

STATUTORY NOTICE

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ST PETER-IN-CHAINS RC INFANT SCHOOL AND ST GILDAS' CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL, OAKINGTON WAY, LONDON N8 9EP DFE NO. 309/3506 AND 309/3509

Notice is given, in accordance with Section 15 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013, that Haringey Council proposes to close St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School, Oakington Road, London N8 9EP with effect from **31 August 2025**.

On the 22 April 2025, Council's Cabinet agreed to proceed to publishing this statutory proposal for closure because of the significant decrease in pupil numbers at the school. This decision followed an informal consultation on the proposals, which took place from 24 February to 24 March 2025.

Fewer children on roll means less government funding for schools to operate, which over time creates significant financial pressures. The link between pupil numbers and school funding means that it is not always feasible to keep a school operating to guarantee the standard of education families and pupils deserve. Should the decision to close St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School be taken, all children still attending will be supported to find places at alternative schools in line with parental preferences and/or availability of places within the area starting in September 2025.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this notice, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by either:

a) Emailing objections, comments, or questions to: schoolconsultation@haringey.gov.uk
or b) Writing to: School Admissions, 5th Floor, Haringey Council, 48 Station Road, London N22 7TY.

Responses must be received by **5pm on 4 June 2025** when this statutory notice and the representation period are due to expire. In line with the requirements of Schedule 2, Paragraph 18 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011), a decision must be taken by the decision maker no later than two months following the expiry of the representation period. Therefore, Haringey Council's Cabinet must make a decision on this proposal in July 2025 Cabinet meeting (subject to a 5-day call in period), otherwise, it must refer the decision to the Schools Adjudicator.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be viewed at: <https://stpetersandstgildasconsultation.commonplace.is>. If you require a paper copy of this, please contact us via email at: schoolconsultation@haringey.gov.uk. If you need this document to be translated into another language, please contact us as soon as possible by emailing us at: schoolconsultation@haringey.gov.uk



Jane Edwards
Director for Schools and Learning
7 MAY 2025

STATUTORY PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ST PETER-IN-CHAINS RC INFANT SCHOOL AND ST GILDAS' CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

CONTACT DETAILS:

1. **The Proposer:**
Haringey Council, 5th Floor, 48 Station Road, London N22 7TY Website: www.haringey.gov.uk
2. **The Schools:**
St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School, Oakington road, London N8 9EP Telephone: [020 8348 1902](tel:02083481902) Email: admin@st-gildas.haringey.sch.uk
3. **School category:**
St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School are voluntary aided schools maintained by Haringey Local Authority.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The planned implementation date for the closures of St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School is 31st August 2025.

REASON FOR CLOSURE:

The main factors leading to the closure proposal are low and falling pupil numbers impacting on the school's financial viability and consequent ability to sustain a high-quality education for pupils. Pupil numbers at St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School have consistently declined over recent years. As school budgets are based on the number of pupils a school has on its roll, there has been a growing financial pressure on the schools' finances, which is expected to worsen if St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School were to remain open. The Infant school had a deficit closing balance of £121,440 by the end of March 2025. The Junior school has a projected surplus outturn at 31 March 25 of £45,324 compared to £87,098 on 31 March 2024, a percentage reduction of 48%.

We have consulted on options for the future of St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School, however, due to the continuing drop in pupil numbers, no short or medium-term plans to recover the deficit are considered achievable. Additionally, low pupil numbers also impact school experience for students, as there are fewer opportunities for enrichment activities and less staff to provide quality curriculum, which the students deserve.

The Council has a duty of care to ensure children in its schools can receive a good education and access the full curriculum. A school with a declining roll will be challenged to do this effectively because of inevitable financial pressures from reduced funding. The link between pupil numbers and school funding means that it is not always feasible to keep a school operating to guarantee the standard of education families and pupils deserve. Keeping St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School open is

therefore likely to be detrimental to the education of the students on roll and extend the period of uncertainty around the future of the schools. As a result, closing the schools is the best option to avoid any further detriment to the children's education.

