

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. Why is the Council considering the amalgamation of Stamford Hill and Tiverton Primary Schools?

Pupil populations and demand for primary school places have been falling across London and Haringey for several years. This has resulted in a high number of surplus school places in the local area and this presents financial and other challenges to all of our local primary schools.

There has been a recent decline in pupils attending both Stamford Hill and a number of other local schools, and we do not anticipate an increase in demand for school places in this area for the foreseeable future. The table below shows how numbers on the school's roll have fallen at Stamford Hill between 2014 and 2019:

Table 1 - Pupils on roll 2014-2019, Stamford Hill Primary School

		Pupils on roll					
	Capacity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
Stamford Hill	210	199	194	191	186	180	153
Shortfall		11	16	19	24	30	57
Percentage shortfall		5%	8%	9%	11%	14%	27%

*Data for 2019 accurate as at 26 March 2019

Based on the current demand for school places locally and the expected future declining demand for local school places, we believe that Stamford Hill Primary School will struggle to survive financially because its classes won't be full (schools are largely funded according to how many pupils attend the school).

Tiverton Primary School which is close to Stamford Hill Primary, is another school which is not full across some of its year groups. We have already reduced intake into Tiverton from two classes to one class to address this falling demand and now, in order to enhance sustainability, we want to bring these two schools together to form one school and to provide a long-term solution to the declining local demand for school places.

Projected local demand and Planning Area 3

Haringey produces an annual School Place Planning report which shows the anticipated demand for primary and secondary school places in the next ten years. For the purposes of primary school planning, Haringey is split into five separate planning areas with Tiverton and Stamford Hill sitting within Planning Area 3 (PA3). School roll projections from the 2019 [report](#) show a significant surplus of up to two classes (60 pupils) each year between 2019 and 2026. If classes are not full, there is an inevitable financial impact on the school. The expected number of surplus school places in Planning Area 3 is set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Reception capacity and demand in Planning Area 3, 2020 to 2026

Year	Reception capacity in PA3	Demand	Surplus
2020	540	486	54
2021	540	476	64
2022	540	480	60
2023	540	484	56
2024	540	486	54
2025	540	487	53
2026	540	492	48

2. What impact would the proposed amalgamation of Stamford Hill Primary and Tiverton Primary have on other local primary schools?

If Stamford Hill Primary were to be amalgamated with Tiverton Primary school, the number of local vacancies in our schools will reduce. This in turn will help support schools' financial sustainability by maximising funding for those schools where they are full (as funding is allocated on a per pupil number basis).

Table 2 above shows that without amalgamation, the local planning area is projected to have a large surplus of reception places between 2020 and 2026 - equivalent to around 2 forms of entry or 60 school places. With amalgamation, this surplus of places would reduce by around half (1 form of entry or 30 places). This would reduce the local surplus to a level that would enhance the sustainability of all local primary schools yet still allow for sufficient capacity for movement between schools and the offering of school places to pupils who start in-year¹

3. What role does Tiverton Primary School have in the proposed amalgamation?

Tiverton Primary is the closest primary school to Stamford Hill Primary, located immediately opposite it on the other side of Seven Sisters Road (see map below). The proposal to amalgamate Stamford Hill Primary with Tiverton Primary School would be a first stage in a broader proposal that will involve transferring pupils from the Stamford Hill site to the Tiverton Primary School site.

Unlike Stamford Hill Primary (which has one class of pupils per year group), Tiverton Primary is a two-form entry primary school, i.e. it admits 60 pupils each year into its reception (30 in each class). Like many other schools in the local area, it also has had a smaller number of pupils on roll in recent years. This is one factor which means it is able to accommodate the pupils currently on roll at Stamford Hill Primary.

We know that not all year groups will be able to move to the Tiverton Primary site immediately and so a phased move is expected to happen i.e. the school would amalgamate over a period of one or two years. At this time, the arrangements for managing this phased amalgamation are still being finalised. What we do know is that Tiverton Primary School has capacity to absorb the vast majority of pupils from Stamford Hill. The school may still require some additional classrooms to be set up to accommodate all pupils: we expect to be able to have greater detail on how the amalgamation will be delivered in terms of moving pupils into the Tiverton Primary site very shortly. In a small number of instances we expect that families may decide to transfer their child(ren) to another local school if a decision is taken to proceed

¹ An application is an in-year application if it is for the admission of a child to a relevant age group but is submitted on or after the first day of the first term of the admission year or if it is for the admission of a child to an age group other than a relevant age group e.g. year 1, 8, 10.

