

New Voluntary Aided Catholic Secondary School

Further consultation
exercise

Archdiocese of Southwark, Wandsworth Council, Salesians of Don Bosco



Consultation to date

After preliminary consultation during April and May 2007, a second formal consultation took place between July and October 2007 and a third between February and March 2008. The third consultation focused on the 'start-up' arrangements.

The consultation in February and March put forward a proposal to establish the new school from 1st September 2010. The new school would be opened initially on both the John Paul II School site and the Salesian (Surrey Lane) site, admitting a mixed intake (girls and boys) of 150 pupils (5 forms of entry) from September 2010 on the John Paul II School site only, until new buildings were ready on the Surrey Lane site in 2013. When the new buildings were ready, the school would admit 7 forms of entry (1050 places) into the new building, plus a sixth form of 150.

Copies of the February and March 2008 consultation document and of previous documents can be downloaded at: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/bsf.

Outcome of the February and March 2008 consultation

In total there were 94 written responses to the consultation of which 66 (70%), were in favour of proposals, 20 (21%) were neither for nor against and 8 (9%) were against. 109 parents attended the three consultation meetings held in local primary schools. The following were the main issues that were raised in the consultation responses:

- Some parents did not support the idea of admitting pupils on the John Paul II School site and then moving them to the new Surrey Lane site.
- Pupils admitted to the new school should begin and end their school time on the same site.
- Parents preferred the new school to be established on the site of the new buildings.
- There should be a gap between new admissions and pupils from the old schools.
- The size of the new school should be smaller before the new buildings are ready.
- Transport arrangements should be developed with Transport for London.

Revised proposals

This consultation document sets out the new proposal for the new school after taking account of all the comments received to date. This proposal is from the Archdiocese of Southwark and the Salesians of Don Bosco and has been developed in consultation with Wandsworth Council.

- The two existing schools, John Paul II School and Salesian College, will close on 31st August 2011.
- The new school will open from 1st September 2011 on the Surrey Lane site (former Salesian site) and the former John Paul II School site. Existing pupils are expected to remain on the sites of their former schools.
- A new mixed Year 7 intake (girls and boys) of 120 pupils (4 forms of entry) will be admitted and accommodated on the Surrey Lane site from September 2011 and in subsequent years, pupils on the site will be accommodated mainly in the existing school buildings but some use will be made of temporary classrooms, until new buildings are ready, which is expected to be in 2013 or earlier if possible.
- A temporary Governing Body will be established in 2009 and will advertise for a headteacher, who is expected to be in post in September 2010.
- The temporary governing body will be responsible for determining the admission policies, staffing structure and the arrangements for the appointment of staff.
- From September 2011, the new school's admissions policy will give priority to baptised Catholic children living in named parishes within the Borough of Wandsworth and surrounding areas.
- The construction of the new school buildings will be undertaken between late 2010 and 2013 on the existing Salesian site. The new school will operate from these new buildings from the academic year 2012/13 or as soon as the new buildings are completed.
- When the new buildings are completed the new school will admit a mixed intake (boys and girls) of 210 pupils a year (7 forms of entry). It will have a sixth form of 150.

The main arguments in favour of the new proposal are as follows:

- Admissions to the new school will be made on the Surrey Lane site from September 2011 and these pupils will not need to move again.
- The new school community will be established in its permanent location.
- Establishing a smaller 4 forms of entry school initially will:
 - ensure that the new school is largely from the Catholic community;
 - ensure that by the time the new buildings are open the majority of pupils on roll will have been admitted through the year 7 intake to the new school;
 - allow the new school to operate successfully while the new buildings are being completed.

The distinctive Catholic nature of the school, the innovative curriculum, the emphasis on pastoral care and the commitment to the highest standards of achievement for all pupils are set out in the previous consultation documents. These will be developed further when the headteacher is appointed in 2010. The temporary Governing Body, the headteacher, staff and pupils will be supported by the Archdiocese, the Salesians of Don Bosco and Wandsworth Council in ensuring the school has the best start possible and becomes outstanding in all areas.

Impact of the new school on local area

If the proposal is approved there will be further consultation with local residents throughout the planning process and their views taken into account in the design and layout of the buildings. Planning Officers will give detailed consideration to the proposals at the planning stage. Consultation with Transport for London has begun and a detailed travel plan will be submitted at the planning permission stage, if the proposal is successful. Further discussions will be held with Transport for London on the provision of dedicated transport for pupils for the new school as the proposals progress.

Other options considered

Before deciding to present this revised proposal, a number of options were considered.

Option (i) Proceeding with the proposals as previously proposed in the February and March 2008 consultation document.

This was not pursued because it did not address the issues raised by parents during the most recent consultation.

Option (ii) Proceeding with modified proposals to admit new pupils on the Surrey Lane site from 2010.

This was considered but it was decided on balance that it would be better to establish the new school when the timescale for constructing the new buildings was more advanced and there was less risk of delay.

Option (iii) Ceasing admissions either to Salesian College or to both Salesian College and John Paul II School for one or more years to create a gap in admissions, in advance of opening the new school on the Surrey Lane site.

This proposal was considered but rejected for two reasons

- i) It would mean parents of year 6 pupils would not have an option of Catholic secondary education in the borough for a period of time and
- ii) the consequence for the existing schools would be a reduction in school budgets that would disadvantage their pupils.

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Further consultation

The Proposers

The proposers for the new school are The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark and the Salesians of Don Bosco UK. This document is issued by the proposers.

Proposed timelines

This consultation stage begins	Thursday 12 June 2008
This consultation stage ends	Friday 18 July 2008
Decision by Diocesan and Salesian Trustees by	August 2008
Publish Statutory Notices	Thursday 4 Sept 2008
Statutory period ends	Wednesday 15 October 2008
Proposals considered by Wandsworth Council	November 2008
Temporary Governing Body established	Spring 2009
Advertise Headship	Summer 2009
Headteacher in post	Spring 2010
Senior Leadership Team established and Appointment of Staff begins	Autumn 2010
Existing Schools Close	31 August 2011
New School Established	1 September 2011
Buildings complete on new site	2012/13 Academic year

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Further consultation

Responding to this consultation

The Archdiocese of Southwark and the Salesians of Don Bosco are issuing this document.

Respondents are asked to state if they support these modified proposals.

Responses should be sent to: -

New Catholic School in Wandsworth

Archdiocese of Southwark

Commission for Schools and Colleges

St Edward's House

St Paul's Wood Hill

Orpington

Kent BR5 2SR

Email: office@rcsouthwark.org.uk

Responses should be made by

18th July 2008.

If you have difficulty understanding this in English, please contact:
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649

English

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