with old school sites? Hackney needs more specialist needs?</p> <p>Also raised concern about "ghost children" and EBSA pupils. Parent chose Nightingale because of its size and community. Timeline: What processes and systems will be put in place to support us through to the merger? It feels out of our hands due to the financial reasons you have set out. What additional measures will be in place to manage the long term processes and staff merger? There will be no more all school play, use of space at Nightingale will change.</p> <p>Govt funding is a big issue. My child has been with the children in her class since nursery. Will they stay together? For that class to be halved, it would be traumatic. Moved child to Nightingale from BP due to lack of structure, child was "lost in the group" and has SEND. What support will be provided to support children's anxieties? How will my child's needs be met in class of 30?</p> <p>Are staff from Baden Powell going to be trained so that we don't experience previous issues here? What stops it going ahead?</p> <p>The financial situation seems like the proposal has to go ahead.</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 15:51:38 | Governor - at one of the 6 | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Has the decision been made/will the closure happen? Comment/ response related to combining year groups: this would not be good for the children.</p> <p>What will happen to the school site?</p> <p>Following site question and response: It seems like the decision has been made. Why close this school, it's a good school?</p> <p>Are there enough spaces in other local hackney schools for children affected by closures? Why can't RC merge with the other school proposed for closure? In response: children will still have to travel a distance to go to another school. That justification isn't viable</p> <p>How will you accommodate families with more than one child? Will the children go to the same school? You say "we're going to" but this should be happening at this stage; if the closure does happen that will be too late to start working with parents on placing children. My child is in year 2, he has anxiety about where he will be / belong and whether his friends will come with him. The emotional impact is important.</p> <p>If I move my child to another school, will we potentially face another closure in two years? If we could go to other schools across Hackney you cannot assure us that we will not go through a closure process again.</p> <p>Will the larger class size affect education?</p> <p>In front of RC, there is the adventure playground children can go to afterschool if parents need to collect their children late. Has the council looked at playgrounds close to school or looked into closing schools that don't have a playground?</p> <p>What will you do for the kids with SEND? Stress impact on parents and kids. I have a child with SEND, RC was the only school that accepted my child. He will not understand that the school is closing. Other local schools did not accept my child.</p> <p>Family recently moved and our daughter settled quickly due to the staff. I want staff to hear how grateful I am. If RC closes, Hackney will lose somewhere very special. Why is RC still taking children? We moved to the area in November, we applied here after a really difficult time and my child loves it here. I would rather RC have not taken her rather than risk disrupting her again.</p> <p>What are the reasons that RC should be kept open? Right now it sounds like it's closing. There are many reasons why school should stay open. There are positives like the adventure playground. It's free, the staff are amazing and work with the school.</p> <p>Will we compete with all other families applying in September? Will there be a priority list?</p> <p>RC is the only school that accepted my child based on catchment, my mother lives locally and supports with childcare.</p> <p>My child's education is going to be uprooted. How will we be supported? Multiple comments raising concerns that flats could be built on the RC site in the future.</p> <p>Will you make a commitment to not build flats on the site?</p> <p>What about the adventure playground? New buildings are not given to people like us. View that flats would be built.</p> <p>Parent applied for child to go to secondary school outside of Hackney, but not given a choice. Can they not bring children in from other schools?</p> <p>RC not just a school, we are a family. Headteacher has supported lots of families.</p> <p>Disruption to children, parents and staff working with children. It is traumatic for children. Echoing parent question of where will we go?</p> <p>How will this announcement affect RC enrollment? Are you sealing our fate with the announcement?</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 17:59:40 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal cremer parents | It is worth noting that Randal Cremer Primary School is open for breakfast club for children from 7.30 even 7.15 if parents need to drop children off earlier |
| 28/04/2023 19:46:27 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Why out of the schools' was Randal Cremer the one to be close. A School who love and care for the children and parein the community. The only school that welcome any children in regardless of their needs. |
| 28/04/2023 23:42:58 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On my behalf | Please don't close the school specially parents with * or more kids who lives around it's going to be more stressful. |
| 29/04/2023 00:57:29 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On my behalf | Why De Beauvoir |
