

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

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Session / School	Nightingale Primary School	
Date	Tuesday 18 th April	
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>
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>Nightingale school was built with two classes per year group; it has always been the intention to move from one to two forms.</p> <p>The decision to build the school had been made previously, prior to merger conversation. The school wants to expand to two-forms. Currently there are empty classrooms. Financial reasons for this. Moving to two-form year groups will enable Nightingale to be able to continue with extra curricular programme. Heating and caretaking costs associated with a school with empty classrooms.</p>	
<p>When were the predictions for falling class sizes first made? Brexit was a while ago; was closure/merger not considered earlier?</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>Full year lag; downturn. Exacerbated by the pandemic.</p> <p>Dilemma of when you do this.</p>	<i>[Note: struggled to hear response with background noise.]</i>

<p>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?</p>		
<p>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 ***. 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>Valid concern. Mindful that BP children will need to have some systems preserved to ease the transition to a new school but aim would be to become a cohesive school. Managed process with programme of introduction and long-lead in period. Informal merging prior to full merging, staff induction. Familiarity for BP children.</p> <p>Learning from Nightingale's building move can be applied. Rebranding, revision of the curriculum, tools to ease transition. Shared ethos and culture. Create a new funded Nightingale while retaining the school's culture.</p>	
<p>Comment on the presentation: BP stats have been shared but what is the impact [of falling enrollment] on Nightingale?</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?</p>	<p>A two form entry school will be financially stronger. We are concerned about falling enrollment across all schools; merger is a strengthening step.</p> <p>The long lead in time will allow Hackney Education to work together with both schools SLT. If the proposal goes to informal consultation we will look into detail of the impact.</p> <p>We are learning from other London boroughs that are merging/closing schools. This includes having a long time period and open engagement with parents. There may be unintended consequences but we</p>	

	<p>applying learning with the aim of reducing unintended consequences.</p> <p>Key voices in the community will be consulted with, including children will be included if we go to consultation.</p> <p>We will need to show the financial impact of not using a two-form entry school. Small classes are great in principle, but the challenge is reduced funding as a result. There are also benefits of two-form year groups: shared expertise, cross-teaching.</p> <p>There are risks and benefits. Over the next five years, building costs would impact Nightingale's historical surplus. We hope to expand ARP and SEND, even with two-forms. And expanding reception will mean more parents getting their first choice school.</p>	
<p>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>Since 2018 no primary school has permanently excluded a child from Hackney school system. The proposed merger is not expected to impact this. Young Hackney would work with school leaders to work with children who might need more support. Any child with a plan will be supported through the transition.</p> <p>For SEND provision, question of how can we reduce the number of children with SEND being sent out of the borough? Identified schools that can have additional resource provision. Increased SEND</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.</p>	<p>provision in 2022 and 2023. Building capacity to meet needs. Holistic approach, systems lead, parent carer forums, communication and consultation with parents.</p> <p>No plans for buildings, no plans to sell the school site. The property/building team are aware of the proposals, but no work has been done to assess properties yet. Decision has not been made. We are not closing schools to sell to private developers.</p>	
<p>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?</p> <p>There will be no more all school play, use of space at Nightingale will change.</p> <p>Govt funding is a big issue.</p>	<p>Merging of schools can be exciting, co-creation of a new school together. The next step is informal consultation, which would address these questions.</p>	
<p>My child has been with the children in her class since nursery. Will they stay together?</p> <p>For that class to be halved, it would be traumatic.</p>	<p>The aim is to avoid “them and us” view among children. Long lead-in time to work with children from both schools. Informal opportunities, sports and activities. It will be pitched to children as gaining friends.</p> <p>We know the friendship groups in our classes well and will work with that. It will not be a sudden change. But I want to avoid talking</p>	

	<p>with children until the merger is certain.</p> <p>The school space is generously designed for two forms; each classroom over 30% of standard size.</p>	
<p>Moved child to Nightingale from ** 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?</p>	<p>Nightingale knows our children really well. Support will be given to children; that process in hand and being planned.</p>	
<p>What stops it going ahead?</p> <p>The financial situation seems like the proposal has to go ahead.</p>	<p>This meeting and all responses will feed into the Cabinet decision.</p>	<p>Meeting ended at this point. Further questions addressed 1:1.</p>
Additional event notes / comments:		