

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

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Session / School	De Beauvoir Primary School - Staff	
Date	Friday 21 st April	
Est. number of attendees	15 (including presenters)	
Question asked	Response	Additional comments
How does the red line trajectory incorporate the covid baby boom in terms of future numbers of children?	The GLA uses many methods in their monitoring and predictions. Data in 2017 showed reception children inclining gradually, but each year the projection is revised. In fact we expect it to be more pronounced in the next few months.	<i>If applicable. E.g. Question asked by parent or member of staff</i>
Is Hackney doing anything to manage that data? The concern is that in managing the situation for current children, in future it might need to be reversed.	There is sufficient provision of nursery placements in Hackney. There is a lag between the time that children are born and enter school so data has been collected around this, but there are too many children's centres also and a similar exercise will have to take place in relation to this.	
If the school is costing money, could the school not use half of the school and half of the school be used for generating income - e.g. transform part of the school into a special provision?	The school already rents out the apex. There has not been an opportunity to bid for extra resource provision. The building does not lend itself to this, as independent access is not possible to the top floors. Therefore, children with specific needs being placed at the top of the building ruled out that consideration for this school. This would not have prevented an	

	amalgamation with another school which was considered but rejected.	
Is it local or central government policy in terms of dispersal policies that house families out of the borough? Can local government impact this?	Housing for Hackney residents is managed locally. There are 3000 homeless families and about 1000 of them are housed elsewhere due to housing capacity in Hackney.	It is national and local. Nationally the government has capped rent. Prior to this the government paid all the rent. The rent cap now does not cover the price of rent. When Hackney places families outside the borough, this is because the amount the government pays for housing does not meet the challenge.
How is this fed back in terms of the impact on schools in Hackney?	Through letter writing and when speaking to ministers, so the government is aware but ministers are not taking a decision about this. **** are fierce advocates for Hackney residents, in terms of expressing concerns about shortcomings in policy.	
There is not this huge deficit in other boroughs - Lewisham is a school short.	30 out of 32 boroughs are affected currently and all will be in terms of the London picture. Only three schools have had an increase in reception numbers.	
Why was it rejected to merge with another school?	There are a number of schools with vacancies and it was about finding a geographically close enough partner. Following the merger, the school should become strengthened enough to be self-sufficient.	
For children with severe needs placed in other schools, what happens to those schools if they cannot meet the need of those	If the decision is made for a closure of the school, there will be a transition plan for the children, particularly those with SEND, to ensure effective and smooth transition. Each will need an individual transition plan. *** has attended a number of these events as an advocate for SEND.	

<p>joining? Won't they feel a strain and pressure having this influx, with more educational health care plans (EHCPs), more support and more outreach teams?</p>		
<p>What consideration was given to the wellbeing of families and staff within a timeline which is a long time to wait for things to happen?</p>	<p>Early engagement was decided, in terms of information sharing.</p>	
<p>What about the impact on the school community and individual pupils and staff, as there is movement already in terms of parents making decisions?</p>	<p>There are variables outside of the control. It is impactful. Hackney Education HR will work with families and staff, and there will be additional education psychology support available. HR will link in with the school to understand general concerns and what would happen if closure was decided in terms of support staff with finding new jobs, and there will be a variety of workshops, feedback from unions and leaders etc</p>	
<p>Schools get a budget on pupil roll and if De Beauvoir continues to lose students up until July 2023, in terms of the impact on staff, will there be really low numbers of children in a class due to those leaving?</p>	<p>The situation will be monitored in terms of risk, numbers and the budget implication. If numbers are very low, management of risk will be considered. It is recognised that during this time there will be financial concerns but we will manage these supportively.</p>	

Are there any restructuring plans for De Beauvoir for the year 2023-2024?	No.	
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Additional event notes / comments:

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Session / School	De Beauvoir Primary School - Parents
Date	Friday 21 st April
Est. number of attendees	40 parents
Question asked	Response
What will happen to the nursery?	Nursery is directly attached to school and would close as well.
Why is Hackney focused on community schools rather than faith schools?	There is an ongoing dialogue with church schools but the decision to close is by the Diocese. Hackney has direct jurisdiction over community schools. Church schools are going through a process of evaluation but are not as advanced as Hackney.
Why can we not merge the other school that is closest to De Beauvoir?	There are a number of schools in De Beauvoir's situation. The geographical location might create big journeys. If two schools merged, the challenge would be how to make a strong school. If De Beauvoir school students were added to, for example, Colvestone, if both schools' children were brought together, it still would not make enough children to make the school viable going forward. This option was considered but is not the best recommendation for the school. There has been postcode mapping and the intention is to keep disruption to a minimum in terms of travel distance. The LA has a statutory obligation to provide school places for all children and this is discharged by trying to provide a place as close to home, for convenience, as possible.
This seems like it has already been finalised, like the school is going to be closed, that whilst this is an informal talk, it will be going to Cabinet. You won't look at keeping school open or amalgamation,	You are clearly being an advocate for your child and those children at the school, thank you for sharing this. We have to go through formal due process for decision making. It is not confirmed that the school will close. There is no pre determination, this process is a legal requirement. Rest assured, no decision has yet been made.

