

School Estates Community Queries [March-May 2023] - by theme

This document includes comments, questions and feedback submitted from

- 1) Governor's / School Leadership
- 2) Questions from specific Engagement event at each school - Nightingale, Baden Powell, Randal Cremer, De Beauvoir, Colvestone, Princess May
- 3) Questions, comments and feedback from the google form and emails submitted by Parent/carers, staff members, governors,

Answers have been provided to questions submitted at the engagement events [time permitting]. An updated FAQ will be provided to ensure consideration of these if the proposals progress to informal consultation.

It is important to note that this stage is not a consultation yet. If the decision is made to move to informal consultation then there will be a structured process to gather feedback from the community on proposals. Further advice on this will be given at that time.

Themes by school:

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Colvestone Primary School

Colvestone
Known or likely question
Theme: PM school fabric and pollution
Princess May has a very poor reputation in the local area
It is ugly and noisy and polluted
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. 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.
Colvestone Crescent is currently a 'school street' which is in effect a no-through street with limited traffic on all sides, protected by the Ridley Road market/landscaping, and was the logical choice to become the first 21st Century Play Street in the borough (Hackney / 21st Century Streets / Colvestone Crescent masterplan). The borough's first 'permanent play / school street' and already extant greening of Colvestone Crescent naturally has the school at the heart of this community-led project (the result of

neighbourhood parklets / local resistance to road traffic) that has been so thoughtfully expanded in Hackney Council's signature environmental proposals for the site. Already the playground that adjoins the meeting of the two roads on the school boundary shows on the Council pollution 'heat maps' as one of the least polluted regions in the whole local area, rather fitting for an outdoor classroom designated as an 'Asset of Community Value' (August 2021)

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.

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.

Why has health not been factored in? We would like it added to the list for consideration.

Theme: Vibe

No Colvestone parent will accept a place on the Princess May school site. Colvestone parents will look to other schools further afield, home school or leave the borough altogether

Did we consider the vibe of schools we are trying to merge?

Parents want their children to attend a small, intimate school with a big heart.

If we wanted a three-form entry we wouldn't have chosen Colvestone

The beautiful listed building is an inspiring place to learn.

Colveston is a 'community treasure'

Colvestone Primary School is a friendly, close-knit, one-form entry community school with a strong academic record and close ties to Ridley Road Market and the surrounding community.

Have you thought about proposed closure and the numbers and impact on schools that will have to take the additional children?

Do you now understand that it is not numbers versus emotion?

Is the consultation a done deal?

What happens if parents are overwhelmingly against the plans, does their voice count?

This time last year parents of years 3 and 4 sat with the Director of Education at the time with real concerns about this. *** told us in no uncertain terms that the school was not at risk of closure. What has changed the process?

When it refers to 'forming a new school', does this mean a brand new name, staff team etc or an expanded Princess May?
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.
Theme: Pupil support and SEND provision
SEND pupils: what will be the impact on them moving to other schools?
Colvestone has 10.7% of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan (national average is 4%) plus another 12% of pupils who need additional support. So 1 in 5 of the pupils have additional challenges of some kind. This proposal will adversely affect these vulnerable children as they will find it particularly difficult to cope with a transition to a new school.
What is going to be done for children with SEN for transition as adaptation issues and for those one that doesn't like a crowded environment? Are the teachers and TAs going to be enough for children with SEND?
My older daughter with ADHD and ODD went to 5 schools in Hackney, including outstanding schools. She was facing being out of mainstream education and Colveston showed her love, acceptance and support which totally changed things around and she 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 daughter, 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. 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.
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.
There is no other school in the area that can ensure that our SEN children get the access to education they have a right to. - The Cull de sac nature of Colvestone facilitates a safe access to school. SEN children get overwhelmed when they are walking through busy streets and can often run into traffic.-Being a one form entry Colvestone is naturally a calmer and less overwhelming environment.-I implore you to consider Colvestone as the perfect school to create an autism friendly environment.
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,
*** 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.
What are the SEND numbers in both the proposed amalgamated school, the nearest school to Colvestone and in other schools that have been proposed to close or amalgamate?
Theme: Rationale
Why is Hackney focused on community schools rather than faith schools?
Why can't we use Colvestone as the host site and expand capacity?
Did we consider merging it with De Beauvoir or another school?
Colvestone is the only non-denominational school in Dalston, and with the proposed closure of nearby De Beauvoir school, current and future parents in this area have few nearby options that are not either religious schools, academies or free schools.
Can we give Colvestone a chance to turn it round?
ONS data shows very strongly that in just a few years 4 or 500 more spaces will be needed in reception again in Hackney.
What about the Colvestone Crescent 21st Century street plan?
What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close?
Proposing to spend millions to make Colvestone 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.
This year our daughter's class (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?
How are FREE schools allowed to continue to run but state maintained are not?
A partnership with Princess May was proposed in the past and rejected.
The current ratio of available places in Hackney are 70.5% community, 9.5% academy/free, 20% faith – suggesting both the damage caused by opening academy schools, the problematic and disproportionate allocation of pupils to them in the reception intake process when no places are offered to any preference on a parent's list, and the necessity to reduce the number of faith school places to better reflect Hackney's population. It is noted that neither faith schools nor academies are considered in this consultation. In 2022 places were allocated (when no preference places were available for a pupil) 40% academy/faith v. 60% community across all places and in 2021: 46% academy/faith v. 54% community. The proposed changes will, of course, further skew this bias away from community schools.
I'd like figures on numbers of Colvestone parents who had Princess May in the top three of their application list.
Distance to other schools
The council's policies that have reduced affordable housing for families has had a direct result on these dwindling numbers.

