



The Camelot

Monthly Newsletter No. 149

April Two 2022-2023



Page One printed for circulation—other pages sent by email to all parents/carers

Bird in Bush School Offer released

Exciting times for all.. particularly for our pupils at this time. We are pleased to release a flyer to all Camelot families about the new offer that will come alongside our new school name, starting in September 2023. Your feedback to Mr Robinson is appreciated on these offers and especially hearing how excited your children are about what is ahead.

Exceptional News for Camelot School

Our Reception Class this September 2023 will be biggest Reception Class for over six years. At a time when our neighbouring schools are seeing their pupil numbers reducing for a variety of reasons, it is great to see Camelot School going from strength to strength as the proven Peckham Primary School of choice in this area.

There are some additional places in this Reception class and other year groups at this time and if you have family and friends keen for their child to attend Camelot you are encouraged to speak to Mr Robinson about this.

#ProvenPeckhamPrimary

This September, should your child start at Southwark's new

Bird in Bush Primary School*

then they will join a school led by an exceptional headteacher, staffed by dedicated teachers experienced in working in Inner London Schools.



Bird in Bush Primary School will offer all its pupils unrivalled* opportunities across their primary school years.

The **Biography** of a Bird in Bush Primary School pupil will include the following unrivalled offers:

- i. learn to swim to national expected standards by the end of Year 6- with extra lessons provided if needed.
- ii. publish their writing in the school's termly journal, a hard back book with copies in the library for future reference.
- iii. visit 7 famous London museums, galleries or venues as well as cross the 7 London Bridges closest to our school.
- iv. become cycle proficient and join the school's cycling teams that ventures out on to London's network of cycle paths - with extra teaching and loan of bikes where needed.
- v. receive a fully working personal laptop for permanent loan for the period of their time at the school.
- vi. visit a farm by the end of their Early Years at the school; have used the train, underground and bus on school trips by the end of Year One; visited a castle by the end of Year Two; visited and used a London 2012 Olympic venue by the end of Year Three; visited a top West End theatre by the end of Year Four; travelled London's River Thames by the end of Year Five and been driven down the Old Kent Road in a limousine by the end of Year Six!
- vii. become proficient readers, writers, mathematicians; as well as attend trips and visits across each year including overnight stays in Year Six; receive specialist music, art and sporting instruction and not forgetting... CHAMPS, our unique holiday club, where every child from Year One to Year Six to be invited to join us during each holiday at Bird in Bush Primary School.

* 'Unrivalled' because no other London Primary School offers such a biography of opportunity to its pupils... we are happy to be corrected but CHAMPS is our unique offer and we'd be pleased if more schools offered more to their pupils... like we do!

The important school dates for your attention

1. Bank Holidays in May 2023—**Monday 1st May & Monday 8th May** - no school
2. End of Summer Term 1—**Friday 26th May (one week half term break to follow)**
3. Staff Inset Training Day—**Monday 5th June**— no school for pupils
4. Summer Term 2 begins—**Tuesday 6th June**
5. Summer Term 2 ends—**Thursday 20th July**—from 12.00 noon

Camelot Nursery from September 2023... continuing on the most exceptional offer in Southwark*

**Our Nursery offers free places for 35 hours a week,
5 days a week to every nursery aged child.**

**+ an exceptional everyday free healthy lunch everyday and all part of the
Camelot School family!**

**Apply now via the school office or by contacting
07931615568**

Why is Camelot School.... #theonlyschool

- 35 hours free Nursery education for all pupils
- Free holiday provision for children when your child reaches Year One
- The permanent loan of a laptop when your child reaches Year Two
- 3G astroturf football on site with excellent PE teaching across the day
- Uniform grants available for all pupils entitled to FSM/NRPF

Why is Camelot School..... #exceptionaleveryday

- ⇒ *"Being there for parents' children and community. Dedication, motivation, communication. Updated member of staff always there to help. Sense of belonging, caring attitude. Great teamwork by all."* (Parents Survey 2021)
- ⇒ *"They seem to have surpassed my expectations and all i can say is that they should keep up the good work. **Camelot is a school I'd recommend any day, any time.**"*