| 29/04/2023 01:35:05 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On my behalf | I have previously commented and aired my views at a community engagement meeting however I wanted to make another comment as something is not sitting right with me. Neighbouring schools to De Beauvoir South of Dalston Lane are all almost full according to the latest figures on the gov.uk website, while not at capacity they are still only in the region of 15-20 pupils down across the whole school, if that, and percentage wise under 10% down to 15% down roughly and in the case of Queensbridge school that is with no reduction made in the maximum intake. Meanwhile De Beauvoir has gone from having two large classes in each year group and still being oversubscribed in some year groups and the nursery in 2016 and 2017 when my ** first joined to drastically undersubscribed now forcing sets of two year groups to merge into one, and it is in the same area as those other schools. My older ** had to wait a full term after application before a place was available for them to start at De Beauvoir and a nursery place was only available for my ** 7 weeks from the end of the school year, that is how oversubscribed the school was. I do not believe this has just happened to happen to De Beauvoir so quickly organically while other local schools very close by have got off lightly in comparison. There is more social housing around De Beauvoir than some of the other schools in the immediate vicinity too. I think there should be at least an informal inquiry into why De Beauvoir has been so badly affected as other factors seem to be at play. |
| 30/04/2023 14:25:26 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On my behalf | If the council close De Beauvoir, how will they ensure that all children are placed in a school of their choice within walking distance when many of these schools are already saying they are full? |
| 01/05/2023 11:40:05 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Randal Cremer has excellent links for children to travel across the borough of Hackney to fill up our school with spaces. We are between Hackney Road and Kingsland Road, close to Queensbridge Road as well as very close to Hoxton Overground Station. |
| 01/05/2023 11:44:05 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | Parents | In year **, we have autistic and vulnerable children, that parents have highlighted, who would find it very difficult in a new school as well as be wanted by other schools. We have many autistic and vulnerable children throughout our school, |
| 01/05/2023 20:07:53 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | The school mast remain open. |

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| 01/05/2023 23:14:15 | Staff member at Randal Cremer School and Hackney | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | <p>I am a ** at Randal Cremer School. I have been a resident of Hackney for 35 years and was fortunate enough to attend a fantastic comprehensive secondary school in the Borough.*** I decided to embark on teacher training, because I feel passionately about supporting young people in my local area. When I visited Randal Cremer School, I knew straight away that I had found an exceptional school, who's motto: 'Belonging, believing, becoming' reflected the genuinely inclusive ethos of its staff and pupils.</p> <p>A higher percentage of our pupils have Special Educational Needs than at many neighbouring schools, and this is no accident: Scandalously, some of these vulnerable children have previously been refused admission by one or more local schools, who knew that they would require additional time, energy and resources to support. At Randal Cremer, these children have found a family who celebrate difference and who never give up on them – a place where they feel they belong. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 23.3 obliges signature states to: "ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education... and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development." If our children with disabilities are forced to look elsewhere in Hackney for school places, I am in little doubt that their right to education will be affected. It has been heartbreaking to hear the anguished pleas of parents, who fear starting over to secure a school place, knowing that their child may once again be turned away.</p> <p>Children with Special Educational Needs are by no means the only ones suffering at the news that our school may close. Teachers were unable to teach lessons on the day children were told, as whole classes of students broke down in tears, worried that they would be torn away from friends and trusted adults. Despite the wealth that surrounds them, most of our pupils are socially disadvantaged: Many live in poor housing, sharing rooms with siblings due to overcrowding. Many families rely on the vital lifeline of our school foodbank to prevent their children from going hungry. Working parents also depend on the adjacent adventure playground, where children can play safely after school, supervised and free of charge. If, as proposed, Randal Cremer School is closed down in July 2024, our pupils currently in year 5 will face the further setback of starting a new school in year 6, when they should be focusing on their crucial SAT's. It is already evident that some of our children are traumatised by the impact of this news, and it is highly likely that the upheaval caused by the school's closure would have long-term consequences for them and their families.</p> <p>Staff were equally overwhelmed by emotion when we learned the news; tears were shed privately, as we did our best to teach children with smiles on our faces. Some staff have literally given a lifetime of service, taught two generations of the same family and are visited daily by ex-students who cherish their memories of the school. These loyal and dedicated teachers simply cannot imagine being anywhere else. Some are in a state of shock. Others ***, at the start of teaching careers, have had our futures snatched away. Despite being advised in stark terms that our jobs are at risk, many staff are reluctant to abandon the children who depend on us for so much more than education and a Headteacher who's hard-work, passion and commitment to the children have inspired us all.</p> <p>If Randal Cremer School is closed, our children will be separated from lifelong friends, trusted teachers and support staff. They will lose the vital sense of identity and belonging that the school provides. Their rights to education and to play with their friends will be affected – especially those children who have already experienced discrimination at other schools, with dire consequences for them and their families. Our school is not just a piece of real estate that can be bought and sold – it is a living community, with a heart and a soul. I strongly urge anyone reading this to consider in detail all options, including mergers, special school status, or financial assistance from central government, to enable the school to remain open for a minimum of five years, so that all children currently in year 1 can complete their primary education without being unfairly disadvantaged.</p> |