What will happen to Colvestone's debt if Colvestone is amalgamated with Princess May / closed?
The timeline does not give enough time.
There is a problem, in terms of the merger of Colvestone and Princess May as they are both very different, very few parents want their children to go there. What are you going to do?
Personally, I think the public meetings would be better held directly after the Easter holidays. I imagine we won't be able to set March dates until near the end of term, and having the holidays to mull things over and not have any of us to talk to will provide some anxieties for staff and parents.
Why doesn't Princess May come to Colveston instead?
Why not change the process?
Is the school on-board to amalgamate with Colvestone?
Questions around Princess May (PM) Does it have a deficit or a projected one? This would also be challenging for proposals of amalgamation.
How many children have PM as their first choice? What is the projected reception intake for Princess May? None of the Colvestone families have moved to PM this year even though there are spaces.
Can your team provide an update on the questions posed at the last meeting e.g. admission numbers/trends and provision/incentives to keep staff in post should a decision to 'close' be decided.
RW questioned if the schools have ever been asked to cap their reception numbers previously. Schools that previously expanded during boom years, have they gone back to their substantive PAN or have they remained?
RC questioned in relation to the first and second preferences, what is the likelihood of numbers increasing in reception with second/third places? DC commented it is unknown and more in depth analysis could be done.
SB questioned data presented regarding first preference v how many actually ended up at the school and if we could get a sense of how many first preferences end up at the school
Theme: School falling roll and numbers
What are the first numbers for schools in the area like?
Do you accept that there are numbers you haven't considered? Our children are not just numbers. There are factors buried under the factors. The numbers mean nothing if they don't work for us. When you say you hear the passion you're not hearing a parent talking about their child.
Theme: Financial cost
Can the school's own financial projections in terms of deficit be submitted to the Cabinet for the next four to five years to come?
Will detailed costings be produced if this proposal is put to the wider community?
The school is financially viable on current student numbers.

This is about a sea of lost revenue rather than viability figures. We have seen what might be perceived as losses but not about whether the school is viable. There is an inference that they are both the same in terms of loss of income and not being viable, which is not the case. I would like to see the financial viability report, rather than an obsession with lost revenue

If Colvestone merges does that make PM complete and if not why would that be more financially viable than Colvestone?

Theme: Increase in hackney population

I have seen birth rates that have increased with 400-500 nursery places needed. It is confusing why a year ago we were told the opposite of what we are told today. What happens if there are 70 families told that the children have to go to Princess May and we don't want to go.

We don't understand the timeline, e.g. Brexit and pandemic - numbers show that in 2019 massively decreased, pandemic had a huge effect, lots of parents moved out, what will change because numbers will change, there are big decisions that could go catastrophically wrong. Pupil numbers will increase with residents coming to live in building projects. It seems really short sighted.

Aside that the school is financially viable on current student numbers, the Hackney Local Plan (LP33) / the 'Dalston Plan' (adopted 22nd July 2020) commits to the building of hundreds of new homes in the immediate vicinity of Colvestone Primary School – a substantial proportion of which will be mandatorily designated as family homes, this being the proportion of the population identified as finding it most difficult to stay in the borough (Council conditions, as per the new Hackney Council developments around the Britannia Leisure Centre, for example). In addition the Hackney Plan predicts a continuing rise in Hackney's population, and projects a need for more primary and secondary places within the scope of the plan. A strong community school, in addition to being a strong draw for prospective residents, will also be required for the family occupants of the new residential developments in central Hackney (the development sites are extremely close / clustered around Colvestone Primary School, as identified in the plan).

The Dalston Area Plan shows that more residential properties are planned for the area which will lead to an increase in demand for more school places in a few years time. Local residents deserve to have a school they can easily walk to, one that has a strong academic record, that offers the closeness and individual attention of a one-form entry environment, and that is not tied to any particular religion.

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.

Theme: Previous investment in Colvestone

New school playground and other investments

What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close?

Theme: Timing

I made a complaint about the fact that we have only been given till Friday to get our points into the report and were not given time to receive answers to our many questions or requests.

The complaints team said there is no such deadline.

Please can you clarify urgently as this has a significant impact on what we do.

Theme: Blossom Federation support
<p>Why did we allow Blossom in?</p> <p>Colvestone has been in partnership with Blossom Federation (who manage three other schools in the borough) since September 2022. They were selected by Hackney Education and the governing body in June last year to give the best support to Colvestone - Princess May was rejected as a partnership option at that time.</p> <p>During that process, the then Director of Education at Hackney reassured parents that there were no plans to close the school. The school leadership is extremely disappointed that the new partnership with Blossom Federation has not been given an opportunity to show its impact.</p>
<p>Colvestone has benefitted from significant capital investment by Hackney Council over the last 12-18 months with significant external repairs to the stonework and leadwork on the roof and careful restoration of the Grade 2 listed railings in front of the school. Without the scaffolding, the school building looks very attractive. Blossom Federation has attracted further Council funding to upgrade facilities and redecorate inside the school as well.</p>
<p>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.</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>Is Thomas Fairchild in consideration of closing/amalgamating? If not, why not? Their situation is comparable to Colvestone and they have had more financial support than Colvestone.</p>
<p>it was wonderful to see how the new management team and Blossom Federation have pulled up the school in just two terms.</p>
Theme: Colvestone site usage
<p>What are we going to do with the Colvestone site?</p>
<p>Leaving the Colvestone building (grade 2 listed) empty and letting it become derelict would be a travesty.</p>
<p>The closure of Colvestone would have a negative impact on this community and leave an empty building in the heart of the local area.</p>