PUPIL NUMBERS AND ADMISSIONS

Despite extensive efforts to attract more families, St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School have not seen any improvement in the number of families applying to the schools. From October 2019 to October 2024, the total number of pupils enrolled at the schools decreased from 324 to 135 (see Figure 1 below).

By January 2025, school census data shows that the number of pupils enrolled at the schools had fallen further to 60 pupils (Reception to Year 6). This continuous decline in pupil numbers has resulted in a significant loss of essential funding year after year. In the 2024/25 academic year, for every surplus place that a maintained primary school carries, there is a loss on average of £4,025 AWP (Age Weighted Pupil Unit) funding per pupil.

With the current enrolment number being well below the expected number for a one-form entry primary school, which has a capacity for 210 pupils from Reception to Year 6, the schools are not considered financially viable to continue to operate. Figure 1 below shows the total number of pupils enrolled at the schools between October 2019 and January 2025.

Figure 1: Total number of pupils on roll (reception to year 6)

School	School Net Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024**	Jan. 2025
St Peter-In-Chains RC Infants (R-Yr 2)	180 / 90*	119	89	75	73	64	43	16
St Gildas' Catholic Junior (Yr 3- Yr 6)	240 / 120*	205	194	173	146	121	92	44

Source: 2019-2025 January school census (PLASC) data

*Total capacity is shown in line with the determined PANs – a lower figure for both schools is shown to indicate the reduction in PAN implemented from 2fe to 1fe from September 2019

**October 2024 census

Figure 2 below shows the gender split and the number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan enrolled at the school as of January 2025 school census. The consultation process on alternative schools for children with EHC Plan has commenced in line with the statutory SEND process to ensure these children are not impacted by the proposal to close the school, should it be implemented. Some have already transitioned to alternative provision.

Figure 2: Gender and SEN characteristics of pupils on roll by Year Group as of January 2025 school census

January 2025	Male	Female	SEN Support	EHCP
Reception	4	2	1	-

Year 1	1	5	2	1
Year 2	2	2	-	2
Year 3	5	5	1	2
Year 4	8	10	7	-
Year 5	-	-	-	-
Year 6	6	10	6	1
Total Roll	26	34	17	6

DISPLACED PUPILS

As of January 2025 census, there were 60 pupils on roll in Reception to Year 6. Since the start of the Stage 1 informal consultation process in February 2025, some families have made in-year applications to transfer their children to other schools. As of April 2025, it is anticipated that the school roll is likely to be lower than that shown in Figure 2 above. As the closure of the schools will not affect the children in Year 6 as they will be transferring to secondary in September 2025, at most, 45 pupils are expected to be affected by a decision to close the schools in August 2025.

There are currently no nursery children attending the schools. There is adequate alternative nursery provision in the local area with 8 Haringey primary schools within 1 mile of St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School operating a nursery. There is a Haringey maintained nursery school (Coleridge Primary school) within 0.3 miles of the schools.

Figure 4 below shows the number of places available in Haringey schools within a 1-mile distance to St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School as of April 2024. Whilst these numbers may have varied due to pupil movement, there are currently more than sufficient vacant places across all year groups in the 14 Haringey schools within 1 mile of the school. This is evidence that there is enough spare capacity in local schools to accommodate children likely to be displaced if the decision to close St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School is implemented.

Figure 4 - Local school vacancies in Haringey schools within a 1-mile walking distance to St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School from school roll return data as of March 2025

SCHOOL	PLANNING AREA	Yr 0	Yr1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Coleridge (120 PAN)	2	0	3	4	0	0	1	8
North Harringay (60 PAN)	5	0	18	5	1	10	10	4
Rokesly Infant (R PAN = 60 Y1-6 = 90)	2	4	38	0	-	-	-	-
Rokesly Junior (90)	2	-	-	-	-	10	15	6
South Harringay Infant (60 PAN)	3	0	6	0	-	-	-	-
South Harringay Junior (60 PAN)	3	-	-	-	1	1	2	18

