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New King's and Sullivan primary schools proposals

A close-up photograph of a young child's face, focusing on their brown eye. The child is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text 'public consultation' is overlaid on the bottom half of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

public
consultation

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

We would like to hear your views

Hammersmith & Fulham Council is consulting local residents and schools on proposals to amalgamate two primary schools in Fulham to create a new combined school with better facilities on a single site.

If the amalgamation were to go ahead, it would also free up a site that we propose to make available to a new secondary free school, in line with the council's Schools of Choice agenda.

We would like local people, and everyone at the schools affected, to have their say at the earliest opportunity. Your views are crucial to developing these proposals and we welcome any questions or suggestions you have. We will also be running public meetings so you can talk directly to council staff face-to-face.

The proposal

We would like to hear your views on the proposal to amalgamate New King's and Sullivan schools on the New King's Road site.

Reasons for the primary school amalgamation

Both New King's and Sullivan schools are small compared with some other primary schools in the borough. New King's primary has 30 places per year and Sullivan has 45 places per year. The combined school would have 60 places per year (two forms of entry).

The two schools are very close to each other, serving families from a similar area.

Small schools attract less funding than larger schools and consequently find it harder than larger schools to provide a similar breadth of curriculum.

Surplus places

Both schools have also been hampered by unfilled places. Both schools are rated 'good' by Ofsted but both schools are chosen by relatively few families as their first or second preference school.

	Approved number of places	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
New Kings	30	20	28	22	25	20	29	25
Sullivan	45	36	44	38	39	39	27	30
Spare capacity	75	-19	-3	-15	-11	-16	-19	-20

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By amalgamating on one site, the combined school could reduce running costs and take better advantage of economies of scale to improve facilities and learning experiences.

Meeting parental demand

Our Schools of Choice programme is driven by what parents tell us they want, through their list of preferences when applying for schools. We think that bringing together these two schools on one site, building on the best from each, will help the amalgamated school attract more families, fill current surplus places and provide a securer future.

Across the borough, the growing primary population and the increasing popularity of good state primary schools, means there is growing pressure on places, particularly in the centre of the borough. The surplus places at New King's and Sullivan, along with surplus places at nearby Langford School, suggest changes are needed to meet parents' preferences and to free up resources where they are most needed.

Improving school buildings and facilities

Both schools need significant investment to maintain and improve the fabric of their buildings. Amalgamation would enable a larger school to benefit from more wide-ranging improvements to just one site, giving all pupils a better quality education.

The school buildings on the Sullivan site are nearing the end of their useful life and it is estimated that it would cost over £6 million to replace the current buildings. However, the New King's building, whilst in need of repair, is a prized school building in an excellent location and could be significantly improved through an extensive refurbishment programme. The council would provide at least £2 million in capital funding to redesign the New King's building as a two-form-entry school and equip it with the latest teaching facilities.

Future vision As part of its vision to become an outstanding and oversubscribed school, New Kings School has recently approached the council, setting out its proposals to convert to academy status working with Thomas's London Day Schools, a local independent school trust with an excellent reputation. If the amalgamation proposal goes ahead, following consultation, the council would support New King's with its academy conversion proposal, working closely with Thomas's.

Opening a new secondary free school If the amalgamation proposal were agreed, it would have the added benefit of releasing a school site that could be used to meet demand for secondary school places in Fulham.

Fulham Boys' Free School has been given the go-ahead by the Government to provide 800 secondary places for 11 to 19-year-old boys, but has been unable to open because of problems finding a site.

Local parents have enthusiastically supported the Fulham Boys' proposal and we would like to help them find a site. It would provide boys at the amalgamated school with an additional option when choosing their secondary school.

If the amalgamation were to go ahead, the Fulham Boys' Free School would open on an interim site in September 2014 and move permanently to the vacated Sullivan site in September 2016. The Department for Education would fund the building of this new secondary school in Hammersmith & Fulham at a cost of £13.5million.

A better site for Parayhouse Parayhouse is an independent special school, currently based in the New King's School annex. The school has already asked the council for help in finding a more suitable site. As an additional benefit of amalgamating Sullivan and New King's, the council would ensure that a new site would also be found for Parayhouse for September 2014.



Detailed proposals

Amalgamation There are two methods of amalgamating schools. Either both schools could be closed and a new school set up, or one school could be closed and the other expanded to accommodate pupils from the closed school. The second of these options appears the least disruptive.

The council is therefore proposing to close Sullivan School and enlarge New King's School to create the amalgamated school, which will guarantee places for all current Sullivan pupils.

Leadership and staff This amalgamation proposal would mean that the headteacher and governors of New King's would lead the amalgamated school.

To ensure continuity, existing governors at Sullivan School would be encouraged to nominate themselves for available places on the governing body of New King's School.

The amalgamated school will require additional teaching and non-teaching staff and many of the staff at Sullivan will be able to seek redeployment at the enlarged New King's School, thereby providing as much continuity as possible for pupils at both schools.