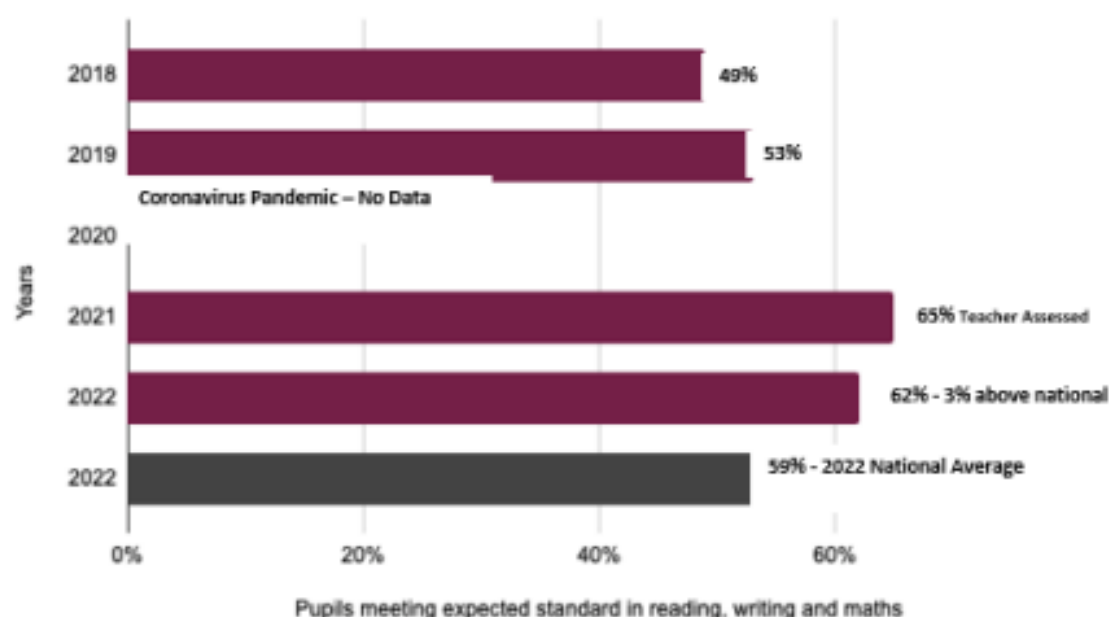
School Amalgamation Stage One Consultation - Questions from attendees

Answers to questions provided by the school

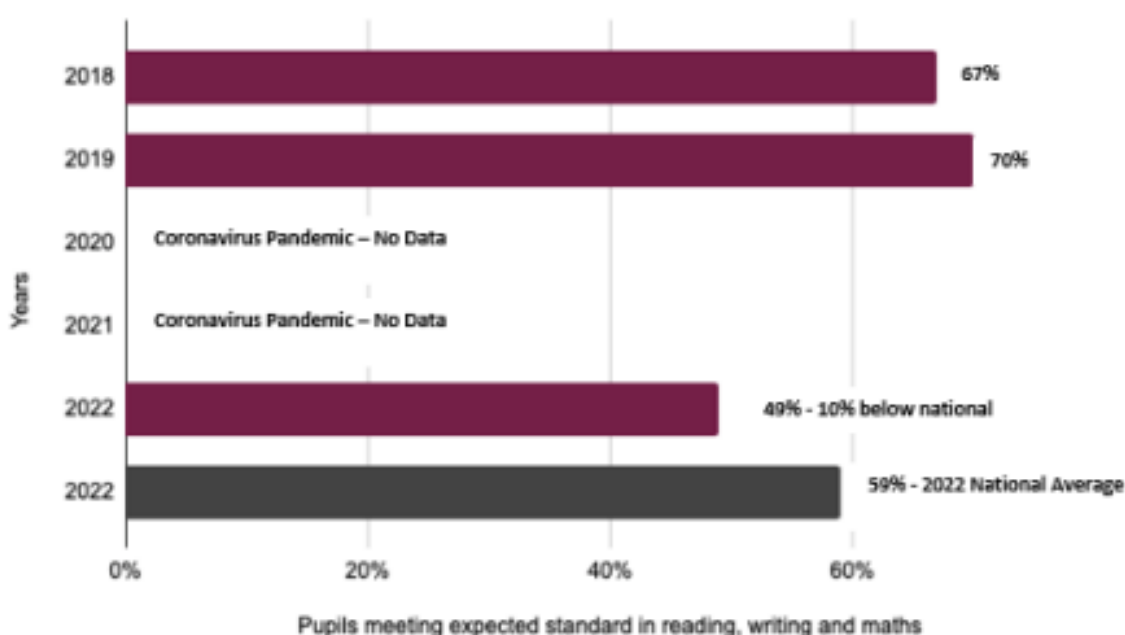
1. Can we check on the pupil outcomes for Camelot at this time?