Colvestone has been part of the Dalston community for more than 170 years. It is a beautiful Grade 2 listed building, and the only surviving example of the original Birkbeck schools, part of a mid-19th century radical education movement.
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.
The land behind Colvestone school is disputed, community won against developer due to the school being there. What will happen to the land?
What would happen to the Colvestone building if the school is closed?
Is the new road going here?
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 result in ambitious plans to redevelop the site, which at best may harm the setting of the listed building and at worst obliterate it. Such changes may also harm the character and appearance of the conservation area. DCAAC asserts that the character and appearance of the St Mark's Conservation Area will be severely affected by the loss of its only primary school, which is one of a small number of buildings in the neighbourhood with a community use. The school closure will have an unwelcome homogenizing effect on the conservation area as well reducing the quality of life of its residents.
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.
Theme: Staff
What will happen to the staff?
Change.org petition
Link
Theme: Lack of non-faith schools
he closure of Colvestone and De Beauvoir would mean that there would be no non-faith, one-form local authority schools within a mile of the Colverstone building, leaving the area dominated by religious schools, free schools and academies. (For reference, the current ratio of available places in Hackney are 70.5% community, 9.5% academy/free, 20% faith – suggesting both the damage caused by opening academy schools, the problematic and disproportionate allocation of pupils to them in the reception intake process when no places are offered to any preference on a parent's list, and the necessity to reduce the number of faith school places to better reflect Hackney's population. It is noted that neither faith schools nor academies are considered in this consultation. In 2022 places were allocated (when no preference places were available for a pupil) 40% academy/faith v. 60% community across all places and in 2021: 46% academy/faith v. 54% community. The proposed changes will, of course, further skew this bias away from community schools).

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.

Why does LA allocate non faith children to religious schools?

Baden Powell Primary School

Baden Powell
Known or likely question
Theme: Costs of the move
My child would be in year ** if you were to merge. Would we have to buy a whole new set of uniforms just for one year ?
Uniform is an issue. Will there be something put in place for parents regarding the costs of new uniforms?
Will there be any support to purchase the uniform if changed
The government has cut funding so there was already a lack of funding before all the other issues described in the powerpoint took place?
Question asked on if there is a way to address the funding, perhaps raising money/ charity donations- has this been discussed/raising a fund?
Would it be legal to raise funds for the school?
Theme: Rationale / Is the decision finalised?
Regarding the stats from around 10 years ago, if birth rates were going down, then why was Nightingale school built?
Are Nightingale in the same position as us? Why does our school have to merge with them on their site?!
Is the decline in numbers similar for Nightingale?
At the last meeting, there were many issues that came up. It is being made to seem as if parents are just anxious.
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?
Is there anything that could be done to stop this from happening?
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 ?

Will any of these questions/information be fed back?
If there was an influx of children before september- what would happen?
Based on the statistics, it is either we merge or we close
The council needs to be straightforward with parents
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?
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
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
Theme: Children with SEND
Will children with learning difficulties have the same support or extra support put in place for them not to be affected?
What measures are being put in place for pupils with Special needs to make sure that this change has no effect on their education?
What is the plan for children that have SEN? There needs to be a plan
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. He will already make a move from Year 6 to secondary school. We are unable to cope with that much change
Theme: Ethos
Will the two schools be given a new name?
How will the receiving school accept the students and make them feel welcome?
How will you ensure that students are not going to be bullied and made to feel like an outsider?
Theme: Building
What will happen to the Baden Powell School site?

Theme: Staff
Are teachers from this school going to be present in Nightingale schools?
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 I don't want Baden Powell Primary School to 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 if they feel not well in a big school with a lot of children in a small place. My children feel very well in Baden Powell so they are very sad since they know about this problem. I don't want you to play with my children's future. So please stop this merge and leave Baden Powell as a small wonderful primary School.
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
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
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
We do not want the lovely little school to be closed, this is a lovely school with lovely staff and teaching system.
Theme: Parental choice
If parents do not want to send their child to Nightingale school will they be given the option of other primary schools?
Why can it not be done as secondary schools do, and leave the children currently there without taking new admissions?
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 This does not feel like an open discussion
Walks 30 mins from ** house for ** children to attend Baden Powell. There is another school close to ** house, but Baden Powell is a small school, it is very good for ** children and this is why she brings ** children here. Does not want to send ** children to a big school like Nightingale
Theme: Mental health (due to transition)
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?

