

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

Session / School	Randal Cremer	
Date	20th April	
Est. number of attendees	55-60	
Question asked	Response	Additional comments
Has the decision been made/will the closure happen?	Cabinet decision 22nd May on whether to informally consult. The final cabinet decision would be in December, if we get to that point.	
Comment/ response related to combining year groups: this would not be good for the children.		
What will happen to the school site?	<p>If a decision is made to close the school, an asset review process will be undertaken assessing local needs and options. The ideal scenario would be that the building would have a future educational use. We cannot say at this stage; no decision has been made.</p> <p>Addressing the rumour that the site will be used for housing: the school as it stands is the priority. We cannot make a pre-emptive decision. Asset review process will be transparent.</p>	
Following site question and response: It seems like the decision has been made.	The decision has not been made.	
Why close this school, it's a good school?	Most schools in Hackney are good or better. Any school suggested for closure or merger will be a good school.	
Are there enough spaces in other local hackney schools	Yes, there are vacancies across the borough in all	

<p>for children affected by closures?</p>	<p>areas. We would not close a school unless there are enough spaces for students after closure.</p>	
<p>Why can't RC merge with the other school proposed for closure?</p>	<p>We did look at this, but felt that all the schools were too far away for a viable merger.</p> <p>For a merger, we looked at whether a school could take all students from another school. No school near this school could have accommodated all the children together.</p>	
<p>In response: children will still have to travel a distance to go to another school. That justification isn't viable</p>	<p>We will look at all families affected if a decision is made to assess where best for children to go to school.</p>	
<p>How will you accommodate families with more than one child? Will the children go to the same school?</p>	<p>That will be considered. A dedicated officer in the Council will assist and work closely with each family for best outcome.</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>My child is in year **, he has anxiety about where ** will be / belong and whether ** friends will come with **. The emotional impact is important.</p> <p>If I move my child to another</p>	<p>It's a very difficult situation. It's about the best possible learning experience for children, as articulated. The proposal is that if we get to a December decision, then parents would have 9 months notice. Officers will look at addresses and proximity to schools, working with parents. This won't happen before the cabinet decision as the cabinet may decide it won't go ahead. If a decision is made, it will be a 9 month process. The team is currently doing some modelling. We will be working with families.</p> <p>Working on a family by family basis to minimise the impact.</p> <p>The realistic answer is yes,</p>	

<p>school, will we potentially face another closure in two years?</p>	<p>634 reception places remain open. The proposal now isn't enough to solve the problem long term. We would make efforts to avoid that situation if you move your child to another school.</p>	
<p>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>We understand how disruptive that would be. The council would forward plan to minimise that.</p> <p>There are 58 primary schools in Hackney, without intervention can't keep</p>	
<p>Will the larger class size affect education?</p>	<p>In Hackney class size tends not to go above 30.</p> <p>A lot of schools don't have 30 in their classes yet, moving children can strengthen schools overall. It is traumatic and difficult, but there are spaces across schools.</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>The adventure playground is a wonderful asset. We will have to evaluate all the information before the cabinet decision is made. But we can't go further down the line without taking action, lots of empty spaces are projected here, the current situation is not financially viable. Right to look beyond financial decisions, but other local authorities are doing this too. Hackney has deferred this decision and has tried to find another way.</p>	
<p>What will you do for the kids with SEND? Stress impact on parents and kids.</p>	<p>First question I (headteacher) asked, promised to personally oversee placement of children with SEND.</p> <p>There will be a process of transition.</p>	