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with the amalgamation (please see Question 4 below on the admissions process that we expect would be run in the summer 2020 if a decision to amalgamate the two schools goes ahead).

As part of the development of a plan showing how amalgamation would physically happen, we will seek the views and perspectives of parents, carers, staff and governors. We expect this to happen during any statutory consultation phase that might happen, and these views would be gathered via public meetings, through an online questionnaire and in any other ways that ensure all those who want to share their views are able to do so. Our aim will be that any transition process will not cause any disruption or inconvenience to your child's education and your ability to send your child to school each day. We would not want to proceed if we thought there was a risk of any disruption to education.

We will keep you fully informed of how any amalgamation will be delivered, including how we intend to guarantee your child's and your personal safety if you are travelling between both sites to drop pupils who are in different year groups.



4. If Stamford Hill Primary is amalgamated with Tiverton Primary, where will my child(ren) go to school?

All parents and carers will have the option of transferring their child(ren) into Tiverton Primary school. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to apply for a school place at any other primary school both in Haringey and in other local authorities, if they wish to do so. There are currently vacancies at many Haringey Primary schools in the area local to Stamford Hill Primary School so choices will be available.

5. What about my child's education at Stamford Hill Primary and what will happen to my child's education during any amalgamation process?

The Council is very confident that the leadership of Stamford Hill Primary has been supported to ensure that your child's education is being delivered at the very highest level. Recently, a number of changes, including a complete reworking of the curriculum and the introduction of new technology including laptops and online resources to support home learning, have been undertaken at the school. Haringey is committed to ensuring that the teaching and learning at your school is of the very highest quality and your child is supported to reach their potential.

If you have any concerns about your child's education at Stamford Hill Primary, please do speak with your child's class teacher/Head of Year or Head of the School, Rehana Ali. You may also wish to speak to the Headteacher at Tiverton Primary School, Resham Mirza, and arrange a visit to the school.

6. What were the options considered by the Local Authority as part of the informal consultation (pre-engagement process) that took place in the summer term of 2019 at the schools?

While amalgamation is considered to be the best possible option for both schools, we also considered the following options:

Keeping Stamford Hill open: This option does not provide a long-term sustainable solution to falling local demand and leaves other local schools vulnerable because demand for school places are falling locally.

Federation: Federation is an option that focuses on improving educational delivery by allowing the governing body to use budget, resources and staff across a federation to improve the educational outcomes for all pupils. This option would need another school to federate with Stamford Hill Primary.

Also, under a federation, schools would remain as separate organisations and this would not address the decline in numbers on roll at Stamford Hill (and other local schools) or the financial challenges that other schools are facing. This option is therefore less desirable than amalgamation.

Amalgamation with a split site: This would retain the two schools sites but isn't a preferred option because it would cost a lot of money to maintain and run two school sites when this money is better spent on educating your child.

Closure of Stamford Hill Primary with pupils moving to other local schools (including Tiverton Primary): This would involve closing Stamford Hill Primary School and giving parent/carers the opportunity to apply for a school place at any other Haringey primary school (including Tiverton) and in other local authorities.

7. Who is being consulted as part of the statutory consultation?

We will be seeking views from parents and carers of children already at the schools as well as parents and carers who live locally and have children attending other local schools and nurseries. Information about the consultation will be distributed widely so that we can obtain views from anyone who might have an interest or concern about our proposal. This includes seeking views from local residents, other Haringey primary schools, councillors, MPs, trade unions and neighbouring local authorities. Further details on how we will consult and engage is set out in more detail below.

