

**Public Consultation by the London Borough of Camden 2015**

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**PUBLIC CONSULTATION BY CAMDEN COUNCIL ON PROPOSALS FROM THE GOVERNING BODIES OF TORRIANO INFANT SCHOOL AND TORRIANO JUNIOR SCHOOL TO BECOME ONE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGED 3 TO 11 FROM SEPTEMBER 2015**

This proposal is subject to public consultation.

**1. Proposal summary**

For several months, staff and governors from Torriano Infant and Junior schools have been working together to better understand the provision in each school and to find ways of working collaboratively for the benefit of the children and the community.

At the request of the governing bodies of Torriano Junior School and Torriano Infant School, the London Borough of Camden is proposing to merge the two schools, under its statutory duty to secure high quality education provision in its area. The governors of both schools recognise that this proposal has the most advantages for pupils, parents/carers and staff.

A primary school can ensure that the strengths that currently exist separately in both schools can be brought together to form a strong school that offers continuity of learning and progress for pupils aged 3 to 11. Benefits would include:

- A continuous learning experience with no transition to a new school
- Continuity allowing the school to respond to different learning needs of children
- The ability of the school to recruit and retain strong leaders and staff
- Whole school planning across all key stages
- Staff can share and develop best practice more effectively
- Greater sharing of curriculum and other resources and avoidance of duplication
- Increased potential for strong leadership and governance
- Closer contact with parents for the full span of their children's primary education.

A decision was taken by the governing bodies that a merger of the two schools will secure continuity of education and raise standards for the pupils at the primary school, ensuring that all pupils benefit from a good education in a very strong school.

**2. How is it proposed that this will happen?**

The legal route to achieve this is to close Torriano Infant School and enlarge Torriano Junior School by expanding the age range which will see a total admission number of 420 pupils. Both schools will remain at their current sites with an overall Head teacher or Executive Head and a single governing body.

The Local Authority is required to follow the legal process set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 and the School Organisation (Prescribed



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Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. Although the proposal is put forward by the governing bodies, the legislation requires the Local Authority to lead on proposals for changes to age range of 3 or more years as is the case in these proposals.

With the strong endorsement of the governing bodies of both infant and junior schools, the Local Authority is therefore proposing:

1. The closure of Torriano Infant school on 31 August 2015; and
2. The extension of the age range of Torriano Junior School from 3 to 11 years of age from September 2015.

Both proposals are linked. This consultation document addresses both proposals.

### 3. The consultation process

Following public meetings held at the two schools in May at which the proposals were discussed, an initial wider four week consultation now follows. In July the outcomes of this consultation will be reported to the Cabinet which will decide on whether to publish a statutory notice to implement the changes. During the four weeks that follow comments and representations may be made which will be considered before the final determination is made. Please see the timeline set out below for key dates.

#### *The consultation process timeline*

<b>Initial consultation on the proposal</b>	1 June – 26 June
<b>Cabinet decision on publication of statutory notice</b>	22 July
<b>Publication of statutory notice.</b>	23 July
<b>Decision</b>	20 Aug. Determination taken by the local authority
<b>Primary School opens</b>	1 September

The Local Authority is keen to hear your views about the above proposal. If you wish to ensure your comments on the proposal are taken into account you can:

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- Complete and return the consultation response form attached
- Write to: Mark Langridge-Kemp, *London Borough of Camden, 5 Pancras Square, London, N1C 4AG*
- Send an e-mail to: [torrianoconsultation@camden.gov.uk](mailto:torrianoconsultation@camden.gov.uk)

**All responses must be received by 5.00 pm on 26 June 2015.**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM ON MERGER OF TORRIANO INFANT AND TORRIANO JUNIOR**

Name.....

Address (including postcode).....

.....

Are you? (Please tick as appropriate)

- I am a parent/carer of a pupil at Torriano Infant School
- I am a parent/ carer of a pupil at Torriano Junior school
- I am a member of staff at Torriano Infant School
- I am a member of staff at Torriano Junior school
- I am an interested member of the local community

Other (please specify) .....

**Consultation Questionnaire**

Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Torriano Infant School and expand Torriano Junior School to take in all the pupils from Torriano Infant School?