Randal Cremer
Known or likely question
Theme: Rationale
Why are De Beauvoir and Randal Cremer only considered as closures?
What are you going to do to attract more families to live in the borough, to avoid schools being closed or merged?
How will this announcement affect RC enrollment? Are you sealing our fate with the announcement?
The school is based in an area surrounded with buildings and homes and majority of those homes with children come to Randal Cremer.
Is this a move to acquire prime land for Real Estate purposes?
Why doesn't Randal Cremer have the option of merging, as opposed to closing down, especially as it has fantastic facilities and is easily accessible via public transport? (multiple requests)
Why can we not merge the other school that may be closing with Randall Cramer? Randall Cramer is situated in a safe place with very low traffic. It also has an adventure park close to it where children attend after school. This helps working parents as children can attend for free helping with child care.
Why didn't Hackney Council merge De Beauvoir Primary and Randal Cremer primary school together on the Randal Cremer site as a big school. There should be an option of that rather than closure, Randal Cremer primary school is very good with Autistic kids. When other schools refused my ** they took me in immediately.
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
We want our kids to get a good education and carry on with their peers but economical reasons must be considered as well. After enough research and discussions, I am sure our borough will do the best to not waste our funds and future.
Why have you proposed to amalgamate Colvestone and Princess May, Baden Powell and Nightingale but not Randal Cremer and De Beauvoir?
The position of the school, away from the main road and without almost any traffic outside of school opening and closing hours, means that the school can organise events where they can close off and use Pearson's Street as an extension of celebrations, where they can invite parents to games, events and stage performances for the community.
Our school is situated next to Apples and Pears where the children can go for free after school and can be walked across the road by teachers and staff enabling our Parents to continue to work and earn money for their family.
Hackney Council can use our school as a Flagship School for them to send children that are struggling with places in Hackney. If the parents wish to have places for example at Hoxton Gardens but they are fully subscribed, they can be referred to and accepted at our school.

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
We will need to work closely with Unions, at what point can I speak to them?
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? Is there enough space 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?
At what point can I tell staff and the community? Although I appreciate that Hackney have said they will support with meetings in the first instance I would like to do the meetings and then arrange for Hackney to come in to take follow up questions?
How do we keep the focus on school improvement?
How do we manage speculation and reports in press? Will there be consistent messaging around the closure that make it clear it is not about the quality of education or safeguarding?
Which other schools are affected? I would like to set up a support group for Heads facing the same challenges.
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.
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
Theme: No assurance of closure prevention in the future
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.
Has the decision been made/ will the closure happen?
There is no guarantee that the upheaval of this planned school closure won't mean that the children will have this repeated at another school, at a later date or cannot return to their Primary School.
Theme: Where would the children move
Are 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?
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?
If the school closes will we be guaranteed a place in our chosen school which is local to our home?

I am based somewhere else in**, however, my child attends Randal Creamer due to my **being the secondary caregiver who picks and drops my child to school. I would need to have my child attend a school situated near my **. Would the catchment area still play a part?
How can you ensure that our kids will have a place in their local schools?
A child stated when he found out the school was shutting said “But now I don’t belong anywhere!”
children will still have to travel a distance to go to another school. That justification isn’t viable
How will you accommodate families with more than one child? Will the children go to the same school?
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.
Will the larger class size affect education?
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.
Will we compete with all other families applying in September? Will there be a priority list? RC is the only school that accepted my child based on catchment, my mother lives locally and supports childcare. My child's education is going to be uprooted. How will we be supported?
What if parents start removing children now rather than wait until July 2024? How will children be managed – will they be allocated schools based on their location or will parents have a choice? Will parents/ caregivers be guided/ supported by Hackney Education through the difficult process of their children moving to another school?
Theme: Children with SEND
What are your plans for SEN kids? What support and care are you going to give them to settle in another school?
A lot 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.
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?
What will you do for the kids with SEND? Stress impacts on parents and kids.
I have a child with SEND, RC was the only school that accepted my child. ** will not understand that the school is closing. Other local schools did not accept my child.
Member of staff at RC, parent of former pupil, and a former pupil.****, 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
What happens to children with SEND – both those with EHC plans and those where we are gathering evidence for an EHC assessment application?
Will children with learning difficulties have the same support or extra support put in place for them not to be affected ?
Theme: Staff
Please can you guarantee that all staff will be offered new placements in a school for work no matter the age
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.
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.
RC is not just a school, we are a family. Headteacher has supported lots of families. The school is a family. No good reason to break apart.
Disruption to children, parents and staff working with children. It is traumatic for children. Echoing parent question of where will we go?
What about staff who are unable to secure a job? Similarly, what happens if staff elect to leave before July 2024 – we could end up having to staff with agency staff as a short term solution?
Will there be support for staff in writing application forms and conducting interviews?
How are decisions made and why? What's gonna happen to all the students Teachers and staff? All parents are unhappy and worried about their kids' education.
Theme: Provisions
Our Early Years provision has been noted to be good to outstanding with a new, exciting Early Years playground for the children to play in. The Early Years staff are two of our Middle Leaders team who are fabulous at their jobs and run a very caring and nurturing Nursery and Reception.
What about resources, eg. Computers, laptops, IWB, furniture, brand new £37k climbing frame?
Theme: Financial arrangements
Do I proceed with a restructure for this financial year as with current pupil numbers it is not possible to set a balanced budget under the existing staffing structure?
What about SLAs and other contracts – many of which run April to March and have a penalty clause if finished early – eg. SIMS
Will the school receive additional HR support and will this need to be taken from our budget?

Has additional money been allocated to ensure i)the support needed to manage the situation, ii) the continued delivery of high quality education and iii)a smooth transition?

Theme: Site Usage

What will happen to the school site?

Following site question and response: It seems like the decision has been made.

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?

Multiple comments raising concerns that flats could be built on the RC site in the future.

