

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

Session / School	Baden Powell Primary School	
Date	Wednesday 20th April 2023	
Est. number of attendees	30	
Question asked	Response	Additional comments
<i>E.g. How were the schools selected?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Capture key elements of the response</i> 	<i>If applicable. E.g. Question asked by parent or member of staff</i>
The government has cut funding so there was already a lack of funding before all the other issues described in the powerpoint took place?	<p>This question has been asked at another engagement event. Schools have not been given money they need to match with rising inflation. Costs are rising but funding per child is not. It has not risen enough to cover all the things that schools need to do for children</p> <p>The Government has not taken into consideration that the money given is not enough to meet current costs. We ask for more but they say they have already given funding Because schools are not full, funding is being cut also</p>	Parent
Regarding the stats from around 10 years ago, if birth rates were going down, then why was Nightingale school built?	<p>When the school was built, it was because school places were needed. The information given to predict the future at the time showed there would be more children and therefore additional schools would be needed</p> <p>GLA predicted these figures. All issues raised in the powerpoint (inflation, brexit, etc) when predictions were made the GLA did not foresee these issues and</p>	

	could not counteract all the issues that we're currently experiencing	
Are Nightingale in the same position as us? Why does our school have to merge with them on their site?	There are not enough children coming to this school to keep the school open. Nightingale are in a similar predicament, they just about have enough children to work as a one form entry. Nightingale have enough space to work as a 2 form entry school	
This decision is being made based on Nightingale having the capacity. But this change would destabilise families- Will there be any help to lessen destabilisation that is going to be experienced ?	We are at the early stages of the process and these questions will be monitored and considered very closely	
Are teachers from this school going to be present in Nightingale schools?	No one school would have all the staff in the merged school. Some staff from both schools would be present- there are some decisions that cannot be discussed in full detail until a final decision has been made. There will be staff from both schools to help with transition. There are opportunities to make the transition exciting and bring the merger alive to make children excited about the merger. Parents and carers are essential in helping with the transition	
Is the decline in numbers similar for Nightingale?	There is a similar pattern of decline for most of the schools. Nightingale are only taking 30 children instead of 60 Nightingale classes are filling up to 30 and have a waiting list	
At the last meeting, there were many issues that came up. It is being made to seem	No final decisions have been made, the final decision will not happen until May	Parent- in a parent carer forum

<p>as if parents are just anxious.</p> <p>It has been mentioned that a final decision has not been made, but from powerpoint it seems as if a definitive decision has been made?</p> <p>Is there anything that could be done to stop this from happening?</p>	<p>We are talking to schools about how to accommodate the changes that may happen. We are not just saying that parents are anxious, we understand that there is a lot of uncertainty, but no final decisions have been made</p>	
<p>Will any of these questions/information be fed back?</p>	<p>There is someone here taking notes of all questions/queries, for it to be looked and fed back to the cabinet report</p> <p>A merger with Nightingale is one of the alternatives if Baden Powell does close. This engagement session is a genuine opportunity to hear from parents should this be the decision made</p>	
<p>What can parents do to stop this from happening? Parents have had the option to comment on changes in the area in the past. E.g. a majority of parents were against boxes being put in the road and they were still put there</p> <p>This does not feel like an open discussion</p>	<p>Anything said today is being captured and will be fed into the cabinet report.</p> <p>No final decisions have been made as of yet</p>	
<p>Baden Powell is a unique school, it is an established school with a unique teaching style, that has been running for years Nightingale is a new school with a new teaching style, they are still looking for a unique style to teach their kids</p>	<p>*** is not a new headteacher, she is an experienced headteacher. No definite decisions have been made regarding who will be the headteacher of the new school if the closure/ amalgamation goes ahead, it could be *** or *** .</p> <p>Any school would and should have staff from both schools due to the number of children migrating across to a new school.</p> <p>Just because Nightingale</p>	