| 02/05/2023 05:00:50 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Why are they closing the school? This will have impact on the pupils. Going to another school can be distracting them from their learning and be too stressed for the kids and the parents. |
| 02/05/2023 07:00:03 | Staff member - at one of the | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Why has the council suggested that the school may close earlier than the end of the year? This has created a huge level of stress on staff and parents. |
| 02/05/2023 07:24:48 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On behalf of a parent | Why has the council not considered the fact that there are no other maintained non-denominational schools nearby when considering closing De Beauvoir and Randal Cremer? |
| 02/05/2023 07:27:30 | Staff member - at one of the | De Beauvoir Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School | On behalf of staff member | Have the council considered the impact it places on teachers who are still in their early stages of their career/how devastating it is for so many of us to know the first school they have ever worked at will be gone? |
| 02/05/2023 07:30:35 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On behalf of a parent | I went to De Beauvoir Primary School myself and now my child is going there. It is devastating that you want to close the school before she is finished. Why would you do that? |

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| 02/05/2023 07:36:45 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On behalf of a parent | <p>Has the council considered the massive impact on children who would be going into Year 6 / Year 5 in September next year? Transition would be very hard for them.</p> <p>Does the council have a plan to enable children to go to their first choice of school after the one they are in?</p> <p>Is the council going to guarantee that the schools that close aren't going to be turned into flats for rich people?</p> <p>Does the council care about working class children and understand the disadvantage that closing their school places on them?</p> <p>Does the council have any plan to support the mental health of vulnerable children and their parents in schools that are closing?</p> |
| 02/05/2023 07:47:49 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | <p>I would like to say that I have worked at Randal Cremer for **. I have loved every class I have taught there. When we broke up in July, I felt that that year group was the best yet and the next year, the new class topped that. Our children are exceptional and deserve to be looked after and loved.</p> |

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| 05/05/2023 10:04:30 | other - Dalston Conservat | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Sun, 30 Apr 2023 at 21:48 Subject: Fwd: Objection to the Closure of Colvestone Primary School from Dalston Conservation Area Advisory Committee To: Director of Education</p> <p>Director of Education (Interim), Hackney Council</p> <p>Objection from Dalston Conservation Area Advisory Committee to the closure of Colvestone Primary School on its historic site in Colvestone Crescent, London E8 2LJ</p> <p>Dalston Conservation Area Advisory Committee (DCAAC) is one of 6 committees in Hackney made up of local residents, businesses and representatives of local amenity societies. DCAAC represents Dalston's conservation areas which include St Mark's Conservation Area located on the east side of Kingsland High Street. DCAAC provides advice to the Council on planning and conservation issues, and meets once a month to comment on planning applications which affect Dalston's conservation areas.</p> <p>DCAAC strongly opposes the Council's planned closure of Colvestone Primary School on its site in Colvestone Crescent, arising from a planned merger in 2024 with Princess May Primary School on its site in Princess May Road.</p> <p>Whilst it is not DCAAC's role to comment on the educational and social implications of the Council's proposals, DCAAC has major concerns about the negative impacts the school's closure will have on the historic school building and surrounding area.</p> <p>The school is housed in one of Hackney's oldest and most intact school buildings, completed in 1862 in a Gothic Revival style to the designs of Thomas Knightly. The building opened as the Kingsland Birkbeck School, one of six schools for boys and girls founded by businessman and educational philosopher William Ellis, and named after George Birkbeck, founder of Birkbeck, University of London. Ellis' progressive educational beliefs were reflected by the incorporation in the design of individual classrooms together with high levels of lighting and ventilation. Later, the school was extended to the rear, in the style of the London Board schools which were built in large numbers from 1870 onwards.</p> <p>The school building and its front boundary railings were statutorily listed grade II in 1975 for their outstanding historic and architectural interest. This means there is a duty under the Planning Acts to preserve their special interest and protect their setting for future generations. The school site is also located adjacent to the western entrance to the St Mark's Conservation Area, which was designated in 2008 by Hackney Council as a well-preserved Victorian residential development centred around St Mark's Parish Church. As such, it is considered desirable to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area.