

Statutory Proposal - To amalgamate Cobourg and Camelot Primary Schools and to close Cobourg Primary School

Southwark Council publishes these proposals under section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to merge Cobourg and Camelot Primary Schools and to close Cobourg Primary School with effect from 31st August 2023.

Category	Information
1. Contact details	
a. School contact details and category	<p>Cobourg and Camelot Primary Schools are both Community Primary Schools. Cobourg Primary School's address is Cobourg Road, London, SE5 0JD. Camelot Primary School's address is 135 Bird in Bush Rd, London SE15 1QP</p> <p>Cobourg Primary School's phone number is 020 7703 2583 and the school email is office@cobourg.southwark.sch.uk. Camelot Primary School's phone number is 020 7639 0431, and the school email is office@camelot.southwark.sch.uk</p>
b. Local Authority contact details	The London Borough of Southwark, 160 Tooley Street, LONDON, SE1 2QH. Phone number is 020 7525 5000
2. Implementation	
The date on which it is proposed to close the school or, where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.	Cobourg and Camelot Primary Schools are proposed to be merged from the 31 st August 2023 onwards and Cobourg Primary School be closed on the same date.
3. Reason for closure	
3. A statement explaining the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.	<p>3. In the most recent inspection in 2022, Cobourg was rated "Requires Improvement" by Ofsted, the second time the school has received this rating. In normal circumstances, the school would have been considered for academisation, but, after discussion with the DfE and the Regional Schools Director, it was agreed to consult on a wider range of options for the school going forward. An IEB was appointed at Cobourg and an immediate action taken by the IEB was the establishment of a partnership with nearby Camelot Primary School.</p> <p>Camelot's FGB and Cobourg's IEB took the view that amalgamation of both schools on the Camelot campus from September 1st 2023 would provide a reliably good quality of education for children currently at Cobourg, and would strengthen the education offer for all children for both schools. It has become increasingly clear that</p>

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	Cobourg School is no longer sustainable financially or organisationally, and that, after evaluation of a number of options, the amalgamation of the school should be considered and consulted on.

4. Pupil Numbers and Admissions

4. The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.

4. There is a pre-school/nursery at Cobourg Primary School containing 9 girls and 7 boys – 16 in total. Cobourg does not include any boarding pupils. There are 212 pupils on roll (as at January 2023 Census Day), 7 children have an EHCP and a further 51 are supported with SEND action plus. A breakdown of children on roll by age group in the compulsory age groups is shown in the table below:

Cobourg	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Girls	15	17	15	6	12	24	17	106
Boys	10	10	14	10	16	23	22	105

There is a pre-school/nursery at Camelot Primary School containing 28 girls and 17 boys – 45 in total. Camelot does not include any boarding pupils. There are 336 pupils on roll (as at January 2023 Census Day), 11 children have an EHCP and a further 69 are supported with SEND action plus. A breakdown of children on roll by age group in the compulsory age groups is shown in the table below:

Camelot	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Girls	21	21	29	31	24	19	28	173
Boys	19	28	20	15	33	21	27	163

5 to 7. Displaced pupils

5. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

5. Demand for reception places in the area has reduced dramatically in the last 5 years, and there are around 5,790 spare places across the borough and across all year groups. Cobourg is situated in the Soutwark's school place planning area 1 – (PA1) – “Borough, Bankside and Walworth”, which comprises Cobourg and 18 other schools.

Demand in this locality has decreased substantially, due to consistently falling birth rates, as well as a variety of socio-economic factors that have led to fewer families living in the area. The same is true to a slightly lesser extent in PA3 (where Camelot is situated)

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6. Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including	PA1 Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
	Places	945	810	810	795	765	
	Uptake	658	612	608	587	558	
	Vacancies	286	198	202	208	207	
	%	30%	24%	25%	26%	27%	
	PA3 Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
	Places	840	750	750	690	660	
	Uptake	609	594	540	514	497	
	Vacancies	231	156	210	176	163	
	%	28%	21%	28%	26%	25%	
	6. The amalgamation of the two schools means there is an expectation that children presently attending Cobourg Primary School will automatically transfer to the roll of Camelot Primary School – sufficient space exists at the school to accommodate the pupils presently at Cobourg, minus the year 6, who will be going on to secondary school.						
	There will be – minus the Y6 leaving for secondary school – around 170 pupils in years R to 5 at Cobourg who could potentially transfer to Camelot. We estimate there will be 310 pupils already at Camelot for September 2023 – with Cobourg’s Year R to 5 roll, this would total 480 pupils. As Camelot has a net capacity of 525 places, this leaves around 45 places spare. If parents do not wish to transfer to Camelot there are around 5,790 vacancies across years R to 6 at Southwark primary schools which indicates there is sufficient capacity to accommodate any pupils not wishing to transfer to Camelot, subject to parental preferences made through the in year admissions process. The School Admissions Team at Southwark Council can provide information and contact details for schools; they can be contacted at the following email address: schooladmissions@southwark.gov.uk						