St Aidan's VC (30 PAN)	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	3
St Mary's CofE (60 PAN)	2	17	21	16	20	12	16	5
Stroud Green (60 PAN)	2	0	4	1	3	6	12	23
Weston Park (30 PAN)	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	6
		22	90	57	53	42	58	75
St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School	PA3	6	6	4	10	18	-	16
		16	84	53	43	24	58	59

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

The evidence in Figure 4 above shows that given the availability of spare places in local schools, the impact on the community of the closure of St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School will be limited. All schools in the local area are rated by Ofsted as 'Good' or 'Outstanding.' We will endeavour to meet parental preference for school places, wherever possible.

Furthermore, the closure of St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School would reduce the number of surplus primary school places in Planning Area (2) and across the borough. The Council considers that allowing surplus places to remain above 10% through inaction would directly and negatively impact the financial viability of other Haringey schools, which in turn will have an impact on the quality and breadth of the education offered at these schools.

Working collaboratively with other schools in the borough, measures are being taken to facilitate redeployment (where possible and appropriate) of staff likely to be displaced by the closure to other Haringey schools where there are staff vacancies. Where redeployment is not possible, appropriate individual support will be offered to limit the impact of the closure on the affected staff. In addition, the Trades Unions and relevant professional associations will be consulted with regular liaison maintained with them throughout the closure process, if closure is agreed.

BALANCE OF DENOMINATIONAL PROVISION

Figure 5 below shows the current number of Catholic vacancies at other primary schools in Haringey.

SCHOOL	PLANNING AREA	METRIC	Yr 0	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Our Lady of Muswell Catholic (60 PAN)	1	Vacancies	13	6	3	-4	1	-3	1

St Francis de Sales Catholic Infant (60 PAN)	4	Vacancies	2	15	6	-	-	-	-
St Francis de Sales Catholic (60 PAN)	4	Vacancies	-	-	-	5	4	17	9
St Ignatius Catholic (30 from 2025)	3	Vacancies	34	13	38	25	30	30	8
St John Vianney Catholic (30 PAN)	3	Vacancies	0	0	0	0	3	1	2
St Martin of Porres Catholic (30 PAN)	1	Vacancies	22	13	13	14	10	14	12
St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant (30 PAN from 2025)	3	Vacancies	6	30	1				
St Mary's Priory Catholic Junior (30 PAN from 2025)	3	Vacancies				24	14	32	26
St Paul's Catholic (30 PAN)	5	Vacancies	9	7	2	17	-1	9	3
		Total Vacancies	86	84	63	81	61	100	61
St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School	PA3	Children on Roll	6	6	4	10	18	-	16
		Remainder	80	78	59	71	43	100	45

TRAVEL

As of the January 2025 school census St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School have 60 pupils on roll. When analysed by postcode of home location 78% of these pupils (47 pupils) are resident in Haringey, 18% (11 pupils) in Islington. Two pupils are resident in other London boroughs.

By broad postcode area the data is as follows:

Postcode	Pupil numbers	Postcode	Pupil numbers
N4	16	N19	6
N8	27	Other	8
N17	3	Total	60

As of April 2025, the actual number of pupils remaining at St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School is lower than that indicated above. Figures 4 and 5 show the considerable number of vacancies in the local planning area and in Catholic schools across Haringey.

Less than half (45%) of the 60 pupils in the January 2025 census were resident in the N8 postcode (the schools are located in N8 9EP). Of those Haringey primary schools with vacancies within 1 mile of St Peter-In-Chains RC Infant School and St Gildas' Catholic Junior School, the following are based in N8: 1. Coleridge (16 vacancies), 2. North Harringay (48 vacancies), 3. Rokesly Infant and Junior (73 vacancies), 4. St Mary's CE (107 vacancies), 5. Weston Park (11 vacancies).

PROCEDURE FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this notice, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by either:

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or b) Writing to: School Admissions, 5th Floor, Haringey Council, 48 Station Road, London N22 7TY.

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