<p>you have made your final decision which makes parents feel disgruntled. If you are closing De Beauvoir, are our children going on the waiting list or being prioritised? If your business is closing and you have to move to another school, you are guaranteed a place and likewise we want to know our child is going to be prioritised at the new school of their choice. There are children with SEND who will get further with their EHCPs. Children who have social, emotional needs also need to be taken into consideration - where there is a unit and family circle it is being crushed by this situation [round of applause from other parents].</p>	<p>For vulnerable children and those with SEND, if a decision is made to proceed with the proposal, then transition planning will begin early to ensure potential disruption is minimised, so that the risk is managed. Those children will be prioritised. There are no easy answers, every different child and parent has a different situation and it is a different process for them, but as yet no decision has been made.</p>
<p>What about the children without those needs?</p>	<p>In terms of children having priorities to other school places, school admissions have strict rules and regulations. At present any application will be made and treated as such. Things change and after the final decision is made to close a school, the parents who then apply, and will be supported to do this, will be given extra priority to jump to the top of the list which will be done once the final decision is taken, but until then the same rules apply. After we know a school is closing, we will work closely with families to ensure that multiple year group children go to the same schools.</p>
<p>To contextualise this, are you recommending that parents who are offered a place now wait until that point or accept places offered to them?</p>	<p>If you are offered, you have to accept within 10 days. If you list a school that has a waiting list, you can wait and see what happens in terms of this process.</p>
<p>My preference is for my child to attend this school. She doesn't want to go to another school but she is being forced to go to another school. Why are you not suggesting that she should wait and see? You</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing your feelings about the school. This is not easy. You have made some strong points and the strength of feeling is coming across. I can't give you the answers you want. We are no different from any other London authorities and when numbers get to a certain point there is a process of evaluation, following many, many</p>

<p>don't care about children in Hackney. You close schools and profit out of them. This school has been around for many years. I have lived in Hackney for 40 years. This should be a landmark school. I don't care about the numbers dropping. The numbers could change. You can't tell us that there won't be more children in ten years. You just want us to move out of Hackney. We don't care about your numbers. Our children have friends in Hackney. Noone knows what is going to happen. Where is our reassurance? I don't want my child put back because she can't get into a school in September. What about the education of our children? We are here because of the education of our children.</p>	<p>restructures, if there are insufficient numbers of children in the local area. Fundamentally, you care about the experiences of your children, having the school of their choice, which is understandable. This is not easy. If a decision is made to close the school in September 2024 we will work closely to fully support those affected.</p>
<p>My children have moved numerous times within Hackney and have struggled with the transition. I would rather not move them, I would prefer to home school them. What is being done to increase the numbers, to promote and market the school? What is being done to support parents with the process of how to bring their children to the school?</p>	<p>We don't have enough children to utilise all the school places. Free schools is one of those reasons too as Hackney doesn't have autonomy or jurisdiction over them. Free schools are a government initiative and under the jurisdiction of the DfE.</p>
<p>I chose De Beauvoir because I wanted a small school that would meet my children's individual needs. I am so happy to bring my children to this school every single day. I know they are looked after, and the teachers are personable. I don't want to move again. We have been to *** and *** which</p>	<p>It is an excellent school with outstanding staff, which is why you want your children to come here. Hackney has not closed schools for a number of years but neighbouring authorities have had to. Hackney has delayed this to try alternative processes. We cannot stop families moving out of the borough or out of London. If there are over 600 empty seats, this is the challenge. 58 primary schools with over 600 empty spaces. As a local authority we have to make some tough decisions looking at the data and</p>

<p>were overwhelmed and my children's needs were missed. I don't want to worry about putting them in another school like that again. How are we supposed to get into a full school when we have a school here?</p>	<p>trajectory. Schools running with this level of empty seats are not sustainable and this cannot be ignored.</p>
<p>A parent of a child with an EHCP wants her child to stay at school and doesn't know what is going to happen, so this school is the most suitable. Other suitable schools are full. They want to stay here until the end. What is going to happen in September?</p>	<p>We will work very closely with the parents and school. Children with EHCPs will have dedicated people to support them as they are the most traumatised and vulnerable to the changes to school and the transition. Head teachers will liaise to understand the incoming child's needs. There will also be support for other children with SEN who do not have EHCPs.</p>
<p>When this school is closed, my *** will be in year 6. *** does not have an EHCP plan. I want to know what support my *** is going to receive. *** is already crying about leaving her friends, and *** will go somewhere for one year and then have to go on to secondary school. My *** went to this school. Support received here for SEN is amazing. I want to know why this school is being closed down. I don't know how my *** is going to cope with this. What support will my *** receive to cope with losing friends, SATs, going to a new school and the social and mental impact? What about all the children that are leaving ahead of September 2024? In the end there will be no children left in the school if they are all leaving.</p>	<p>It is coming across very clearly how passionate parents and carers are for the school, and the history of the school in the community. There are a lot of risks around this.</p>