</p> <p>DCAAC asserts that the optimum viable use for a listed building is its original use, which in this case is as a school. If Colvestone Primary School is to close, the building will lose the vital use for which it was originally designed. If in the event the site is sold to a private developer, it may never return to use as a Hackney-run primary school. Although the school is not currently an opportunity site in the Council's draft Dalston Plan, it lies midway between sites D6 (Ridley Road) and D7 (Birkbeck Mews). Undoubtedly it will be attractive to housing developers due to its location next to the sought-after residential streets of the St Mark's Conservation Area. The site is also adjacent to Dalston Town Centre with its excellent transport links, including two Overground stations and numerous bus routes; a Crossrail 2 station entrance is also proposed only metres away from the school.</p> <p>DCAAC is concerned that if the school site were to be sold on, it may be considered untenable to retain an educational or communal use, so a change of use may be sought for the listed building, requiring physical changes which may detract from its special historic and architectural interest. Furthermore, development pressures may</p> |

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| 05/05/2023 12:17:47 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p data-bbox="1182 197 1682 256">Date: Mon, 1 May 2023 at 12:38 Subject: Fwd: Colvestone Primary School - Threatened Closure To: Director of Education</p> <p data-bbox="1182 341 2056 384">I write to strongly protest against the planned closure of Colvestone Primary School in Dalston and the potential merge with Princess May Primary School in Stoke Newington.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 443 1552 464">Planned Closure of Colvestone Primary School</p> <p data-bbox="1182 528 2096 571">I am a Dalston resident and parent of *** children, now teenagers, who all attended Colvestone Primary School from the Nursery Class to Year 6.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 635 2096 715">We chose Colvestone for our children due to its small size and caring family atmosphere. Also for its strong connections with the local community as a well-established non-denominational school which had been educating local children for over 150 years. Back in 2008, we had to fight to get our oldest child a place in the Reception Class as the school was so popular and oversubscribed.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 778 2096 922">All our children were very happy and excelled both socially and academically at Colvestone. Major influences were the one-class entry and small year groups, which other local schools did not offer. Everybody at Colvestone knows each child's name, and every child feels highly valued. Our *** has ADHD and one of our *** is autistic, so the family feel of the school and high level of teaching support were especially important for their well-being, learning and sense of security. The small-scale and intimate character of the building provided a friendly home-from-home, which is critical for SEN children who are easily overwhelmed and confused by large-scale educational environments.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 986 2096 1114">Living at the far end of Colvestone Crescent in Montague Road, we also chose the school because of the safe and less-polluted walk to school along the quiet residential streets on the east side of Kingsland High Street. We never considered sending our children as far away as Princess May School on Stoke Newington Road, and even Shacklewell School involved a more circuitous route involving busier roads. Such schools belong to quite separate communities from the neighbourhood served by Colvestone. Like many others, being a Colvestone family has meant we continue to be deeply rooted in our community even though our children are now almost grown-up.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 1177 2096 1257">I attended the public meeting on Monday 24 April. I was amazed and reassured to see the high turn-out and huge support for the school, both from current and former parents and other members of the community. People genuinely care about Colvestone: I met one mother of a ***, who now lives in Leyton, who returned specially to support the school.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 1321 2096 1449">Having watched the school being run down by the previous headteacher as part of the ill-fated Soaring Skies Federation with Thomas Fairchild Primary School, it was wonderful to see how the new management team and Blossom Federation have pulled up the school in just two terms. How uplifting the newly decorated interiors look, together with the introduction of long-awaited IT and AV equipment, and finally a fabulous new website. But above all, to see the pupils thriving because of the dedicated teachers and support staff, many of whom taught our children. It is clear to all they are truly committed to educating children on the Colvestone site.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 1513 2096 1592">Mention was made at the meeting of families who transferred their children to other schools in the last couple of years under the previous headteacher. A friend of mine did just that. Her *** had done very well at Colvestone in her earlier years, but when she entered Year 5 the school had been so deprived of its teaching resources that she very reluctantly moved her elsewhere. This was because she no longer had a class teacher or head of year and shockingly several teaching assistants had been made redundant. My friend was genuinely concerned that her ***</p> |

