

Options for closing John Loughborough School – July 2012

A. Introduction

John Loughborough School is a Seventh Day Adventist secondary school located in Tottenham. The school can cater for up to 300 pupils in year 7 through to year 11. Following a review of the school's viability it has been recommended that the Local Authority begins consultation on closure of the school. The purposes of this paper are to begin consideration of the options for closure, and to examine the implications of closure for the provision of secondary school places in Haringey. In the analysis that follows, a September 2013 implementation date is assumed.

The possible arrangements for managing closure fall under three broad approaches:

1. Phased closure – the school closes to new year 7 pupils from September 2013 but remains open for all current pupils to complete their secondary education with John Loughborough
2. Immediate closure and transfer – the school closes in July 2013 and all pupils transfer to other local schools in September 2013
3. Some combination of the two e.g. upon closure pupils in the lower years transfer to other local schools whilst older pupils remain and sit their GCSEs at John Loughborough

These approaches are discussed further in section B below, however at this stage, no preferred option for closure is being put forward. If it is agreed following the consultation period that the proposal should proceed to the next stage then we will publish a Statutory Notice setting out a detailed plan for closure of the school that takes into account the outcomes from the consultation and the initial findings from the EqIA. There would then follow a statutory period of representation in which stakeholders can comment on the plan that is put forward. Whichever approach is taken, we want to ensure that:

- Affected children have access to education that is good or outstanding
- Parents/carers are able to have their say in what they want for their children
- Any transition does not impact negatively on affected children's progress

Table 1 shows the projected number of pupils and current planned capacity across Haringey secondary schools, both with and without John Loughborough School, from 2013/14 onwards.

Table 1: Projected Haringey secondary school population

| | | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|---------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| 2013/14 | Projected pupils | 2186 | 2136 | 2194 | 2205 | 2165 |
| | Capacity | 2417 | 2390 | 2390 | 2390 | 2390 |
| | Surplus | 231 | 254 | 196 | 185 | 225 |
| | Capacity without JLS | 2357 | 2330 | 2330 | 2330 | 2330 |
| | Surplus without JLS | 171 | 194 | 136 | 125 | 165 |
| 2014/15 | Projected pupils | 2278 | 2194 | 2149 | 2230 | 2175 |
| | Capacity | 2417 | 2417 | 2390 | 2390 | 2390 |
| | Surplus | 139 | 223 | 241 | 160 | 215 |
| | Capacity without JLS | 2357 | 2357 | 2330 | 2330 | 2330 |
| | Surplus without JLS | 79 | 163 | 181 | 100 | 155 |
| 2015/16 | Projected pupils | 2307 | 2270 | 2194 | 2200 | 2201 |
| | Capacity | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2390 | 2390 |
| | Surplus | 110 | 147 | 223 | 190 | 189 |
| | Capacity without JLS | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2330 | 2330 |
| | Surplus without JLS | 50 | 87 | 163 | 130 | 129 |
| 2016/17 | Projected pupils | 2307 | 2298 | 2257 | 2235 | 2191 |
| | Capacity | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2390 |
| | Surplus | 110 | 119 | 160 | 182 | 199 |
| | Capacity without JLS | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2330 |
| | Surplus without JLS | 50 | 59 | 100 | 122 | 139 |
| 2017/18 | Projected pupils | 2334 | 2305 | 2293 | 2296 | 2223 |
| | Capacity | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 |
| | Surplus | 83 | 112 | 124 | 121 | 194 |
| | Capacity without JLS | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 |
| | Surplus without JLS | 23 | 52 | 64 | 61 | 134 |
| 2018/19 | Projected pupils | 2447 | 2339 | 2312 | 2345 | 2288 |
| | Capacity | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 |
| | Surplus | -30 | 78 | 105 | 72 | 129 |
| | Capacity without JLS | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 |
| | Surplus without JLS | -90 | 18 | 45 | 12 | 69 |
| 2019/20 | Projected pupils | 2470 | 2446 | 2354 | 2377 | 2349 |
| | Capacity | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 |
| | Surplus | -53 | -29 | 63 | 40 | 68 |
| | Capacity without JLS | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 |
| | Surplus without JLS | -113 | -89 | 3 | -20 | 8 |
| 2020/21 | Projected pupils | 2453 | 2467 | 2456 | 2423 | 2386 |
| | Capacity | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 | 2417 |
| | Surplus | -36 | -50 | -39 | -6 | 31 |
| | Capacity without JLS | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 | 2357 |
| | Surplus without JLS | -96 | -110 | -99 | -66 | -29 |