The benefits for the two staff teams joining together include new opportunities for joint training, shared lesson planning and a wider curriculum offer with extra after-school activities for pupils.

Admissions All current pupils in both schools will be guaranteed a place in the amalgamated school. Most year groups have fewer than 60 pupils, but in the two year groups with more than 60 pupils, additional classes will accommodate all the children, ensuring no class has more than 30 pupils.

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Admissions of new pupils in 2014 will be in line with the two schools' current admissions criteria. Seventy five places in all will be on offer for September 2014.

From 2015 onwards, the amalgamated school will offer 60 new reception places per year.

Both schools offer a mixture of full-time and part-time nursery places currently and the number and mix of nursery places would remain the same for September 2014. This would reduce to 60 places per year from September 2015. The governing body would decide on the mix of full-time and part-time nursery places for September 2015 onwards.

Site proposals

If the proposal is agreed, all new and existing pupils from New King's and Sullivan would be educated on the Sulivan site on a temporary basis from September 2014 to July 2015. Temporary accommodation would be provided on the site to cater for the additional pupils.

This is to allow for a £2 million refurbishment of the New King's site to provide state-of-the-art teaching facilities suitable for 21st century learning.

In September 2015 all pupils would then move onto the refurbished New King's Road site.



Your questions answered

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- Will my child be offered a place at the amalgamated school?** All pupils currently attending Sullivan or New King's will be guaranteed a place at the amalgamated school if they want it.
- Will my child stay with his/her classmates and current class teachers?** Sullivan children would transfer to New King's with their classmates and many of their class teachers, providing as much continuity as possible.
- Will the proposal disrupt my child's education?** All change brings a degree of disruption and both sets of pupils would have to move sites (see site proposals above), but by transferring current pupils and class teachers together, there would be continuity in pupils' education, provided by teachers they know.
- Why not amalgamate with Langford?** Langford primary school is also under-subscribed, but serves a different group of families, including those living to the east of Wandsworth Bridge Road, so an amalgamation with Langford would lead to more families travelling longer distances.
- Is this about cutting budgets?** No. Schools' funding comes directly from the government based on the number of pupils. By amalgamating on one site, the new school would be able to spend its money more effectively. In addition, the council would invest at least £2 million in a significant building refurbishment.
- Why is only Fulham Boys' School being considered if the Sullivan site is vacated?** It is the only new school that is currently without a site. Fulham Boys' School has been able to demonstrate it has parental support in the area and it has been approved by the Government. It would provide boys at the amalgamated primary school with an additional option when choosing their secondary school.

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Opening a new free school would not be fair to other secondary schools in the area.

To get government approval for a new free school, its proposers have to show there is a need for new places and that they have support from sufficient numbers of local families. Fulham Boys' Free School has already made its case and gained permission to open in Fulham. We have been impressed with the popularity of the new free school and academy that have opened in Hammersmith and with their success in complementing existing state school choices. The addition of a Church of England option for boys would improve the range of choices for local families.

More information on the Fulham Boys' School proposal is available on their website:
<http://www.fulhamboyschool.org/>



Proposed decision-making timetable

16 July 2013 Consultation opens

Public meetings

Thursday 5 September 2013 New King's School
6.30pm New King's Road
 Fulham, SW6 4LY

Tuesday 10 September 2013 Sullivan School
6.00pm Peterborough Road
 Fulham, SW6 3BN

Staff meetings

Dates will be confirmed shortly for meetings with staff at each school.

Tuesday 8 October 2013 Consultation closes

The council will then consider the consultation responses and, if it decides to go ahead, formal statutory notices would then be published in October 2013 for a further six-week period within which further representations can be made.

A final decision would be made by the council's Cabinet in December 2013 on whether or not to go ahead with the proposed amalgamation.

Read more online and fill in a consultation form at
www.lbhf.gov.uk/fulhamschools

If you have any questions before deciding on your response to our consultation, please email terry.broady@lbhf.gov.uk

If you are not able to access the online form, please complete the form on the right and return it to:

Terry Broady
Room 39, Hammersmith Town Hall,
King Street, London W6 9JU

The consultation closes on
Tuesday 8 October 2013



Proposed amalgamation of New King's and Sullivan schools on the New King's Road site

Thank you for your interest and for taking the time to complete this response. Please indicate your postcode (this will be used to understand from where responses have been received).

Name (optional):

Postcode:

I am a: Parent/carer Teacher/staff member Governor
(tick all boxes that apply)

Other (please specify):

Associated with: Sullivan Primary New King's Primary

Do you agree with the proposal to amalgamate New King's and Sullivan schools on the New King's Road site?

- Definitely agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Definitely disagree
- Don't know (please tick one box)

Please explain the reason for your choice and make any other comments in the box below. Please feel free to attach an additional sheet if you need to.

The information provided on this form will be used to help Hammersmith & Fulham Council decide how to proceed with the proposal. The personal information you provide will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your information will not be shared with any other organisations.



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