

FULHAM COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

A FEDERATION OF FULHAM CROSS GIRLS' SCHOOL
FULHAM COLLEGE BOYS' SCHOOL & FULHAM ENTERPRISE STUDIO



Fulham College Academy Trust is a charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number (8398143) whose registered office is at Munster Road, London SW6 6BP

October 3rd 2013

To whom it may concern,

Response to Proposal to Amalgamate New King's Primary School with Sullivan Primary School on the New King's Site

We are writing in response to the current consultation about the proposal to amalgamate New King's Primary School with Sullivan Primary School on the New King's site. Part of this consultation is the proposal to release the Sullivan School site to the proposed Fulham Boys' Free School.

The Fulham College Academy Trust (FCAT) fully supports the local council's agenda to provide Schools of Choice for local residents. The FCAT has worked with local officers to support this agenda; schools in the trust are now high performing in very challenging circumstances with challenging cohorts. The Fulham College Boys' School has expanded parental choice by the introduction of a Studio School which, over time, will be opened to all residents. However the FCAT has concerns about this proposal and the Executive Board raises the following issues:

- The consultation states that introducing a further all boys' school into this area will 'meet the demands for secondary places in Fulham but this is not necessary, Fulham College Boys' School has seen rapid improvement under its new leadership over the last 3 years and outcomes are now above the national average and student progress is outstanding. The school roll is growing but the school is still under subscribed; the introduction of a boys' only school with 50% of non-faith based places will slow the growth of the school and will be divisive in the local community.
- Hurlingham and Chelsea Secondary School is in very close proximity to the proposed school and the introduction of a further provider will destabilise the school and may mean that it becomes unviable therefore reducing parental choice.
- Introducing a new provider when there is no evidence of increased need will destabilise current providers causing a domino effect on the take up of school places. The borough is dominated by faith schools with 2 faith girls' schools, 1 faith

boys' school and 1 mixed faith school. H&F is a small borough with only 2 mixed community schools and one single sex girls' non faith school and one single sex boys' non faith school. We have also seen the recent introduction of the Hammersmith Academy and the West London Free School. Introducing further providers puts successful schools at risk of under subscription and will reduce economies of scale. Introducing a further faith based school risks segregating our society and damaging community cohesion.

- The FAQ section of the website states that there are insufficient boys' school places to meet demand and cites 601 applications this year which provided 73 offers; no detail is given about which school the applications were for- the vast majority will have been for the London Oratory; no information is provided about how many of these applications were for borough residents-given that London Oratory had only 12.8% of local residents in 2012 it is not a significant number of *residents* that did not gain their school of choice. No mention is made of the fact that if these parents wanted single sex education for their sons there were places available at the nearby Fulham College Boys' School. If all the choices were made on the basis of faith then opening a CofE faith school will not meet their requirements either.
- We would draw your attention to some inaccurate information regarding the FCAT; we have not leased the land from the council; the land has been transferred to the FCAT and is held in trust.
- There is a growth in the primary demographic nationally and particularly in Hammersmith and Fulham; reducing the number of primary places in a time of growth does not seem sensible.
- Sullivan School has been under-subscribed but its roll is now growing and the school has been judged as Good by Ofsted, for a second time, and is well regarded by its local community. The school is 89% full and the trend is increasing. 79% of children in the Reception class chose the school as their first choice.
- The consultation does not make clear why it is closing Sullivan but retaining New Kings; Sullivan is chosen by more parents; significantly more in Years R-4. New Kings has only recently moved from a satisfactory Ofsted judgement to good. Recent outcomes for the two schools are similar with both schools being above both LA and National averages for the key measure of L4+ in En+Ma. If the LA is looking to reduce primary places in this area Langford Primary has very low outcomes and is not providing an adequate standard of education having been judged inadequate by Ofsted in March 2013; it is difficult to see why Sullivan has been singled out.
- We are surprised that a relatively new building is deemed to be at the end of its useful life and would question whether it requires 6 million to make it fit for purpose. We would be surprised if the borough had allowed one of its schools to fall into this state of disrepair.

- If New Kings is to become an Academy, why is the borough investing 2 million in capital funding, why is this not being met by the EFA as part of the Academy process?
- The consultation does not provide information on all the other schools in the area or give any indications of the predicted demographics for Fulham. There is no breakdown given to show the percentage of residents attending each school to support the proposal.

To conclude we cannot support the proposal as we do not believe that it is in the best interests of local residents and further we believe opening a further boys' school in the area will adversely affect the future of Fulham College Boys' School by introducing additional places which are not required. In the interim we would be pleased to receive the data referred to above which has not been provided as part of the consultation.

Yours sincerely

Bernie Peploe



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Chair of Executive Board FCAT

For and on behalf of the Members, Trustees and Directors of the Fulham College Academy Trust

Bernie Peploe

Executive Principal FCAT