The Camelot pupil outcomes show an ever improving picture in recent years and Camelot outperformed national attainment outcomes by 3% in 2022. Unfortunately, the Cobourg picture has seen a noted downward trend in recent years including being 10% below national attainment outcomes in 2022. Pleasingly, projections for 2023 are notably improved.

Camelot Primary School – Key Stage 2 Attainment Data



Cobourg Primary School – Key Stage 2 Attainment Data



2. Will our teachers be moving with our children?

Every class teacher at Cobourg School at this stage have indicated they will be moving to the new school from September 2023 onwards. Teachers do not need to make their final decision until the end of May 2023 but it is likely that many of the Cobourg teachers will take up their classes at the new school to help with the transition at this time. For example, Year One pupils can expect to see Miss Sampson in their Year Two and Miss Saunders will take up Year Two pupils in their Year Three ahead. It is also likely that Miss Appleby will be greeting pupils in Year Five ahead and Mr Maurice will be in Year Six. Other teachers will be confirmed after the end of May 2023.

3. Can we confirm the issue of pupil and staff diversity across the two schools?

Both schools are fully diverse in terms of their pupil and staff profile. The beauty of our schools is that there are no diversity issues which are so common in many schools, particularly where there is a staff workforce unrepresentative of the pupil and parent/carer community. At Cobourg and Camelot Schools, we can confidently say our pupils reflect our staff but more importantly our staff reflect (and 'get') our pupils. How many schools can say that confidently?

4. Lunch menu – please can it be confirmed that all food served at Camelot is Halal?

Camelot provides Halal food across the range of its menu options. No pork products are on the menu and there are excellent alternative choices should any child wish to consider these.

5. Please can we have more opportunities for our children in the amalgamated school like we used to have, like more music, arts, sports?

Mr Robinson and the team are extremely enthusiastic about the opportunities afforded to the newly amalgamated school in bringing together Cobourg and Camelot Schools. The breadth of curriculum offer is planned to be provided and extended using the skills of staff such as Mr Imran and Mr Wilson in our sporting provision or the music teachers who work for the Southwark Music Service and work across our schools.

6. Are there plans for a PTA for the new school?

School leaders will always welcome parental engagement in their school and a PTA to support the newly amalgamated school would be a great addition. What is needed is for enthusiastic parents/carers and family members keen to participate in PTA events to contact Mr Robinson to register their willingness to be contacted at times across the year. It is hoped that parental participation in the life of the school is a key strength in the newly amalgamated school going forward. Thank you for your support to our school.

7. Can we confirm that parents on income support will receive free uniform in the event of any uniform changes?

This is a matter that is being explored. There will be financial support with uniform costs.

Answers to questions provided by the Local Authority Consultants

1. Is this consultation just a formality? Is the only reason for this amalgamation to sell off the building?

The consultation has to be considered by the Council and will be taken account of as the elected members of the Council have a duty to residents to listen and take notice of their concerns. There is NO plan to sell the Cobourg site. Schools affected by amalgamations/ closures will be kept for future educational or community use.

2. Please can we better understand the timings behind this decision as it appears a very rushed action?

The reason the IEB is proposing amalgamation with Camelot Primary School, with the Local Authority's support, is because of the effective partnership started between the two schools since September 2022. Camelot has been able to support Cobourg in its drive to become an Ofsted "Good" school. Currently, Cobourg has been judged by Ofsted to be "Requires Improvement" (RI) twice – 2018 and 2022. The Department for Education (DfE) made it clear to the new governing body (the IEB) in October 2022 that it would take action with the school if the IEB did not implement an immediate improvement plan, as schools judged as consecutive "Requires Improvement" schools are deemed inappropriate places for young people to learn in.