Will you make a commitment to not build flats on the site?

What about the adventure playground?

As residents, we have seen reduction of social housing. Why isn't more social housing being built?

New buildings are not given to people like us. View that flats would be built.

If the school closes, it won't continue as a school so will it be demolished and flats built?

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.

Theme: Mental health

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?

The school needs support from Council.

Worry boxes at the school are full.

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 **, ** has anxiety about where ** will be / belong and whether ** friends will come with **. The emotional impact is important.

Closure is not a solution.
Impact on my child needing to resettle after a year.

Theme: Priority list / Admission arrangement

What about children due to start Reception in September 2023? What happens if parents change their mind once it is announced?

What about children in our Nursery and any on the waiting list?

De Beauvoir Primary School

De Beauvoir
Known or likely question
Theme: Rationale
Why is Hackney focused on community schools rather than faith schools?
Why are De Beauvoir and Randal Cremer only considered as closures?
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.
Given the setting of the building and the existence of four different entries, could part of it be repurposed for other uses (i.e. letting it for companies) until the numbers grow, while the first floor remains for the use of the school?
Are the other schools better than Randal Cremer and have enough funds to take good care of my kids?
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 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].
What about the children without those needs?
Why is the school closing when Hackney New School doesn't have adequate play space for play and they use local parks for break time? Why did Hackney agree to them using local parks for this?
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.
What will happen for practising muslims as most local schools are Christian schools and why is it that non religious schools are in scope and religious ones are not? There isn't another school within walking distance that isn't religious.
What is the position of church schools, is it not the LA's decision to close?
Have other options been considered for De Beauvoir? Has an amalgamation with another school been considered? If not, why not

Is it local or central government policy in terms of dispersal policies that house families out of the borough? Can local government impact this?
How is this fed back in terms of the impact on schools in Hackney?
There is not this huge deficit in other boroughs - Lewisham is a school short.
Are there any restructuring plans for De Beauvoir for the year 2023-2024?
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?
Are any other federation schools at risk of closure?
As the number of children and income of De Beauvoir was likely to drop once HE's proposals were made public, some dedicated financial or teaching support was needed for the remaining children.
Are all the schools identified schools like De Beauvoir with high levels of disadvantage? Are they all schools from communities who are less likely to have a voice? If this is the case what will the council do to ensure those families are listened to and supported?
The current estates strategy has an equalities impact assessment which relates to the repurposing of schools for SEND provision. The assessment does not look at school closures. Can we see the equalities impact assessment for the closure of the identified schools?
What is the plan to reassure families that their children will be looked after.
What are the practicalities once the decision is made public. Staffing? Leadership? Pupil mobility? The sustainability of school where pupils are fleeing to find a place at another school?
How will you assure Governors that robust processes are in place to manage this complex situation. So far, we have been invited to a meeting in which very little concrete detail has been provided. We have received no further concrete information and have no date for a follow up meeting or next steps. Apart from a vague date in May when a decision will be made, we have no clear next steps.
When will Hackney Education have a permanent senior team?
why do you need to close school were my kids have been there from nursery
We've got 4 different entries in our building, which give 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
Theme: Lack of Information
HES needed to provide much better and more detailed information at future meetings, including reports in advance, as it was difficult to have a proper discussion without this. Some governors felt unable to comment properly at this stage without that information.
HE needed to provide detailed information on how the closure would be managed if it went ahead,

<p>what support it would provide, and how messaging to parents and the community would be done. 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.</p>
<p>More information was needed about HE's criteria for closing schools.</p>
<p>The current estates strategy does not include the criteria for school closure. When and how were these developed</p>
<p>When will we get further detail, why isn't HES talking directly with Governors about opportunities or options?</p>
<p>Theme: Merging</p>
<p>Why can we not merge the other school that is closest to De Beauvoir?</p>
<p>If another school near our one is closing and going to be out together with Princess May, what if parents don't want the kids to go there? Why can't they come to our school so ours wouldn't close?</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Has De Beauvoir been considered for merging (potentially with Princess May)?</p>
<p>Why was it rejected to merge with another school?</p>
<p>For many families, De Beauvoir is an important part of their community and for many a safe, secure space where they can share issues and problems. How will they be supported to fully integrate into a new school community?</p>
<p>Theme: Staff</p>
<p>What will happen to the staff?</p>
<p>What funding is there to support the process of closure? How will the wellbeing of staff be managed?</p>
<p>How are education professionals being engaged in making these decisions?</p>
<p>The 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.</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>Theme: Priority list / Admission arrangements</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 we have already applied for other schools and are on the waiting list, what should we do?</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?
If De Beauvoir closes, its children should be offered places at other federation schools.
How will parents of Rec age pupils due to start in Sept 23 be supported when the decision to close the school is made public in May?
Can the admissions policies for voluntary aided schools in the federation be rewritten to give preference to children from De Beauvoir? What about the admissions processes for other schools?
De Beauvoir pupils should have fair access to all schools in Hackney, including those that were very popular (and full)
Do existing admission arrangements allow priority to be given to children from De Beauvoir?
Can admissions arrangements be changed? Can admission policies be changed to give priority to children transferring from De Beauvoir?
It felt unfair to allow a reception class to join in September 2023, as HE intended.
Will the children who are currently awaiting places in specialist provision be prioritised over children at other schools?
Theme: Additional costs
Most people in this school are in temporary house, social housing and can not afford to take kids to new schools with buses including myself I have ** kids and need to keep them together
How will parents be supported to buy new uniforms?
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?
Theme: Children's stress
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.
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?
When this school is closed, my ** will be in year **. ** does not have an EHCP plan. I want to know what support my ** is going to receive. ** is already crying about leaving ** friends, and ** will go somewhere for one year and then have to go on to secondary school. My mum and husband 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.