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<p>6(a) any interim arrangements</p> <p>6 (b)the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and</p> <p>6 (c) in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school.</p> <p>7. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.</p>	<p>6a) there are no interim arrangements required</p> <p>6b) there is no SEND specialist reserved provision at these schools - this section does not apply. There are 18 children with EHCPs at both schools (11 at Camelot, 7 at Cobourg) – transition arrangements for these children into alternative schools are being managed by caseworkers on the Southwark Council’s Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) team to ensure appropriate placements are made.</p> <p>6c) Neither Camelot nor Cobourg Primary School are special schools, so this does not apply</p> <p>7. There is no need for additional places to be provided in order to accommodate the children displaced by the closure of Cobourg Primary School, as space is available for all Cobourg pupils at Camelot, and there are currently, over 5,790 spare places across all year groups in Southwark to accommodate displaced pupils.</p>
8. Impact on the community	
<p>1. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.</p>	<p>8. The decision to propose closure of Cobourg Primary School has been taken to protect the education of children attending the school, and ensure that, should the school close they can have a managed transition to Camelot Primary School. Southwark Council acknowledge that the closure of any school will have an impact on the community, and be deeply felt by many families/local residents due to the significant, community links and emotional ties developed and held by generations at Cobourg Primary School. However, given the level of capacity at Camelot and across Southwark as a whole, families will be able to access alternative school places in the community.</p> <p>The closure of the Cobourg Primary School may enable some of the surrounding schools with low rolls to strengthen their intake and as a result, to become more financially viable. No mitigation will be required because of the availability of alternative school places at other schools in the local community.</p>

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9. Rural primary schools	
9. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered section 15(4).	9. The Old Kent Road Ward where the schools are situated is not in an area that has been classified as “rural”, nor has it been designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15.
10. Balance of denominational provision	
10. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.	10. The school does not have a religious character
11. Maintained nursery schools	
11. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out (a) the local authority’s assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and (b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.	11. Neither school is a “maintained nursery school”, so this does not apply (a) Not applicable (b) Not applicable

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12. Sixth form provision	
<p>12. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, the effect for 16 to 19 year olds in the area that the closure will have in respect of</p> <p>(a) their educational or training achievements;</p> <p>(b) their participation in education or training; and</p> <p>(c) the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.</p>	<p>12. Cobourg and Camelot are primary schools that do not include sixth form provision, therefore this section does not apply.</p> <p>(a) Not applicable</p> <p>(b) Not applicable</p> <p>(c) Not applicable</p>
13. Special Educational Needs Provision	
<p>13. Where existing provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) believe the proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children</p>	<p>13. There is no site specific special educational needs provision reserved for SEND pupils at Cobourg or Camelot, so no specialist provision is proposed for discontinuation.</p>
14-15 Travel	
<p>14. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.</p>	<p>14. All children on roll at Cobourg Primary School have been offered a place at Camelot Primary School, which is 0.7 miles away from Cobourg. Every parent however, is able to make a preference for an alternative school inside or outside this area. The commuting distance of children, currently attending Cobourg is not likely to be substantively affected as they transition into alternative schools. It is therefore not expected that journeys to and</p>

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	from alternative schools provided will be lengthier than at present due to availability but longer journeys may occur as a result of parental preference of schools outside of the local area.
15. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use.	15. As outlined above, the pupils displaced by the school closure may not be unduly inconvenienced by lengthier travel; Camelot Primary is only 0.7 miles from Cobourg and there are numerous alternative places available. This would help to mitigate against any increase in car use, as no more car journeys will be necessary than at present.
Making objections to or comments on these proposals	<p>Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, by 5 pm on 3rd July 2023 any person may object to or make comments on the proposals or, request a paper copy of the proposal by emailing</p> <p>vilma.edwards@southwark.gov.uk</p> <p>or by post to: <i>Vilma Edwards, SELA, Children's Services, Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH</i></p>

Signed

Nina Dohel

Director of Education