

# **WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

## **STATEMENT OF DECISION**

**SUBJECT:           OUTCOME OF THE INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON A  
PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL  
AND ST VINCENT DE PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
SCHOOLS AND A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL TO  
PUBLISH A STATUTORY NOTICE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL**

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

### **Summary of Decision**

#### **Recommendations**

To publish a statutory notice from 6 January – 3 February 2022 proposing to amalgamate Westminster Cathedral and St Vincent de Paul RC Primary Schools. A Notice to publish would entail:

- Part 1: Notice in accordance with 15(1) of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 that Westminster Council intends to discontinue Westminster Cathedral Catholic Primary School on 31 August 2022.
- Part 2: That Westminster Council will seek to incorporate pupils from Westminster Cathedral RC Primary into St Vincent de Paul RC Primary with a planned Published Admissions Number of 30 pupils from reception entry September 2022.

#### **Reasons for Decision**

The impact of falling rolls across the borough and the number of schools in financial deficit present several challenges. Provision that can be well resourced and is of high quality enables schools to continue to thrive and offer the opportunities that children deserve: a strong curriculum with excellent teaching, enriching activities and a joyful experience at primary school. The joining of the schools will provide pupils with a full and enriched curriculum as the school will be fully subscribed and fully funded per pupil.

A review of primary school provision was commissioned by Schools Forum in summer 2020 and led by the Isos Partnership. The review identified schools considered to be at risk due to low or falling pupil numbers and/or budget deficit and the subsequent risk to standards.

Westminster Cathedral RC Primary and St Vincent de Paul RC Primary were identified as schools at risk both with falling rolls and a budget deficit. Westminster Cathedral has

a considerable budget deficit. The schools are led by the headteacher of St Vincent de Paul as the Interim Executive Headteacher.

The informal consultation at Westminster Cathedral and St Vincent de Paul RC Primaries about the proposal has been carried out in partnership with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster 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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**Publication Date:** 22 December 2021

**Implementation Date:** 5 January 2022

**Reference:** YPL21-02