Theme: Special needs provisions

De Beauvoir has been excellent over the years with regard to nurturing my special needs children, ** 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.

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 ?

A parent of a child with an EHCP wants ** 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?

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 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.

For children with severe needs placed in other schools, what happens to those schools if they cannot meet the need of those 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?

The school has a large number of children eligible for the pupil premium grant and a large number of children with SEN, both of which gave them considerable disadvantages. The closure of the school would create even more disadvantage and this needed to be dealt with very carefully and sensitively by HES.

Currently there are ** children who the school has said during EHCP / annual review processes that it cannot meet needs for those who are still on roll. Will they be expected to transition to another mainstream school and continue to await a specialist place when they are there?

Transition for a high proportion of children with SEN / other social needs will take up a considerable amount of leadership time, which is currently 1.6 of a person. Also, some children will find the emotional element of transition challenging and it may need a higher degree of leadership support to manage this. What support will be provided to add to leadership capacity and enable this?

Theme: No correlation between free places in schools and lack of nursery places

There is already a serious lack of nursery provision and places in Dalston 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.

My ** is due to start ** at De Beauvoir in September 2023, this was after ** was rejected for multiple other 2-3 years nursery places in Hackney due to ** 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
What will happen with the nursery at De Beauvoir?
What will happen to the nursery?
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.
Theme: Lack of promotion of De Beauvoir as a good school for new children
Hackney Education has done nothing to promote De Beauvoir to prospective parents in recent years, despite it being rated by OFSTED as good with outstanding features.
Theme: Site usage
What is planned for the De Beauvoir site? The Estates Strategy says to mothball a primary school site can cost in the region of £250,000-300,000 per annum. What is planned for the De B building to ensure this money is spent in a better way?
Theme: Unfair competition from Hackney New Primary School
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.
My preference is for my child to attend this school. ** doesn't want to go to another school but ** is being forced to go to another school. Why are you not suggesting that she should wait and see? You 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
My child starts ** next year, so I had to choose my school for ** 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 ** 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.
Theme: Where will the children go?
Should the school close down, children should be given automatic places in the school of their choice, waiting list or not.

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?
Theme: Over/under subscription
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.
How does the red line trajectory incorporate the covid baby boom in terms of future numbers of children?
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 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?
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?
If all (or most) of the De B displaced by closure go to a single school, how will that school be supported to manage the influx of high levels of need?

Nightingale Primary School

Nightingale
Known or likely question
Theme: Staff
Is there going to be an additional teaching assistant as the number of the students in the class will increase?
Will all staff including cleaners and mod day supervisors receive training in SEN especially if the school is to expand?
How will this affect the leadership team at Nightingale? Will the newly merged school be run by the current Nightingale head mistress and governors?
Will there be a new headteacher or will there be 2?
How will the teaching time be allocated? Will there be enough time for teachers to do 1 to 1 to support children?
Theme: Ethos of the school
Can the name of the merged school change?
Is the merger going to affect uniforms too?

Will you be turning the Nightingale into an Academy if merge is to be passed.

Finally will the bigger merged school be getting more staff i.e teachers, wellbeing officers to help the children transition into this big change and not impact learning/outcomes for children.

Theme: School organisation post-merger

Nightingale is due to receive funding for an ARP. How will staff impact 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?

How many children will there be per form entry?

Would my daughter's class year remain the same or would she be separated from her peers into the new class with new children and staff?

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?

I understand that they don't have enough students at the Baden school, that's why they will close/merge with our school.

Will children be separated from their friends in order to have two classes each year?

When were the predictions for falling class sizes first made? Brexit was a while ago; was closure/merger not considered earlier?

I'm a ** mum and chose this school due to one form entry.

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.

Why don't you outgrow the schools/classes over time and start transitioning pupils in reception?

BP stats have been shared but what is the impact [of falling enrollment] on Nightingale?

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.

Govt funding is a big issue.

What stops it going ahead?

The financial situation seems like the proposal has to go ahead.

Theme: Children with SEND

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?

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.

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?

Are staff from Baden Powell going to be trained so that we don’t experience previous issues here?

Theme: Use of the Baden Powell site

Is there a plan 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 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?

What will happen with old school sites? Hackney needs more specialist needs?

Theme: Concerns of children's transition to NG

Parents 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.

What extra help will school be given to support with the transition? What is the impact if the merger does not take place?

Any change, good or bad, can have a negative impact; what are your predictions?

Also raised concern about “ghost children” and EBSA pupils.

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.

Princess May Primary School

Princess May

Known or likely question

Theme: Quality of learning

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.

Theme: Needing more details
How large will the classes be in terms of pupil numbers?
Princess May is a very big and good school. Why is it very important to fill the number of the pupils in the school after the school has a very big number of pupils there. Is it better to have 25 pupils in the class than 20? How will the lessons be with more pupils?
You mentioned princess may is highly ranked in London, where can I find further information on this ranking, criteria etc?
Theme: Merge
When will the merge be likely to finish?
and will the current princess may staff including head stay or change?
When would the merge be happening and how will it affect the children moving forward?
Theme: Staff
How will this impact current staff at both schools?
Theme: Site usage
What will happen to Colvestone school building, sold / used for other purposes?

