

STATUTORY NOTICE
CLOSURE OF HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
TUDWAY ROAD, KIDBROOKE, LONDON, SE3 9YX
DFE NO. 203/3657

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 the Royal Borough of Greenwich in agreement with the Archdiocese of Southwark intends to close Holy Family Catholic Primary School with effect from 31st August 2024.

Should the decision to close Holy Family Catholic Primary School be taken, all children attending the school would be supported to find places at alternative schools in line with parental preferences and/or within the area for September 2024.

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: school-place-planning@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

or

b) Writing to:
Admissions, Place Planning & Capital Projects Service
Royal Greenwich Children's Services, First Floor, The Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington Street, London SE18 6HQ.

Responses must be received by **5pm on Friday 13th March 2024**. The statutory notice will expire on 13th March 2024 and a decision must be taken by Cabinet no later than 8th May 2024 (subject to a 5-day call in period)¹.

¹ The Royal Borough of Greenwich will need to take the decision on whether or not to close Holy Family Catholic Primary School within two months of the end of the representation period. If the Council fails to take the decision within this time, it will pass all relevant material to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA), which will itself take the decision.

STATUTORY PROPOSAL TO CLOSE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Royal Borough of Greenwich in agreement with the Archdiocese of Southwark, hereby publishes this statutory proposal under Section 15(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to close Holy Family Catholic Primary School with effect from 31st August 2024.

NAME, ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

1. School contact details:

The school address is:
Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Tudway Road, Kidbrooke SE3 9YX

Telephone: 020 8856 2708
Email: sao@hprimary.org

2. School category:

Holy Family Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided school

3. Local authority contact details:

The Royal Borough of Greenwich, The Woolwich Centre, Wellington Street, Woolwich, London SE18 6HQ

Website: www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk

IMPLEMENTATION

The planned implementation date for the closure of Holy Family Catholic Primary School is 31st August 2024 onwards.

REASON FOR CLOSURE

The closure of Holy Family Catholic Primary School is considered necessary because its operation is no longer deemed financially sustainable. This is considering the anticipated continued reduction in demand for primary school places in the local area and London in general, in the medium term.

Holy Family Catholic Primary School pupil roll numbers have fallen consistently over the past years and as school budgets are based on pupil numbers, the school's growing financial pressure is anticipated to get worse over the coming years. By the end of the 2023/2024 academic year, it is estimated that the school will be missing £118k in funding, which will rise to £362k by the end of next year and further increase in years to come. Low pupil numbers also impact school experience for students, as there are fewer opportunities to socialise and less staff to provide quality curriculum, which the students deserve. Keeping the 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 school.

PUPIL NUMBERS AND ADMISSIONS

The school has experienced a persistent reduction in roll number, with the total number of primary-aged pupils decreasing by 32% from 211 in January 2018 to 143 in January 2024.

As a one form entry school, with capacity for 210 pupils aged 4 -11 (i.e., Reception Year through to Year 6), the level of admissions to the Reception Year has been persistently well below the Planned Admission Number of 30 and only 19 pupils were enrolled in Reception in September 2023. In the ongoing 2024/25 admission round, only six families have chosen the school as first preference, meaning that the school can only be certain of having six students in Reception in September 2024.

Figure 1 below shows the number on roll in the school during January census between 2017/18 and 2023/24 academic years. This consistent reduction in roll number is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Figure 1: Holy Family Pupil Numbers

Academic Year	Jan census whole school roll figures			
	Nursery (FTE)	Reception	Total FTE	Total Roll
2017/2018	16	31	205	211
2018/2019	4	18	173	173
2019/2020	-	18	167	167
2020/2021	-	22	164	164
2021/2022	-	15	159	159
2022/2023	11	15	149	152
2023/2024	16.5	19	141.5	143

FTE = full time equivalent i.e. any part time nursery pupils reflect 0.5
Total Roll = all pupils are counted in full regardless of fulltime/parttime status

Figure 2 below shows the current number of pupils on roll in each year group. The number of pupils in Year 6 is higher than those in other year groups, but as this cohort moves on, the total school roll will decline further.

Figure 2: Holy Family Current Pupil Numbers by Year Group – as of January 2024 school census

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
No. of pupils	18 (16.5 FTE)	19	15	21	18	12	15	25

There are 18 pupils in Nursery however three are part time so FTE = 16.5

Figure 3 below shows the gender split and the number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan enrolled at the school as at January 2024 school census. The consultation process on alternative schools for those children with EHC Plan has commenced in line with the statutory SEND process to ensure that these children are not impacted by the proposal to close the school, should it be implemented.

