



**Agenda Item  
11**

**Report to Haringey Schools Forum –  
25 June 2020**

**Report Status**

For information/note   
For consultation & views   
For decision

**Report Title: KS2 bulge protection for Tiverton Primary School**

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**Report authorised by:**

Eveleen Riordan – Assistant Director, Schools and Learning

**Purpose:** To request special consideration for KS2 bulge protection for Tiverton Primary School at the point when the school ceases to be subsidised as a consequence of amalgamation.

**Recommendations:** Schools Forum are asked to agree to bulge protection funding for Tiverton Primary School at KS2 in the event that the total numbers on roll in the affected bulge classes fall below 24. This funding would be available from the Growth Fund element of the DSG at the point when the school ceases to be subsidised as a consequence of amalgamation (from September 2022 and beyond).

**1. Introduction**

*Background information*

- 1.1. On 11 February 2020, Council's Cabinet made their final determination on the proposal to amalgamate Stamford Hill Primary and Tiverton Primary School. This will mean that Stamford Hill Primary school will close from 31 August 2020 and all pupils registered at Stamford Hill will be moving to Tiverton Primary School from September 2020.

- 1.2. Before an amalgamation was proposed, the published admission number (PAN) for Tiverton Primary School had been permanently reduced from 60 to 30 based on the low level of demand for school places locally and the expected future declining demand. The decrease in PAN by 30 for entry to Reception in September 2020 had been determined by Cabinet in February 2019 following a period of public consultation in November 2018 and before the idea of amalgamation began to form.
- 1.3. Prior to this, a decrease in PAN by 30 had also been approved by the Schools Adjudicator for the current Reception and Year 1 cohorts to enable the school to operate more efficiently and cost effectively.
- 1.4. As a consequence of amalgamation, Tiverton will now resume operating as a 2 form-entry school across all these year groups – incoming Reception, Reception and Year 1. The purpose of this paper is to request special consideration for KS2 bulge protection for these affected cohorts as they pass through the school from the point when the school ceases to be subsidised as a consequence of amalgamation. If approved, this funding would be valid from the third year of operation from September 2022 and beyond; further detail on this is provided in section 2 below.
- 1.5. Currently there is only provision made for bulge protection for KS1 within the Growth Fund criterion of the DSG agreed by Schools Forum; this provides per-pupil funding for a minimum of 24 pupils in a bulge class.
- 1.6. The financial sustainability of schools is impacted by having a sufficient number of pupils per class to the extent that a minimum of 24 pupils (for a regular class of 30) is generally seen as the minimum desired for a school to cover fixed costs.

*Pupil numbers in bulge classes– incoming Reception, current Reception and Year 1*

- 1.7. As at May 2020 (school census), there were 10 pupils each in the current Reception and Year 1 classes at Stamford Hill Primary and 30 pupils in each class at Tiverton Primary School. If all 10 displaced pupils from Stamford Hill move to Tiverton Primary School in September 2020 there will be 40 pupils in total in each year group at the amalgamated school. Based on a two-form entry model, this would result in a shortfall of 20 places within each of the bulge classes in current Reception and Year 1.
- 1.8. For entry to Reception in September 2020, Tiverton Primary School has only received a firm commitment from 44 families accepting their place. 47 families have been offered a place in total and the school is currently undersubscribed. Based on a 2-form entry model, there may be a shortfall of up to 16 places within the bulge class in this year group.

## 2. Lump sum funding protection for amalgamated schools – funding available for the first 2 years of operation

- 2.1. The Schools Revenue Funding 2020/21 Operational Guide (Feb 2020) sets out that for a school which amalgamated, authorities must allocate it additional lump sum funding.

### *First year of operation*

- 2.2. Post-implementation, there will be a single combined budget from September 2020 for the rest of the financial year (September 2020 to March 2021). This means that Tiverton Primary School will be eligible to receive funding that would have been credited to Stamford Hill Primary had it remained open in the total amount of £354,023.34. This amount includes the funding for 85 pupils registered at the school as at October 2019 but also the **lump sum element of the DSG budget** in the amount of £99,166.67 (September 2020- March 2021,  $7/12 = £170k/12 \times 7 = 99,166.67$ ).

### *Second year of operation*

- 2.3. The operational guide (Feb 2020) sets out that authorities may also apply to the ESFA to provide a second year of protection. Applications must specify the level of protection sought, although in general the ESFA would not expect the additional protection to exceed 70% of the combined lump sums. This means that if approved by the ESFA the school would be entitled to a combined lump sum amount of £238,000 -  $(£170K + £170K) * 70\% = £238k$  (12 months from April 2021-March 2022).

### *Third year of operation – lump sum funding protection discontinued*

- 2.4. For the third year of operation, the school is expected to rely on income generated solely by pupil numbers. However, there is also a small provision made for bulge protection in KS1 within the Growth Fund criterion agreed by Schools Forum.
- 2.5. This means that Tiverton Primary School would be entitled to receive payments for the Year 2 bulge class in September 2022 if there were fewer than 24 pupils on roll. For clarification, the year 2 cohort in September 2022 is the incoming Reception cohort which was set at a PAN of 30 but is expected to admit up to 60 pupils in September 2020 as a consequence of amalgamation and the return to a 2-form entry model at the LA's behest.
- 2.6. The bulge protection for the Year 2 class in September 2022 would be calculated based on the October 2022 census, agreed at Schools' Forum, and paid monthly from April 2023. This additional funding would only be available if there were fewer than 24 pupils in the bulge class.

2.7. The current Reception and Year 1 classes which were also capped at an admission limit of 30 but will now be expected to admit up to 60 pupils as a result of amalgamation would not be eligible for bulge protection as these cohorts will have moved to KS2. As previously mentioned, there is currently no provision made for bulge protection for KS2 within the Growth Fund criterion agreed by Schools Forum.

**3. Request for special consideration for KS2 bulge protection from the third year of operation and beyond**

3.1. Tiverton Primary School should not be financially disadvantaged from agreeing to host additional classes at the LA's behest to help meet the need for places as a result of amalgamation. The governors of the school are concerned that demand may not quite reach the expected level and consequently some of the additional places created as a result of amalgamation may be vacant.

3.2. As the affected cohorts (incoming Reception, Reception and Year 1) pass through the school it is unlikely there will be a significant variation in the numbers on roll. This is based on the high proportion of pupils that leave the school historically. Tiverton Primary has a higher mobility rate compared with other schools in the planning area and across Haringey.

3.3. School's Forum are asked to consider whether it is appropriate to provide bulge protection at KS2 should the number of surplus places be significant. The funding would be paid where the total number on roll in the affected bulge classes fall below 24 at the point when the school ceases to be subsidised as a consequence of amalgamation (from September 2022 and beyond).