

WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF DECISION

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE STATUTORY PROPOSAL NOTICE TO AMALGAMATE ST STEPHEN'S AND ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (CE) PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO AMALGAMATE THE TWO SCHOOLS ON THE ST MARY MAGDALENE'S S

Notice is hereby given that Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure has made the following executive decision on the above mentioned subject for the reasons set out below.

Summary of Decision

The Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure has:

- Agreed that the school governors will continue to work with the Council to mitigate and reduce the deficit while the school continues to operate. This approach is in line with that reported to the Children & Adults, Public Health & Voluntary Sector Policy and Scrutiny Committee.
- Agreed to proceed with plans for the amalgamation of St Stephen's and St Mary Magdalene's CE Primary Schools to take effect from the 1st September 2023.

Reasons for Decision

The impact of falling rolls across the borough and the number of schools in financial deficit present several challenges. It has therefore been necessary to consider making changes so that we do not have excess surplus primary capacity going forward. The two schools do not have enough children to fill two forms of entry from September 2023 with vacancies across all year groups.

The consultation led by the governing bodies of St Stephen's and St Mary Magdalene's has been carried out in partnership with the Church of England Diocese (London Diocesan Board for Schools) and in liaison with the Council's Education Partnership Board (EPB). The EPB plays a key role in enabling schools to meet the challenge of ensuring that all children and young people in Westminster achieve the best possible outcomes and can flourish if schools are working in effective partnerships. The EPB also seeks to ensure that steps are taken to address excess surplus capacity in primary schools in Westminster.

**Stuart Love, Chief Executive,
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64 Victoria Street
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Implementation Date: 13 June 2023

Reference: YPLL23-06