Source: GLA Projections 2011 Round

B. Options

(1) Phased closure

A phased closure would effectively reduce the number of year 7 places across Haringey by 60 (the current Planned Admission Number (PAN) for JLS) from 2013/14 onwards. This reduction would then work its way through the year groups. Table 1 shows that on current projections there would be sufficient capacity in 2013/14 and for four years after that for those year 7 pupils who would otherwise have chosen John Loughborough to attend other Haringey secondary schools.

It is currently projected that from 2018/19, based on current admission limits, there will be insufficient year 7 places to meet demand. Around this time, the number of places will need to be increased to accommodate the higher numbers of children currently working their way through the primary sector. If John Loughborough were to close to new pupils from September 2013, the date for this may need to be brought forward by one or two years.

In 2009 Woodside High School reduced their PAN for year 7 entry from 243 to 162, and from September 2012 Hornsey's PAN is reducing from 243 to 216. These schools could revert to their previous PANs to meet additional demand when needed. An initial assessment of capacity indicates that there may also be potential for increasing the number of school places at other Haringey secondary schools. It is worth noting that academies can alter their PAN without consultation and without reference to the Local Authority. Haringey has three secondary academies - Woodside, Alexandra Park and Greig City Academy.

A phased closure would spare current pupils the upheaval of moving and would avoid any disruption for other Haringey secondary schools. However, as the number of pupils diminishes year on year, it would need careful management to protect the learning and well-being of the final cohorts. John Loughborough is a small school and therefore it would be particularly challenging to continue to meet the requirements of the curriculum through the period of closure. It is also likely that some parents would choose to move their children to other schools during the closure period or even before, thereby exacerbating this issue.

(2) Immediate closure and transfer

Under this option, in September 2013:

- No pupils would be admitted in year 7
- years 8-11 would transfer to other local secondary schools

This would reduce the number of secondary places in all year groups by 60 from 2013/14 onwards. Table 1 shows that on current projections there would be sufficient existing places in September 2013 for years 8-11 to transfer to other Haringey secondary schools, were that to be the preferred approach. The impact in terms of overall place planning would be similar to option (1) (phased closure) in that it would potentially bring forward the point at which additional year 7 places need to be created by one or two years. However,

this does not preclude the possibility that other alternative arrangements may be made for affected pupils.

It is likely that if the school closes, many out of borough pupils would choose to attend schools closer to where they live. Currently, 190 pupils are Haringey residents, and 90 live out of borough. Of the out of borough pupils, 55 live more than 3 miles distant from the school. We are however committed to making provision for all John Loughborough pupils and will plan on this basis.

Table 2: Pupils on roll at John Loughborough School, January 2012

| | Yr7 | Yr8 | Yr9 | Yr10 | Yr11 | Total |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Haringey residents | 26 | 34 | 44 | 37 | 49 | 190 |
| 2. Residents plus OB < 3m | 32 | 39 | 51 | 45 | 58 | 225 |
| 3. All JLS pupils | 40 | 48 | 61 | 60 | 71 | 280 |

Transferring pupils from John Loughborough to other local schools would involve a level of disruption. Pupils would have to adjust to life in a new school, one that would not have the Seventh Day Adventist ethos to which they are accustomed. Friendship groups would potentially be broken up. Receiving schools will also need to plan ahead for any transfer of pupils - especially if the arrangements put in place involve particular schools receiving large numbers of pupils. These issues must be weighed against the potential for improved attainment in other schools, and the risks associated with a phased closure.

(3) Hybrid option

Under this option, in September 2013:

- No pupils would be admitted in year 7
- years 8 and 9 would transfer to other local secondary schools
- years 10 and 11 would remain at John Loughborough to sit their GCSEs

There also other ways in which options (1) and (2) could be combined. The impact in terms of overall place planning would be the same as previously stated.