- Communication with all pupils, staff and governors of both schools;
- the Schools Bulletin which is distributed to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of every school in the borough;
- communication to all Haringey primary and secondary schools;
- communication to all Children's Centres in the borough;
- communication to all registered nurseries and child minders and any other early years providers;

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- online information published on the Council's internet admissions pages;
- via information in all libraries across the borough (poster and hardcopies of consultation document);
- email to all councillors from the Lead Cabinet Member;
- via information published in the Weekly Member's Update which is distributed to all councillors
- email to both MPs with constituencies in Haringey;
- email to all diocesan authorities;
- email to all local residents' and tenants' groups that the Council hold information for;
- emails and any additional information to Homes for Haringey (HfH) for dissemination to tenants' and leaseholder groups as appropriate;
- email to the branch secretaries of all trade unions recognised by the Council for collective bargaining in respect of its employees at Stamford Hill and Tiverton primary schools;
- communication with local authorities bordering Haringey;
- email to other groups, bodies, parents and carers as appropriate.

8. What will it mean for the staff?

Tiverton and Stamford Hill are both community schools which means staff are employed by the local authority and this will remain unchanged if an amalgamation were to go ahead. Staff would continue to be employed by Haringey Council. We will shortly be working with the Headteachers at both schools to establish what the preferred method of working and staffing requirements might be if the proposal to amalgamate both schools goes ahead.

Although the staffing requirements may be similar, at this stage we don't have any definitive answers as to what the impact on staff could be, however, it may be necessary to complete a restructuring exercise to avoid the duplication of roles. Staff and all relevant parties, including trade unions would be consulted about any potential staffing changes.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to identify any potential impacts on the protected equality strands, this will be updated as necessary.

9. Equality and Diversity monitoring – online questionnaire

As part of the statutory consultation process, respondents will be asked to complete an equality and diversity questionnaire, looking at Gender, Age, Ethnicity and Disability (protected characteristics). The information collected will help identify any special requirements, promote equality and contribute towards improve choice and diversity. This information will only be retained and used for as long as is necessary and in the manner for which it is collected. Where data is no longer required, it will be destroyed in line with relevant destruction policies and processes.

A complete and thorough Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) will also be undertaken to enable the council to:

- Demonstrate due regard for the provisions of the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Identify possible negative impacts of decisions on individuals and groups with protected characteristics and plan mitigating action accordingly
- Identify additional opportunities to advance equality within policies, strategies, and services

10. Will there be meetings to discuss the proposal?

We will hold two public meetings at Stamford Hill School and Tiverton school. Dates and times are shown below and will be publicised on our consultation page here - www.haringey.gov.uk/future-stamford-hill-consultation

When	Where
16 September 2019 at 13:00	Stamford Hill Primary School
7 October 2019 at 09:15	Tiverton Primary School

What if I can't attend the meetings?

Minutes of the meetings will be taken by the Local Authority and published on our consultation webpage. We will also provide copies of the minutes at the school office for parents and carers to pick up if they were not able to attend one of the meetings.

How will the views of people consulted be gathered in the consultation?

We will be gathering views via an online questionnaire on the Council's website. The questionnaire can also be provided as a hardcopy or posted to you if you require this. You will also be able to share your views with us by email at schooladmissions@haringey.gov.uk.

How will developments be communicated to parents who cannot speak English?

The Council will use the usual methods of communication with parents who cannot speak English, including, where relevant, translations and interpreters. If your child attends a Haringey school, then please be reassured that your school has advised us on the best way to communicate with you.

11. What are the next steps in the process?

The main stages are summarised below. At this stage, timescales are indicative and subject to change:

	Description	Timescale
1	Statutory consultation on amalgamation (including closure of Stamford Hill (SH))	Recommended minimum of six weeks (<i>September 9 – 21 October 2019</i>)
2	Cabinet decision on whether or not to issue a statutory notice setting out proposals for amalgamation/closure of SH (and initiating the representation period)	<i>12 November 2019 Cabinet meeting</i>
3	5 days call in period	<i>12 – 19 November 2019</i>
4	The publication of a statutory notice setting out the proposals in detail	One day (<i>20 November 2019</i>)
5	Representation period – an opportunity for stakeholders to express views on the proposals	4 weeks (<i>20 November – 18 December 2019</i>)
6	Final decision by Cabinet on whether or not to close the school	<i>21 January 2020 Cabinet meeting</i>
7	Implementation – amalgamation (SH closes and amalgamated school opens)	<i>September 2020</i>

12. If a significant number of people responding to the consultation are opposed to the proposed amalgamation of Stamford Hill School with Tiverton Primary School, how will the Council take their views into account?

