Pre-publication consultation on the proposed closure of St Andrew’s Church of England (CofE) High School

Consultation period: 15 March 2019 to 26 April 2019

Pre-publication consultation document

About the school
St Andrew’s Church of England High School is a voluntary aided mainstream school for boys and girls. The school is part of the educational provision of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and the London Borough of Croydon. The school is situated at Warrington Road, Croydon CR0 4BH.

The Proposal
St Andrew’s Governing Board, in consultation with Croydon Council and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education have agreed to commence the statutory process for proposed closure of the school in August 2020 following completion of Year 11 GCSE examination.

Statutory requirement
The process for decision making regarding school closures is set out in the Department for Education’s statutory guidance ‘Opening and Closing Maintained Schools’ April 2018. The statutory process consists of:

• Pre-publication consultation
• Publication of statutory notice
• Representation / formal consultation
• Decision by the Council’s cabinet committee on the school closure proposal

About pre-publication consultation
The purpose of the pre-publication consultation is to seek the views and engage with those that will be directly affected by the proposed closure of St Andrew’s CofE High School. It is also an opportunity for interested parties to suggest options for consideration on the proposed closure of St Andrew’s CofE High School in August 2020. The pre-publication consultation will run for six weeks – 15 March to 26 April 2019.

Responses will be analysed and a consultation outcomes report produced which will be presented to the Executive Director, Children, Families & Education and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning for consideration. Subject to approval, this consultation will be followed by the publication of the statutory notice/proposal, starting a four week representation period when any person can send objections or comments to Croydon Council on the proposal. Details of this consultation will follow, if agreed.
**Reason for the proposed closure**
The school is no longer considered viable both in terms of its ability to deliver a full and balanced curriculum due to low staff numbers and financial sustainability. A large portion of funding received is directly related to the number of pupils attending a school. St. Andrew’s was rated as requiring improvement following an Ofsted inspection in November 2016 and there has been a decline in pupil numbers over a number of years, directly affecting the school’s funding.

The Governing Board, the Anglican Diocese of Southwark and Croydon Council (the ‘local authority’) have been in discussion in relation to options for the school site. The Diocese of Southwark is considering a viable alternative option for the school site and wish to retain proportionality of Church school places.

**Impact of the closure**

**Current Pupils**
There will be no displaced pupils as there will only be Year 11 pupils who will have completed their GCSE examination in July 2020 and the proposed closing date of the school is August 2020.

The interim provision for newly arrived Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (run by the Virtual School) is currently located at St Andrew’s. Should St. Andrew’s close, a new location will be found for this provision.

**Community**
Local residents will have the opportunity to express their views during this consultation and the representation period.

**School Places**
School roll projections indicate sufficiency of secondary school places across the borough for the next 3 years, however this will be reviewed / monitored if the proposed closure of St Andrew’s is approved.

**Balance of denominational provision**
With regards to diversity of education provision and parental preference, the proposed closure will reduce the number of Church of England schools places available in the borough if an alternative plan has not been agreed by the Diocese.

**Who we are consulting**
We are consulting with the school, parents/carer, governors and the local community on the proposed closure of the school. In addition, we would welcome the views of:
- all schools / admission authorities in Croydon – governing body / academy trusts
- neighbouring Admission Authorities;
- Ward members;
- The Anglican Diocese of Southwark (C of E);
- The Archdiocese of Southwark (Catholic);
- Students;
- Anyone else who has an interest or may affected by proposed closure of the school.
Consultation period
This pre-publication phase will run from 15 March 2019 to 26 April 2019, during this time you are invited to respond to Croydon Council on the Governing Body’s proposal to close the school.

Consultation Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 March 2019</td>
<td>Start of pre-publication consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 April 2019</td>
<td>End of pre-publication consultation period and deadline for response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 May 2019</td>
<td>Analysis of responses to consultation and draft consultation outcomes report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 May 2019</td>
<td>Council’s considers consultation outcome and decides whether to approve publication of notice</td>
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**Proposed date**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06 June 2019</td>
<td>Publication of statutory notice</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 June 2019</td>
<td>Start of representation period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 June 2019</td>
<td>Public Meeting at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 July 2019</td>
<td>End of representation period</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 September 2019</td>
<td>Council’s cabinet committee decision on whether to close the school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2020</td>
<td>Proposed school closure, if approved</td>
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How to give your views
Should you require this document in any other format or language, please contact the Council using the details below.

This consultation period allows anyone with an interest to comment or raise any concerns about the proposal to close St Andrew’s CoE High School in August 2020 by:

- Completing the online questionnaire at www.croydon.gov.uk/standrews or paper copy of the questionnaire (Annex A below) and returning it by post to the address below or by email to the address below.
Writing to:

Croydon Council
School Place Planning Team
4th Floor Zone A
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk
Croydon CR0 1EA

Email: school.org@croydon.gov.uk

What happens next?
After the closing date of 26 April 2019, responses will be analysed and a consultation outcomes report will be presented to the Executive Director, Children, Families & Education and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning to consider the outcome of the consultation and decide whether to publish a statutory notice, starting the representation period on the proposed school closure. The outcomes report will be shared with the Diocese, Governing Board of St Andrew’s. If agreed, it is proposed that the representation consultation period will begin on 06 June 2019 and will last four weeks.

The results of the consultation will be published on the Council’s website / school webpage.

Annex A below – Questionnaire
Questionnaire

Proposed closure of St Andrew’s Church of England High School

1) Please tell us whether you support/do not support the proposed closure of St Andrew’s Church of England High School.

I support the proposed school closure

I do not support the proposed school closure

Not sure

I am not affected by/do not want to answer questions about the proposed closure

2) If you do not support the proposed change, please tell us why.

3) We are keen to understand how the proposed school closure may affect you. Please use this space to tell us if you are impacted by the proposed school closure and how. What can we do to address any impacts you have mentioned?

4) Do you have any alternative suggestions to any part of the proposal?

About You
We are endeavouring to receive comments from a broad range of people reflective of our community. In order to enable us to assess the degree to which this has been successful, it would be helpful if you could take a moment to complete the section below.

The Council will take all reasonable measures to ensure that any data provided will be protected against loss and misuse. Your information will not be retained or shared with any other parties and will be destroyed in line with relevant destruction policies and processes.
5) Please tell us who you are.
Member of staff at St Andrew's school
Member of staff at another school
School Governor at St Andrew's school
School Governor at another school
Parent/Carer of a child/children at St Andrew's school
Parent/Carer of child/ren at another school
Pupil at St Andrew's school
Local resident
Prefer not to say
Other (Please specify) __________________________________________

6) Gender:
   Male
   Female
   Transgender
   Prefer not to say

7) Age:
   Under 16
   16-18
   19-25
   26-34
   35-44
   45-54
   55-64
   65+
   Prefer not to say

8) Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?
   White British
   White Irish
   White European
   Other white
   Mixed white and black Caribbean
   Mixed white and black African
   Mixed white and Asian
   Other mixed background
   Asian or Asian British: Indian
   Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
   Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
   Asian or Asian British: Chinese
   Other Asian or Asian British Background
   Black or Black British: Caribbean
   Black or Black British: African
   Other Black or Black British background
   Arabic
   Prefer not to say
9) **Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**
   - No 
   - Yes 
   - Prefer not to say 

10) **Please specify**
   - Mobility 
   - Visual impairment 
   - Hearing impairment 
   - Mental Health 
   - Learning disability 
   - Prefer not to say 
   - Other (Please specify) ____________________________