- Overall I would consider myself to be in favour of expansion
- Against expansion
- Don't know

**Comments**



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Please return your comments to us by: **5.00pm on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2015**

Thank you for taking the time to respond, if you would like the Torriano Infant School and Torriano Junior School Consultation in large print or braille, audiotape or in another language please contact Mark Langridge-Kemp

**Please return the response form to:**

**London Borough of Camden**

**Mark Langridge-Kemp**

**5 Pancras Square**

**London N1C 4AG**

**[torrianoconsultation@camden.gov.uk](mailto:torrianoconsultation@camden.gov.uk)**

#### **4. Torriano Infants and Junior School Proposal Q&A**

##### **4.1 Why is this change being proposed?**

For several months, staff and governors from Torriano Infant and Junior schools have been working together to better understand the provision in each school and to find ways of working collaboratively for the benefit of the children and the community. These conversations have led to this proposal being put forward.

##### **4.2 How will a primary school benefit pupils?**

The governors have put forward the proposal as it has the most advantages for pupils, parents/carers and staff.

A primary school can ensure that the strengths that currently exist separately in both schools can be brought together to form a strong school that offers continuity of learning and progress for pupils aged 3 to 11. Benefits would include:

- A continuous learning experience with no transition to a new school
- Continuity allows the school to respond to different learning needs of children
- The ability of the school to recruit and retain strong leaders and staff
- Whole school planning across all key stages
- Staff can share and develop best practice more effectively
- Greater sharing of curriculum and other resources and avoidance of duplication
- Increased potential for strong leadership and governance
- Closer contact with parents for the full span of their children's primary education.

##### **4.3 Will there be any staff redundancies if this proposal goes ahead?**

No, there are no plans for any compulsory redundancies.

##### **4.4 How are the schools performing currently?**

Torriano Infants was inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) last year and was judged to require improvement. A review by the Council earlier this year found that while there have been improvements they have not been enough and the school continues to require improvement to be good.

Torriano Junior School has been judged to be outstanding by the most recent and previous inspection and Ofsted has concluded that pupils were making excellent progress in their all-round development. The Council endorses both these judgements.

#### **4.5 What is being proposed?**

The schools' governors are proposing to establish a community primary school for children aged 3 to 11 years. If this proposal goes ahead, it will mean Torriano Infant School will close and Torriano Junior School will expand to form a community primary school. All existing pupils in both schools would attend this primary school from September 2015.

#### **4.6 How will admission arrangements change for my child's transfer from Infant to Junior?**

If the proposal is approved by the Council in August both schools will continue to have separate intakes in September 2015 into Year Reception and Year 3. It is proposed that from September 2016 the primary school will have a single intake into its Reception year.

#### **4.7 What will happen to the infant school site?**

The proposal being consulted upon is that the infants will remain on their current site. The primary school would therefore exist on a split site which would be managed as one school.

#### **4.8 Will parents from both schools be represented on the single governing body?**

Yes. Elections for parent governors will take place early in the autumn. In addition, it is possible to co-opt Infant school parents onto the governing body.

#### **4.9 If the schools are merged into a single primary school what difference does this make to the employment of staff?**

In practical terms very little. As a community school, Camden remains the employer. The only term of the contract of employment that would change is the title of the school; all other substantive terms and conditions remain unaltered. If the governing body considered any organisational changes they would have to follow due process and the organisational change policy in place, which is the position at present.

#### **4.10 What will happen to the ethos of the Infant school?**

Governors and staff at both schools recognise the importance of good teaching and learning in the Early Years and at Key Stage 1. There is no intention to transfer resources from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2. The intention is rather to improve teaching and learning at Key Stage 1 as this is known to improve outcomes for pupils in Key Stage 2, at secondary school and in adult life.

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**4.11 Will the merged school focus on tests and exam results to the detriment of the broader curriculum?**

No. Torriano Infants and Junior School is committed to a school curriculum that is rich in music and the arts. It is possible to have high achievement in SATs while offering an exciting programme of music, arts, technology and sport. Mrs Nanthabalan has demonstrated that commitment at Torriano Juniors and at Netley. Her aspiration is shared by governors.

**4.12 Will the school lose money? For example, what will happen to the 'lump sum' element of the Infant school budget?**

Each school currently receives a "lump sum" of £150,000. Guidance indicates that in the financial year following the merger, they would receive £255,000, which is 85% of £300,000, the combined amount of the current two lump sums received by the two schools. The sum of £255,000 could be retained in the following year following a successful application to the Education Funding Agency by the London Borough of Camden supported by the approval of Camden's Schools Forum. Governors have indicated that they intend to submit such an application. The lump sum comes from the Dedicated Schools Grant which can only be used by schools and educational establishments and cannot be held by the Council.

**4.13 Who will lead the school from September?**

Bavaani Nanthabalan is the Headteacher of the Junior School and will continue as the Headteacher of the community primary school.