It is important that the Council seeks all views on the proposed amalgamation and balances this against the need to ensure high levels of educational attainment and the sustainability of all primary schools. Before making any decision, the Council will consider the following:

- a. Views gathered as part of this consultation exercise.
- b. Any impact on the quality of education delivered to your child.
- c. The local and wider need for school places.
- d. The ability of schools to be able to survive financially locally and beyond.
- e. How pupils will be able to be accommodated at the newly established school and whether education will happen across both sites for certain cohorts and over what timeframe *if* the amalgamation were to go ahead.

13. What benefits could the proposed amalgamation bring to the two schools?

The majority of school funding in Haringey is awarded to schools according to how many pupils they have on roll: this is how all national funding for schools happens. An amalgamation of the two schools presents an opportunity for a single school to be full, or close to full, thus maximising the funding available to it.

The Council also has a duty of care to ensure children in its schools are able to receive a good education and to access the full curriculum. Schools with declining rolls are not able to do this effectively as they are not financially viable to run. Therefore, more closely aligning the supply of reception places with the projected demand will help sustain all our schools across planning area 3: in summary reducing local places to ensure there is not an oversupply of school places available supports maximum funding for all of our schools.

14. What will happen if I don't want my child to continue their education at the newly established amalgamated school?

If you have any concerns, we would encourage you to speak to your child's class teacher or Headteacher of the school. The Council will also be available to talk to you and answer questions at the public meeting or through other communication channels as outlined in 7) above. We are committed to ensuring that the teaching and learning at your child's school continues to be of the very highest quality.

15. How do parents of children starting Reception in 2020 express their preferences for a school place?

Full information about applying for a school place is available online at www.haringey.gov.uk/schooladmissions

16. Is there a risk that the amalgamated school, Tiverton Primary, will be oversubscribed, and you will not be able to accommodate all pupils from Stamford Hill Primary School site.

Our projections suggest that the amalgamated school would be full (and not oversubscribed) even when all pupils have moved from Stamford Hill Primary to Tiverton Primary. In the event of Stamford Hill Primary amalgamating with Tiverton Primary we will take all necessary steps to ensure all pupils who want a place at Tiverton Primary will be offered one.

17. Will my child be guaranteed a place?

Yes. If your child is attending Stamford Hill Primary School on the day that the school closes prior to amalgamation then the Council will guarantee your child a place at the amalgamated school, if amalgamation were to go ahead.

18. Will I be able to apply elsewhere if I want?

Yes, it is likely that there will be vacancies in other local schools, however, offers will be made in strict accordance with the school's published oversubscription criteria and so we will not be able to guarantee a place at alternative schools. The Council will be able to guarantee your child a school place at Tiverton Primary School which is located opposite Stamford Hill Primary on the other side of Seven Sisters Road in the event that the schools are amalgamated.

19. What happens if the Stamford Hill site ceases to operate as Stamford Hill Primary School, but in future we find that additional school places are needed locally?

We review levels of demand for school places annually and report on our findings in our annual [School Place Planning report](#) and constantly review the information we hold on birth rates, residential developments and levels of movement in and out of the borough: all of these factors affect the planning we carry out to manage school place numbers in the borough. *If* our models suggest that additional school places are needed in the future, we will ensure that we provide them. The Council has a legal requirement to ensure that there are enough school places in the borough.

20. Why is the Council not considering moving pupils from the Tiverton Primary School site to the Stamford Hill Primary School site?

The school building at Tiverton Primary is in a much better physical state of repair and is an established two-form entry school (2 classes per year group - 30 pupils in each class). As such, it has the space to accommodate two classes across all year groups.

Following the complete vacation of the Stamford Hill site, the Local Authority will consider the wider needs of our children, young people and school in determining a future use of the site that keeps it in education use if that need can be demonstrated. This includes but is not limited to SEND provision, alternative provision and future proofing for any return to a rise in pupil numbers in future years.

21. When will the school site at Stamford Hill close and what will happen next?

It would be expected that Stamford Hill Primary School will amalgamate with Tiverton Primary from September 2020 subject to the above caveats and whether we recommend to Cabinet that we proceed to the next phase of consultation.