Figure 3: Gender and SEN characteristics of pupils on roll by Year Group as of January 2024 school census:

	Male	Female	SEN Support	EHCP
Nursery	12	6	-	-
Reception	10	9	3	-
Year 1	7	8	3	-
Year 2	14	7	3	-
Year 3	10	8	4	-
Year 4	6	6	3	-
Year 5	7	8	2	2
Year 6	14	11	3	-
Total Roll	80	63	21	2

DISPLACED PUPILS, IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY, BALANCE OF DENOMINATIONAL PROVISION AND TRAVEL

As at the January 2024 census, there were 125 pupils on roll in Reception to Year 6. The closure of the school will not affect the children in Year 6 as they will be transferring to secondary in September 2024. As such, 100 pupils are expected to be affected by the decision to close the school in August 2024.

Figure 4 below sets out the number of places available in Royal Greenwich schools within a reasonable distance to Holy Family Catholic School and shows that there are a total of 248 places available in schools within a reasonable distance to Holy Family Catholic School. This is evidence that there are enough spare capacity in local schools for alternative provisions to be made available for children likely to be displaced if the decision to close the school is implemented.

Figure 4: Vacancies in Royal Greenwich Schools within a reasonable distance to Holy Family Catholic School

School	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total (RY – Y6)
Brooklands	3	4	3	5	0	3	7	25
Ealdham	9	7	7	2	0	0	5	30
Haimo	17	0	5	6	0	14	13	55
Henwick	14	14	2	6	1	13	4	54
Horn Park	0	0	8	7	7	17	4	43
Kidbrooke Park	4	0	8	0	4	0	0	16
Middle Park	2	0	1	1	1	9	0	14
St Thomas Moore	5	0	0	3	0	0	3	11
Wingfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total vacancies	54	25	34	30	13	56	36	248

Figure 5 below shows the number of vacancies in Catholic primary schools nearest to Holy Family Catholic Primary School. This shows that for those parents seeking to continue with Catholic education for their children, there are enough spare capacity in Catholic schools within a reasonable distance to Holy Family Catholic Primary School. Accordingly, as at the time of publication of this notice, there are 250 spare places within Catholic schools within a reasonable distance to Holy Family Catholic Primary School.

Figure 5: Vacancies in Catholic Primary Schools within a 2-Mile Radius of Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Places Available	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total RY – Y6
Greenwich								
Notre Dame	13	9	6	5	0	7	0	40
Our Lady of Grace	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
St Joseph's	14	8	10	9	13	8	6	68
St Mary's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Thomas Moore	5	0	0	3	0	0	3	11
Lewisham								
Good Shepherd	0	1	0	4	0	4	0	9
Holy Cross	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
St Augustine's	0	6	1	1	7	1	0	16
St Matthew Academy	7	10	0	1	4	9	0	31
St William of York	1	5	9	9	0	0	0	24
St Winifred's	6	5	4	1	14	4	9	43
Total vacancies	50	44	32	34	39	33	18	250

The evidence set out in Figures 4 and 5 above shows that given the availability of places in both local non-faith schools and Catholic schools, the impact on the community of the closure of Holy Family Catholic Primary School will be reduced.

Figure 6 below shows the number of baptisms conducted by the Catholic parishes around Holy Family Catholic Primary School between 2019 and 2022. This suggests that the number of Catholic families likely to attend Mass regularly in the parishes around the school has reduced by 36% between 2019 and 2022. This infers that the impact of the closure of Holy Family Catholic Primary School on Catholic families in the Catholic parishes around the school will be limited.

Figure 6: Baptism data for Catholic Parishes around Holy Family Catholic Primary School.

Parishes\Baptism	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kidbrooke	17	25	14	13
Lewisham	92	78	31	47
Blackheath	50	48	19	32
Lee	23	24	12	24
Greenwich	57	57	57	28
Greenwich East	11	10	10	16
Total Baptism per year	250	242	143	160
% reduction since 2019		3%	43%	36%

Working collaboratively with the Archdiocese of Southwark, measures are being put in place to facilitate redeployment (where possible and appropriate) of staff likely to be displaced by the closure to other Catholic schools within the Archdiocese where there are staff vacancies. Where redeployment is not possible, appropriate individual support will be offered to limit the impact of the closure on 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.



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