General queries (multiple / all schools)

Multiple schools
Known or likely question
Theme: Impact on other schools
Will secondary schools be affected later on?
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?
Theme: Use of the sites if schools close
If it is decided to close one or more schools, what will Hackney Council do with the building? Will Hackney Council use the property for social housing and not sell the buildings/s to the property developer who bids the most?

Theme: Lack of alternative maintained schools

The closure of Colvestone and De Beauvoir would mean that there would be no non-faith, one-form local authority schools within a mile of the Colverstone building, leaving the area dominated by religious schools, free schools and academies.

Multiple schools

Known or likely question

Theme: Impact on other schools

Will secondary schools be affected later on?

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Theme:

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.

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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.

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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 separated 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.

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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 nurseary 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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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 Cramer 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 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 didnt Hackney council merge Debiour 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	Im 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 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! 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

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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 scho	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
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
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
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

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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.

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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 opporunity 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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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
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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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 2098 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 2098 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 2098 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 2098 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 2098 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 2098 1592">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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
28/04/2023 14:33:57	Parent / carer - for a child	Colvestone Primary School	Colvestone Primary School	submitted via email to Dir	<p>On Wed, 19 Apr 2023 at 15:02, **** wrote: Director of Education</p> <p>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>Dear Director of Education,</p> <p>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>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>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>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>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 grown 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 14:46:33	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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
28/04/2023 14:54:45	Parent / carer - for a child	Colvestone Primary School	Colvestone Primary School	submitted via email to Dir	<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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
28/04/2023 15:00:25	Parent / carer - for a child	Colvestone Primary School	Colvestone Primary School	submitted via email to Dir	<p>On Mon, 17 Apr 2023, 13:48 S 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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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.

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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?

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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 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="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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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>

Timestamp	Who are you?	Which school are you associated with?	My question/comment is about	I am asking/commenting ...	My question/comment is
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
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 544 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 687 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 895 2101 1023">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 1070 2101 1166">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 1214 2101 1342">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 1390 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>

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

Please make a copy of this document before use

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>	
<p></p>	

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

Session / School	Princess May	
Date	27/04/23	
Est. number of attendees	11	
Question asked	Response	Additional comments
When is the merge likely to finish?	If the proposals go ahead, they will be in effect from September 2024, Colvestone pupils will move on site at this time	
How large will the classes be in terms of pupil numbers?	We don't know how large year groups will be after any merger, this will be based on a number of different factors	
How will this impact current staff at both schools?	If proposals go ahead, Princess May would remain in existence, Colvestone would close. At this stage we cannot say what would happen to staff at Colvestone.	
and will the current Princess May staff including head stay or change?	<p>All staff at Princess May have a contract and would remain in school.</p> <p>From the schools perspective, the leadership/staff team would stay the same. The governing body wants to protect the good work leadership/ staff have done in improving outcomes for children at the school.</p> <p>The merger should be seen as an exciting and positive new phase for Princess May - it will be the chance to mix and interact with different children.</p>	
What will happen to the Colvestone school building, sold / used for other purposes?	<p>The council has no plans to sell any of the school sites that are potentially in scope as a decision hasn't been made on the future of the schools.</p> <p>We want to have schools for children to come back to if birth rates increase</p> <p>If schools are left vacant the property team will do an assessment for the best use for the property</p> <p>Cabinet haven't made a decision yet so we cannot say what the sites will be used for</p>	

<p>You mentioned Princess May is highly ranked in London, where can I find further information on this ranking, criteria etc?</p>	<p>Information on attainment can be found on the Princess May website</p> <p>Princess May results are significantly higher than national standards.</p> <p>We aren't proposing closing/merging schools due schools having poor attainment, all schools in Hackney have good attainment. These decisions are being made due to the fact that all schools across London have less pupils</p>	
<p>Additional event notes / comments:</p>		
<p>This will not be the only session that you can have with Cllrs and officers - there will be further in person sessions, information will be shared, if you have queries please email directly and please use the form</p>		

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

Please make a copy of this document before use

Session / School	Colvestone Primary School - Parents	
Date	Monday 24th April	
Est. number of attendees	110 (including presenters)	
Question asked	Response	Additional comments
What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close?	The debt falls within the jurisdiction of the LA. Some of the deficit has been successfully addressed.	
Why is Hackney focused on community schools rather than faith schools?	Hackney is not focused on community schools alone. There is dialogue with the Diocese of the Church of England and Catholicism, as there is a process of consultation required. There are a number of schools that could be in scope. Announcements will be made in the not too distant future.	
What would happen to the Colvestone building if the school is closed?	There will be an asset review process. No decision has been made as yet. A range of evaluations will be made at Cabinet meetings, which are public. The needs of the community will be considered.	
Is the new road going here?	This is still ongoing. There is confirmation of funding for the change of infrastructure of the street and there will be discussion with ward members.	In terms of air pollution figures, the baseline is 40% and the local number is 23%, at Princess May one playground is 23% and

		the other is 32%, numbers have gone down but this process is ongoing.
Why has health not been factored in? We would like it added to the list for consideration.	It will be part of the Cabinet deliberation.	
What is the deadline for sharing information ahead of Cabinet on 22 May?	If shared by the end of this week it will get in, if it is shared next week we will try. The intention is to include as much information as possible.	
What is the criteria?	We are happy to have more meetings around the drivers and timeline of decision making. Although the meeting is today, parents have had information before and had the opportunity to submit questions beforehand. We can take away that parents would prefer to meet and ask questions afterwards.	
The timeline does not give enough time.	We want to make sure that the process is as comprehensive as possible. We will share the criteria with all parents.	
This time last year parents of years 3 and 4 sat with *** with real concerns about this. *** told us in no uncertain terms that the school was not at risk of closure. What has changed the process?	The census date landed in December and showed projections for the next few years for Hackney schools and we looked at admission numbers for September. It has become a school in scope for a process.	

