

## **Broadwater Primary School – Formal Consultation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**January 2023**

### Consultation process

- What happens during the consultation period and how will you ensure it is accessible for all?

The consultation process must follow the statutory guidance. Over the four weeks' period we will be consulting with pupils, parents and carers, staff, the governing board, other local schools and trade unions and the wider local community.

There will be different ways to engage, including online and by post. We will translate all relevant material into the languages which are spoken by the school community and will pay attention to those parents and carers with additional needs to ensure their voices are heard through this engagement phase.

### Finances

- Is this a financially driven proposal?

It is the ambition of this council to ensure that the needs of Wandsworth children with SEND can be met locally, keeping them closer to their families and friends. Due to an increase in the number of children with EHCPs that require special school placements, we can no longer meet their needs in the local school communities and are relying on costly independent placements outside Wandsworth. This is placing significant pressure on council budgets and the impact of this is less funding available to our own schools to support inclusion. This proposal reduces this pressure as it expands our specialist placements reducing reliance on the independent sector, whilst also supporting overall schools' budgets impacted by falling rolls, particularly in primary.

### Educational provision

- Will every child affected by this proposal get a place in a local school?

There are places in nearby schools to accommodate all children. It is anticipated that it will be possible for every child to be offered a place in a local school within 1 mile of their home.

We will create a separate admission process to consider all requests. We will work hard to keep siblings together and manage transitions to be a positive experience for children and their families

For children with SEND, we will work closely with the family and SENCO to ensure appropriate provision is identified and we will aim to keep siblings together.

For children with a social worker in need of help and protection, their social worker will support their individual transitions taking into account their particular family circumstances.

### Impact on the Community

- How will you assess the impact of the school closure on the community?

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has been shared as part of this consultation. This has been reviewed and updated following responses received to the initial pre-publication consultation.

### Staff

- What support will be available to staff affected by this proposal?

We would work together with governors and school leaders to support staff as we navigate this process together. We will work with all Wandsworth school leaders to ensure we retain teaching and non-teaching talent into our local school community. We will be guided by staff in relation to their needs, but this may include CV writing, interviews skills to support them to secure future employment.

Parents

- What support will be available to parents whose children will be affected by this proposal?

We will provide advice and guidance on school vacancies and admission processes. Further information is included with this consultation.

We will provide financial support towards the cost of new school uniforms.

We will translate all relevant documents and provide interpreters as required for the verbal feedback session for ease of understanding.

We will work with the leadership team at Broadwater and facilitate conversation with local headteachers to ensure children and families are supported throughout this process, addressing any issues as they emerge and ensuring change is handled efficiently and sensitively. Through the staff team, we are continually seeking the views, wishes and feelings of pupils to inform the support package that is being provided.

We will work closely with the school to discuss transition plans and how information is communicated, which is informed by the needs of children and families on an ongoing basis.