	<p>may not be as old as Baden Powell, it does not mean that the teachers or the head teacher do not have leadership or experience. A new building/ teaching style does not mean that the staff will be new to teaching</p>	
<p>This will be happening for a child, this is a big change- the effects will be massive for children- they will not cope. What is the plan to make sure her children will be okay?</p>	<p>As a teacher, she understands the effect of this. Understand that this is an awful process, but measures will be taken to ensure children will be okay and are transitioned well</p> <p>This decision is not being taken lightly. There will be detailed plans about what will happen for all staff and children, the transition and what that looks like. There will be support in terms of health and well being. Plans will be put in place, no final decisions have been made yet so there are no definitive plans as of yet.</p> <p>If different solutions and different funding come into this process, they will ensure that no changes will happen regarding the closure/amalgamation It will be difficult for staff at Baden Powell to keep high standards due to funding.</p>	<p>Parent- child with Autism</p>
<p>What is the plan for children that have SEN? There needs to be a plan</p>	<p>A plan will be put in place. The children are a priority. Parents can come and talk to SS at anytime, will sit down and assure that her children will not be fully impacted</p>	<p>Headteacher</p>
<p>If there was an influx of children before september- what would happen?</p>	<p>We do not see this happening, but if we saw an influx then this would be a different conversation, but unfortunately there is a further decline</p>	

<p>Why is it not possible for all teachers from Baden Powell to move to Nightingale if all the children can be moved? It will be difficult for the children to move, it will be easier for teachers to move if there is that much space at Nightingale</p>	<p>There will be a transition plan, which will work out what the best decision will be for the teachers, both schools would work together to see which decisions would be best</p> <p>We need to have the right number of staff at any merged site, that is a legal process</p> <p>If we do move forward with the amalgamation more reassurances can be made closer to the time</p> <p>Hackney Education will be with parents on this journey</p>	
<p>Based on the statistics, it is either we merge or we close</p> <p>The council needs to be straightforward with parents</p>	<p>The first decision proposed if we go ahead with the amalgamation will be 22nd May, more information will be provided going forward</p>	
<p>Uniform is an issue. Will there be something put in place for parents regarding the costs of new uniforms?</p>	<p>Questions such as these are being fed into the process and will be considered in the report to Cabinet</p>	
<p>There are other children on a waiting list for Nightingale, For those that are in favour of the merger- will they take up possible places for children coming from Baden Powell?</p>	<p>With the merging of schools, parents from the merging school usually get the first offers</p>	
<p>Question asked on if there is a way to address the funding, perhaps raising money/ charity donations- has this been discussed/raising a fund?</p>	<p>Question has been asked, but there is a shortfall of money from the Government and a shortfall of children</p> <p>Even if there were any generous benefactors, we would need to raise £3 million down payment for the school- this has not been given any further thought</p> <p>Even if funds were changed, it would be hard to predict if this would make any change. If the number of children kept</p>	

<p>Would it be legal to raise funds for the school?</p>	<p>declining more funds would still need to be raised</p> <p>If the money was there, legally, raising funds would be allowed</p> <p>When asking for more money, the Government's response was that money had already been given to Councils</p>	
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Additional event notes / comments:

From a parent- It does not feel like there is a chance for change. Is there any point in saying we do not want the merger to happen? It all feels very finalised. We all understand the reasons why it has to happen, but it is a difficult situation. It feels like parents' voices are not going to be heard. This is a major change, not a tiny shift. The new Nightingale building is big, this is a close community which will see a change of teachers and a new big building, it is a lot to take in

From a parent- She knows many families that put their children in the nursery with hope of them going to the primary school.

Parent commented that she wanted a small school for her children, not a school in which there are two year groups in one class. With the way Baden Powell is currently, teachers can look after students, it is more intimate

From a parent- The teaching at this school is of excellent quality, it must be matched if we are going to be put through this change. The provisions and measures need to be matched. Parent demands teachers from this school are present in Nightingale if they want parents to go through/support this merger

From a parent with an autistic child- We all have personal reasons why we do not want the schools being merged. It is about the school, it is not about the space, we love this school. From nursery parents to Year 6 parents, everyone knows each other. It is a close school in which children are learning happily.

If this merger happens and everyone has to move, her child will go through change twice and this will affect him hugely in future. *** will already make a move from Year 6 to secondary school. We are unable to cope with that much change

From a parent- We do not want the lovely little school to be closed, this is a lovely school with lovely staff and teaching system.

From a parent- Walks *** mins from her house for her children to attend Baden Powell. There is another school close to her house, but Baden Powell is a small school, it is very good for her children and this is why she brings her children here. Does not want to send her children to a big school like Nightingale

From a parent- HE seems as if they are coming from an academic perspective, coming across as condescending. The council is coming from a numbers perspective. The audience are parents, not academics. This is why HE is receiving hostility from parents. The parents worry comes from their passions/love for the school but the council's priorities are funding and numbers, but they are not discussing the damage that's going to be

caused

*** in attendance and announced that he was the local ward councillor for where the school is located. Commented that Baden Powell is a wonderful school. He would be available to speak to parents and listen to their concerns at the end of the engagement event