<p>I have seen birth rates that have increased with 400-500 nursery places needed. It is confusing why a year ago we were told the opposite of what we are told today. What happens if there are 70 families told that the children have to go to Princess May and we don't want to go.</p>	<p>The LA has a responsibility to find an education place for all children which includes children with additional needs. It is incumbent on sufficient use of resources. Unless we go through this process, next year it could be 9-10 schools. Numbers have continued to incline. Our LAs have been through this - namely Camden, Islington and Newham.</p>	
<p>There is a problem, in terms of the merger of Colvestone and Princess May as they are both very different, very few parents want their children to go there. What are you going to do?</p>	<p>We have to work with families to find a solution. If the numbers do not make a school viable, we have to do something different.</p>	<p>I wouldn't send my child to a school that was going to close, it is being sabotaged in terms of September's intake.</p> <p>We specifically came to Colvestone to find a small school and this involved travelling from Canning Town to Newham, this school is really friendly and inclusive and my children love it here. Everyone knows each other and says hello to each other.</p>
<p>Have you thought about proposed closure and the numbers and impact on schools that will have to take the additional children?</p>	<p>Yes, there have been evaluations and modelling.</p>	<p>In your process of evaluation, please consider that some children won't be able to learn in a big school and primary school is their foundation.</p> <p>This is real life and facts, not just emotion.</p>

<p>Do you now understand that it is not numbers versus emotion?</p>	<p>It is much broader than that, but future viability is about numbers.</p>	
<p>Do you accept that there are numbers you haven't considered? Our children are not just numbers. There are factors buried under the factors. The numbers mean nothing if they don't work for us. When you say you hear the passion you're not hearing a parent talking about their child.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>	

<p>We don't understand the timeline, e.g. Brexit and pandemic - numbers show that in 2019 massively decreased, pandemic had a huge effect, lots of parents moved out, what will change because numbers will change, there are big decisions that could go catastrophically wrong. Pupil numbers will increase with residents coming to live in building projects. It seems really short sighted.</p>	<p>We are restructuring to ensure that every Hackney child has as good an experience as possible, and the school has to still be viable. Other schools will come into scope. You're asking why go into a process? Because it has reached a threshold for strategy and criteria. There are so many compelling arguments. It is not just about numbers, much broader. That is why these sessions are important. Other areas did not go through a process like this - Hackney prides itself on child and parent voices to capture views. At Cabinet in May, it is about permission sought to go to the next stage, which is still informal. This is the beginning of the process. It is due to the census data and efficient use of resources which equals 22% empty seats and this is not efficient use of resources.</p>	
<p>This is about a sea of lost revenue rather than viability figures. We have seen what might be perceived as losses but not about whether the school is viable. There is an inference that they are both the same in terms of loss of income and not being viable, which is not the case. I would like to see the financial viability</p>	<p>We can make this information available to the Full Governing Body [action] if they haven't received it already. They have made a surplus but it would not have been achieved without the support by the LA whilst it has made good inroads.</p>	<p>This school is unique, and this is a one off opportunity to save the street. You can't build a beautiful street outside and close the school beside it. We need support. Take us off the list. We need a chance to see what the reception roll is in a two or three years time, first.</p> <p>I have heard stories of children thriving in this small school environment that it is such a wonderful school. Hackney should be fighting for this school.</p>

<p>report, rather than an obsession with lost revenue.</p>		<p>***: We cannot close faith, despite free schools or academies. Maintained schools are the only ones we have scope for. We have written to the government and asked for us to be able to consider all schools in scope, and also we requested for pausing of free schools being set up. Any schools that house Hackney children are all our children. We don't need free schools in the borough and it is frustrating.</p>
<p>Why does LA allocate non faith children to religious schools?</p>	<p>The procedure is to offer the nearest school to home, but they don't have to accept it.</p>	
<p>Why not change the process?</p>	<p>It's about parental choice.</p>	
<p>Why doesn't Princess May come to Colveston instead?</p>	<p>There isn't enough capacity in the building.</p>	
<p>Can the school's own financial projections in terms of deficit be submitted to the Cabinet for the next four to five years to come?</p>	<p>Yes that can.</p>	<p>This is a great experience for children to come here. *** left here four years ago for secondary school and it was a great place to come to as a primary school. The community is like a big family. Ridley Road market is such a great mix of diversity. There is academic success and records of children when they go on from here to secondary school and university.</p>

		<p>The teachers are really dedicated, the students are thriving and this includes SEND kids. In Colvestone is it different from other schools? Schools like this need to be supported instead of closing it.</p>
Additional event notes / comments:		

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

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

Please make a copy of this document before use

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:		

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>		