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| 05/05/2023 12:49:32 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Mon, 1 May 2023, 18:36 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone school To: Director of Education</p> <p>To Hackney Councillors, Member of Parliament</p> <p>Colvestone school- ***</p> <p>Colvestone School</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement and disappointment regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority. It is essential that you retain as wide a choice as possible.</p> <p>As a grandparent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know that he feels safe and secure at Colvestone. He and his family have been part of the school community for several years. It is a shame that his final year at the school will be overshadowed by concerns shared by both families and staff about the future.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school. The railings are an improvement to the appearance of the school and I gather a new roof has also been installed.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>I attended the meeting for families with local authority representatives on 24th April. Unfortunately the meeting raised more questions and, in my opinion, did not answer the questions raised by the families. Their concerns were expressed coherently and with considerable patience in respect of a very difficult situation.</p> <p>I would like to raise the following questions and make some comments which arise from the meeting.</p> <p>If a possible closure is now being considered</p> <p>Why have plans for the future use of the school site not been included in the preparatory work? I understand that Colveston is a Grade II listed building. The answer was that there were no plans as of now and that the question would only be addressed much further down the process. I would have thought that in an analysis of which school to close, the value of the site and its possible future use would be a significant consideration. It would be easier to change the purpose of some sites or to demolish and rebuild perhaps as housing or a commercial development. I don't know if there is a covenant on the site but shouldn't you enquire as to the possibilities before making a proposal? I suggest the families make enquiries regarding a covenant or any other restrictions before we end up with an empty site with limited possibilities.</p> <p>There seems to be some lack of future planning and expenditure plus a somewhat 'silo' approach. Many of the families present were of the opinion that the decision to close Colveston had already been made and that his was just a public relations exercise. More effort needs to be made to involve and consult with families and staff.</p> <p>Why a reorganisation a year ago?. Why introduce change (and the inevitable disruption) if 12 months later a possible closure is being considered? A promise that the school would not close was ill advised.</p> <p>I've already mentioned the roof and the railings but why was that work done if closure was being examined.</p> <p>We heard about the changes to the road outside the school. Why is this work going ahead if the school may close and the local authority is short of money. Is this an unnecessary use of public funds?</p> <p>Families were rightly concerned about the pollution in the area. It was said that the pollution at Princess May school had improved. That may be so, but the pollution at a school close to a major road will never be as good as or better</p> |

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| 05/05/2023 12:52:16 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to Dir | <p>Process - decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the deadline for sending Director of Education's team information for their report to the cabinet about school closures? • Will the individual votes of cabinet members on 22 May be made public? • What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to amalgamate with Princess May? • What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close? • What message is the Council giving to every single children of Colvestone that the future of their school is based on past figures and that they have no chance in having their school open in a year time even though the school has a year to work on attracting more children and thrive to perform. Are we repressing forward thinking. • Are the proposal for consultation and consultation processes intended to inform your decision about whether to close these schools? In other words, have you already decided to close these schools or is there an opportunity for schools to be removed from the list? If schools can be removed from the list, what would you need to hear from parents/staff that would persuade you to do that? <p>Process - options - Amalgamation option with PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Colvestone being considered for amalgamation rather than closure? • What assurances can you offer parents who go to Princess May that that school will not close within the next five to six years? • Why it hasn't been considered to bring all the children from De Beauvoir to Colvestone • Why is the Council considering closing Colvestone and not Benthall, which has similarly falling pupil numbers? • Why are religious schools or free schools not being considered for closure? What conversations is Hackney having with religious schools that have low enrollment? • How does the council reconcile the closure of two non-denominational schools, leaving only three religious schools and Princess May in the vicinity of the new development with its consultation showing 83 percent of people prefer Hackney schools to be non-denominational? <p>Environment // area planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the council justify sending more children to a school with higher levels of air pollution? • What plans does the council have for decreasing air pollution at Princess May? • Why is the Council not considering closing Princess May, given the dangerously polluted location of its playground right alongside the busy High Road, and distributing its pupils to Colvestone and the other schools with spare capacity? • What impact would closing Colvestone have on the plans for the first 21st Century Street? > This scheme is not dependent on the school being there. The concept of 21st Century streets more broadly was not