<p>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>Important to hear about the relationship with the Adventure playground. For children with SEND there are champions at this school and in the Council. It is distressing to hear your experience of being turned away from another school. We will work with you, including on how to speak to your child and will work with you to make sure that friendships are retained.</p> <p>Note to liaise with RC re separate meeting for SEND parents.</p>	
<p>Family recently moved and our *** settled quickly due to the staff. I want staff to hear how grateful I am. If RC closes, Hackney will lose somewhere very special.</p>	<p>RC is a very good school. We understand why parents are upset.</p>	
<p>Why is RC still taking children? We moved to the area in ***, we applied here after a really difficult time and my child loves it here. I would rather RC have not taken ** rather than risk disrupting ** 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>Difficult period when the school was not allowed to go public with information. Prospective parents are now being informed.</p> <p>Parent opinions shared here will be taken forward to the decision makers. All questions and comments are being captured. Clear strength of feeling is being recorded and will enter the report.</p>	
<p>Will we compete with all other families applying in September? Will there be a priority list?</p>	<p>Admissions rules are strict, a school may not have taken you in past because they may have been full. After a decision is made,</p>	

<p>RC is the only school that accepted my child based on catchment, my ** lives locally and supports with childcare.</p> <p>My child's education is going to be uprooted. How will we be supported?</p>	<p>displaced parents will be given priority at that point. We can't apply that priority until a decision has been made.</p>	
<p>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?</p>	<p>That is outside of our jurisdiction. The priority is suitable alternatives for children. Community assets, alternative use, educational use – there are a range of options but our planning department will look into that in due course.</p> <p>Local schools have a walking bus to the playground. The Adventure playground is so good that RC play centre has a loss of revenue as it is less utilised.</p>	
<p>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>Clear strength of feeling and unhappiness about housing for lots of families. Want to work with parents to make sure parents voices are heard on important matters.</p> <p>Response to housing comments: cllrs get frustrated when we see property development at times, we don't have the power to limit but are trying to build as much social housing. The Council does not own all of the land, if a private owner owns the land it is their choice. And issue is falling birth rate in London.</p>	
<p>Disruption to children, parents and staff working with children. It is traumatic for children. Echoing parent question of where will we</p>	<p>There will be more opportunities for your voices to be heard.</p>	<p>Staff question</p>

<p>go?</p> <p>How will this announcement affect RC enrollment? Are you sealing our fate with the announcement?</p> <p>As residents, we have seen reduction of social housing. Why isn't more social housing being built?</p> <p>The school is a family. No good reason to break apart.</p>		
<p>Member of staff at RC, parent of former pupil, and a former pupil. I work in RC **, I know that there are problems with schools that are outstanding but don't accept challenging children. Please consider challenging children as they will find it hard.</p>	<p>Many key takeaways from this conversation including loyalty and community around this school. Children are at the heart and this listening event is to give opportunity to parents to share their views. Statutory duty to provide school place for every child in Hackney. Will look to minimise disruption. First of a series of conversations.</p>	
<p>Is closing a school going to solve the problem, as you said this is only the start. If we move the children, there's no guarantee that it won't happen again. Same with high school.</p> <p>If the school closes, it won't continue as a school so will it be demolished and flats built?</p> <p>Closure is not a solution. Impact on my child needing to resettle after a year.</p>	<p>The local authority has not been quick to consider closure. Neighbouring and other local authorities have made similar decisions. We wanted to explore other options. With 22% vacancies, we have too many schools for the number of students. We can't say what will happen, but there is a reluctance in Hackney to close schools.</p> <p>(Headteacher) The community at RC is because of staff, families and children. My fear, as numbers reduce we won't do it as well, and vulnerable children may lose out. May lose that community that we have now. Impact on teachers with one-form entry and impact on</p>	

	<p>extracurriculars. Whatever the decision, staffing levels have been hard to maintain. Lack of funding.</p>	
<p>How will you support the staff and the children, especially older children? I mean in terms of emotion, regardless of whether it will happen. What are you doing now to support children?</p> <p>The school needs support from Council.</p> <p>Worry boxes at the school are full.</p>	<p>The HR department will work closely with the school if the closure takes place. Head of Wellbeing in Hackney, we will be asking for extra staff in school to have those conversations with children.</p> <p>We have discussed immediate support for staff, and the Head of HR is speaking to the team about support now. That support is being put in place now, it is very emotional. We understand the impact on staff, children, and parents. All of those discussions are happening.</p> <p>Additional support and resources available to schools.</p>	
<p>Additional event notes / comments:</p>		