<p>Children want to come to De Beauvoir. Queensbridge has too many children so why can't those children come here? What about free schools? Other schools are oversubscribed. There are so many different ways to do this.</p>	<p>It is frustrating, because unfortunately there is no jurisdiction in free schools - anyone can set up a free school. They don't have to tell the LA they are going to have a school or work with the LA. This is very frustrating for us. Any child that has a Hackney child will be fully supported but it is frustrating because it has created even more spaces we don't need and we have no control over it. We can't say to academies or free schools that we think they should close, because ministers in government make this decision as free schools are accountable to the DfE. Frustration is absolutely understandable but we also are up against challenges. We don't want to be here, this is a fantastic school. We don't need a free school in this area.</p>
<p>We would need to get all parents in Hackney involved to get free schools closed, then we could take it to the LA who could take it to the government. If it wasn't for this school my child would not want to go to school. It's those schools that are killing the community schools. Free schools do not invite parental communication directly with the head teacher, they cut you out. In order for this to change we need to get together with other schools. I would suggest a meeting for all parents to come to a consensus about free schools.</p>	<p>*** have written to the Secretary of State on the free school issue as the education secretary was proposing another 33 free schools which means Hackney would have got one. We don't have enough children as it is and don't need any more competition from free schools. **** are aware of that and are fierce advocates of education in Hackney.</p>
<p>You said a few times that SEN children would get priority in other schools, but the process currently is very long winded, everywhere is full to capacity, when would parents get concrete guarantees of closure? For working parents, they cannot have children on the waiting list. Do children need to go to another school in the interim? My *** is quite</p>	<p>We will accommodate every child and will make a provision for every child. In terms of general responsibility, we won't close a school and not provide a space elsewhere. This case has been raised with us separately to look into a suitable provision and this will be followed up outside this meeting. It has been flagged and it is due for consideration.</p>

<p>comfortable in this school and won't get this anywhere else. This child has been waiting for specialist provision since nursery. *** has an EHCP and autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis.</p>	
<p>If closure is decided, do my children get priority to get into other schools? What if the option my child wants is full, does she have to go to a school she doesn't like?</p>	<p>If you apply now and there are no spaces available, we cannot force schools to take children if there are no spaces. There are spaces in other Hackney schools. If your child waits until De Beauvoir closure then we will work closely with families to ensure children get a school place. There are spaces in lots of schools in Hackney.</p>
<p>If we have already applied for other schools and are on the waiting list, what should we do?</p>	<p>If you apply for a school and get a space and there are lots of vacancies, you can wait until the school closes but for a school with few places and if you wait until later, the space may not be available. If you apply for a school and there are five children waiting and only one space available we would advise you to accept that space when it is available, if this is conditional due to the waiting list.</p>
<p>How is the quality of what is happening captured? There is complexity around children with complex needs and in terms of scrutinising the closures which is about numbers and viability, is it quantifiable and how is this captured? What process is there for parents to engage in around metrics and how will the closure process be captured to enhance the next provision to ensure the minimum is lost, for example experienced staff and teachers? Unfortunately the process is missing impartiality.</p>	<p>One of the offers is to senior leadership teams, to meet in smaller groups to actually hear about that experience and the relationships within the school, with pupils, families and staff members, to ensure continuity and hear the case for the school. You can also discuss with your local councillor in terms of unpacking data.</p>
<p>Why is the school closing when Hackney New School doesn't have adequate play space for play</p>	<p>The LA has no jurisdiction for free schools. Whilst children are at free schools they are still Hackney children and every Hackney child's education experience needs to be as good as it can be.</p>

<p>and they use local parks for break time? Why did Hackney agree to them using local parks for this?</p>	
<p>What will happen for practising muslims as most local schools are Christian schools and why is it non religious schools are in scope and religious ones are not? There isn't another school within walking distance that isn't religious.</p>	<p>These are Diocese led in terms of being Church of England and Catholic.</p>
<p>What is the position of church schools, is it not the LA's decision to close?</p>	<p>The Diocese has to be linked with.</p>
<p>How will parents be supported to buy new uniforms?</p>	<p>There will be a number of listening events and parent engagement activities in coming months about what is needed on the ground, so that these kinds of issues can be addressed.</p>
<p>Additional event notes / comments:</p>	
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