The amalgamation is bringing the benefits of school to school support which is the type of improvement intervention the DfE approves. Mr. Robinson, the Executive Headteacher, is highly experienced with a proven track record of improving schools. He is also an Ofsted inspector. In this capacity, he supported the school's previous leadership team from July 2021 to focus on how to make rapid improvements in the quality of education at the school.

In order for the amalgamation to take place, the proposal has to be made using Southwark Council's strict constitutional process. This cannot be changed and there are only certain times in the year the Council can make a formal decision like this. Therefore, the IEB has had little choice but to proceed with the current timescale. Ideally, they wanted to grow the relationship between the schools over the course of the next two years but Cobourg's circumstances have forced them to make an early proposal..

3. Why was the Academy Trust relationship not pursued?

The previous governing body's plan to see to join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) was not concluded as it did not fit with the Council's plan to manage the falling numbers of children in Southwark. In Southwark Council's strategy "Keeping Education Strong", the need to reduce places in schools to match the drastic fall in the number of children attending Southwark's schools, means that to avoid closing schools (St John's Walworth CE, St Francesca Cabrini RC and possibly Townsend), bringing two schools together is considered a good option as it keeps schools open, keeps communities of learners and families together and strengthens schools by combining their numbers of pupils: the more pupils a school has the more funding it receives.

Therefore, joining a MAT would not have increased the numbers of pupils attending Cobourg. The school would have continued to fall into greater deficit and not be able to afford the quality of education a double RI school needs in order that its pupils are not further disadvantaged.

4. Is there a covenant on this building that means it has to stay as an educational establishment and will not be sold off for residential conversion? If the building remains as an educational establishment, please can consideration be given to the amalgamated school having access to this space at holidays or other times?

This is something that can be confirmed but please see the response to Q3 above.

5. Why is the communication the same for Cobourg and Camelot?

The IEB are keen to include both communities as both are affected and will have to manage change. The proposed amalgamation affects both schools.

6. Isn't this decision short-sighted when what parents really appreciate is the clean air environment of a school like Cobourg?

The Cobourg site is indeed a fantastic asset. However, the quality of education in the school has for too long in recent years been unsatisfactory for its pupils.

7. If we have known about this demographic downturn in pupils for some time could not longer have been given to make such a decision?

The speed of the decline in pupil numbers has been impacted by factors such as the rapidly declining birth rate across London, by Brexit and by the impact of regeneration plans on some areas, not least the Old Kent Road.

8. Why was Cobourg not given a third chance through an Ofsted inspection to get out of its Requiring Improvement (RI) judgement?

Please see Q1. The DfE changed its rules about schools receiving a second RI judgement and this means a third chance is now not possible.

9. How were other schools allowed to take on extra classes and free schools in this area be allowed to be introduced into a local authority with pupil place pressures?

Free Schools are created with DfE permission; the Council has little control over this. The extra "bulge" classes were a response to need at the time and in line with population projections. The GLA predicts no future growth in numbers until the 2030s at the earliest.

10. Why can't Southwark re-direct money that is being spent on re-generation and new housing into education and then spend more on our school?

This is a matter to put in the consultation so that. Rules are in place for how funds are spent.

11. One suggestion, could not another school that is closing not be amalgamated into Cobourg at this time?

Cobourg can accommodate up to 2 forms of entry i.e. 2 classes for each year group. (1 form = 30 pupils). This is a matter to put in the consultation.

12. In terms of travel, can confirmation be given to the availability of a bus as well as the uniform costs?

This is a matter that is being explored.

13. Please can we confirm the plans for communicating Stage One consultation with the children? It had been mentioned at previous meetings that someone not from the school would do this in a way that supports the children's mental health and anxiety around this issue?

The schools will use a range of strategies and personnel in managing the amalgamation process as it does when it delivers all aspects of the curriculum.

14. Please can we confirm that minutes of the IEB meetings are available on the school's website?

Minutes of the IEB meetings are available on the school website.

15. Is the consideration of supporting parents with transportation issues in the first instance still being offered?

This is a matter that is being explored further at this time.