limited to sites outside of schools. it is not necessarily the case that the scheme is dependent on the school being there. The concept of 21st Century streets more broadly was not limited to sites outside of schools. • Given the plans for a significant development near Colvestone, what impact will closing the closest school and one of the few non-religious options in the area have on your ability to sell these flats to families? • In your choice of planning to move our children to Princess May, have you considered that the journey via Kingsland high street to school will provide a great level of noise and high risk • It is mentioned in LP33 "Protect and enhance the value of Dalston Quarter as a concentrated area of community, creative and cultural activity". How do you explain in that case the closure of its prime primary school that is colvestone. <p>Building use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What assurances can Hackney council give the community about what will not happen to the building? • Colvestone has had a large amount of building work - this has meant a large financial investment? Where is the joined up thinking around the spending of money if the school is to be used for another purpose? • Does the lease/historic documentation allow for the school to be used for another purpose? |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 05/05/2023 10:10 | Hackney resident | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to Dir | <p data-bbox="1180 193 2101 272">Date: Mon, 1 May 2023 at 12:38 Subject: Fwd: Colvestone Primary School - Threatened Closure To: Director of Education</p> <p data-bbox="1180 272 2101 336">I write to strongly protest against the planned closure of Colvestone Primary School in Dalston and the potential merge with Princess May Primary School in Stoke Newington.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 368 2101 400">Planned Closure of Colvestone Primary School</p> <p data-bbox="1180 448 2101 496">I am a Dalston resident and parent of three children, now teenagers, who all attended Colvestone Primary School from the Nursery Class to Year 6.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 560 2101 639">We chose Colvestone for our children due to its small size and caring family atmosphere. Also for its strong connections with the local community as a well-established non-denominational school which had been educating local children for over 150 years. Back in 2008, we had to fight to get our oldest child a place in the Reception Class as the school was so popular and oversubscribed.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 703 2101 847">All our children were very happy and excelled both socially and academically at Colvestone. Major influences were the one-class entry and small year groups, which other local schools did not offer. Everybody at Colvestone knows each child's name, and every child feels highly valued. Our *** has ADHD and one of our *** is autistic, so the family feel of the school and high level of teaching support were especially important for their well-being, learning and sense of security. The small-scale and intimate character of the building provided a friendly home-from-home, which is critical for SEN children who are easily overwhelmed and confused by large-scale educational environments.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 911 2101 1038">Living at the far end of Colvestone Crescent in Montague Road, we also chose the school because of the safe and less-polluted walk to school along the quiet residential streets on the east side of Kingsland High Street. We never considered sending our children as far away as Princess May School on Stoke Newington Road, and even Shacklewel School involved a more circuitous route involving busier roads. Such schools belong to quite separate communities from the neighbourhood served by Colvestone. Like many others, being a Colvestone family has meant we continue to be deeply rooted in our community even though our children are now almost grown-up.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 1102 2101 1182">I attended the public meeting on Monday 24 April. I was amazed and reassured to see the high turn-out and huge support for the school, both from current and former parents and other members of the community. People genuinely care about Colvestone: I met one mother of a *** who now lives in Leyton, who returned specially to support the school.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 1246 2101 1374">Having watched the school being run down by the previous headteacher as part of the ill-fated Soaring Skies Federation with Thomas Fairchild Primary School, it was wonderful to see how the new management team and Blossom Federation have pulled up the school in just two terms. How uplifting the newly decorated interiors look, together with the introduction of long-awaited IT and AV equipment, and finally a fabulous new website. But above all, to see the pupils thriving because of the dedicated teachers and support staff, many of whom taught our children. It is clear to all they are truly committed to educating children on the Colvestone site.</p> <p data-bbox="1180 1437 2101 1594">Mention was made at the meeting of families who transferred their children to other schools in the last couple of years under the previous headteacher. A friend of mine did just that. Her *** had done very well at Colvestone in her earlier years, but when she entered *** the school had been so deprived of its teaching resources that she very reluctantly moved her elsewhere. This was because she no longer had a class teacher or head of year and shockingly several teaching assistants had been made redundant. My friend was genuinely concerned that her daughter's education had come to a standstill. She has told me that she would willingly re-enrol her *** at Colvestone now that the school is fully resourced again, but for the fact that she is now at secondary school. As we can see, due to Colvestone's small size and excellent teaching team it has the resilience and capability of returning</p> |