

Proposal to close Fenstanton Primary School

September 9th, 2024

Proposal

To close Fenstanton Primary School, from September 1st, 2026.

The school is situated in Abbots Park, London SW2 3PW.

All pupils on roll will be allocated to the closest school with a vacancy using the Lambeth in-year coordinated process.

Introduction

Notice is given in accordance with section 15 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.

After careful consideration, Lambeth Council Propose the closure of Fenstanton Primary School, Abbots Park, London SW2 3PW, in the South-East planning area.

Why Are We Proposing to close the school?

This proposal is primarily driven by the ambition to ensure strong and sustainable schools in the area that will provide the highest quality education for pupils. With falling pupil numbers impacting on primary schools across Lambeth, the forecast for the long-term sustainability of current primary school places is of major concern.

The school is well led and has managed their budget as efficiently as possible, however, the continued decline in the number of applications means that the sustainability of the school is at risk, due to low pupil numbers. This will impact on the quality of education the school will be able to deliver in the future.

We are committed through this proposal and formal consultation, to be clear and transparent, to listen to and consider the views and concerns of those affected. We appreciate the impact this consultation will have on the school and the community it serves. However, we believe it is necessary to safeguard the quality of education in Lambeth for the future.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

1. You can give your views, within 4 weeks of the proposal being published:
 - i. Via the online survey, on the Lambeth Council website [here](#). We encourage you to complete the online survey as the most efficient and secure way to give your views.
 - ii. by email to: pppconsultation@lambeth.gov.uk
 - iii. By hand to the office at Fenstanton in a sealed envelope



If you would like to request to view this document and the full proposal in other languages, please email: pppconsultation@lambeth.gov.uk

CONSULTATION OUTCOMES AND FORMAL PROPOSAL TO CLOSE FENSTANTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, FROM SEPTEMBER 1ST 2026.

Section 1

Reasoning summary

- i. During the period of consultation, no viable alternatives to the Local Authority's (LA) option were generated (though all were carefully considered), enabling the LA to make a new proposal that would satisfactorily resolve the pupil number trends and financial implications of keeping the school open in its current form.
- ii. The school is of 'most concern'¹ based on the LA's assessment of pupil trends across all Lambeth schools. The activity assessed the change in roll numbers between 2022 and 2024, the number of 1st choice applications and offers for Reception Year in 2024, and the vacancies held in Reception Year and throughout the school.
- iii. There has been a trend in cohorts starting in the school where pupils have left the school over a period of time, reducing pupil numbers.
- iv. The school is significantly empty compared to the size of its building.
- v. The impact that the above factors have had and will continue to have on the school's financial state.
- vi. There are sufficient vacancies in neighbouring schools to accommodate the families and pupils of Fenstanton with a current **vacancy of 835 places in schools within 2km of the school**. This will help to mitigate the impact on the local community. All pupils on roll will be allocated to the closest school with a vacancy using the Lambeth in-year coordinated process. **See Appendix 2 for details of schools and number of vacancies per school.**

Fenstanton is in the Southeast planning area. In January 2024, 114 Reception places (approximately equivalent to 4 classes or 16.2%) in primary schools in the South East planning area were vacant.
- vii. In January 2024, Fenstanton had 271 pupils on roll in Reception to Year 6 out of a possible 480 total Published Admissions Number (PAN). Based on the physical size of the school, in January 2024, Fenstanton was 57% empty, with 359 spaces for additional pupils.

Section 2

Stage 1 Consultation Outcomes

Methodology and Engagement

1. It is a statutory requirement for the Proposer (in this case the Local Authority, Lambeth Council) to consult any parties they think appropriate before publishing statutory proposals.
2. An initial public consultation ran from 16 May 2024 to 18 August 2024 and involved engagement with stakeholders through:
 - Meetings with staff

¹ Schools of 'most concern' are the bottom 25% of schools in Lambeth for pupil trends which considers three-year trends of all schools for number of pupils on roll changes, 1st place preferences for Reception, Admissions offers to Reception, Vacancies in Reception year and Vacancies across all year groups in the school.

- Meetings with governors
- Meetings with unions
- An online survey, including a child friendly version
- Paper versions of the online survey in the school (and translated into relevant languages where requested)
- Documentation on London Borough of Lambeth website
- Letters sent to the school to share with parents/carers and staff
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on London Borough of Lambeth Website
- Dedicated email inbox
- Response to Freedom of Information requests

Prior to the public consultation, a cross organisational Advisory Board has been in place since April 2023, with representatives from the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE), the Education Service – Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark, Trade Unions, Lambeth Schools Partnership (LSP), Lambeth Governors Forum and the Local Authority (LA), Lambeth Council.

3. The purpose of the consultation was for Lambeth to seek the views of and engage with those that could potentially be affected by the closure of the school, and those who are local residents or have connections with the school. It was also an opportunity for interested parties to suggest other options for consideration on the proposed closure.
4. We recognise that the proposal and the initial public consultation process may be unsettling for parents/carers, pupils and staff and have tried, therefore, to work closely with all concerned, including the school and SDBE to keep lines of communication open and information as transparent as possible.
5. We acknowledge and appreciate the headteachers and staff at the school, who have worked tirelessly to remain positive, at a challenging time in circumstances beyond their control. We have referenced some questions they had through our [FAQs](#).
6. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken to identify the potential impacts of a closure on groups with protected characteristics, and any appropriate mitigation. A further assessment will be considered before any final decision is made to the proposal, by a trained and experienced panel.
7. We are conscious that while many staff and parents understand the drivers behind the proposal, there is also understandably a great deal of emotion connected to any change within a school and its place in the community. Throughout the process, through the survey, Freedom Of Information requests and consultation inbox, Lambeth have attempted to be responsive to concerns with speed and transparency.

Consultation Questions

Question	Answer
Are you responding as	SELECT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A parent/carer of a child or children who go to this school ○ A Governor at this school

	<input type="radio"/> A member of staff at this school <input type="radio"/> A childminder who looks after a child or children who go to this school <input type="radio"/> A local resident <input type="radio"/> Other
Do you have an alternative option to the closure of Fenstanton Primary School	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
If you answered 'yes' to the previous question, please provide detailed reasons for this and suggestions as to how this could be achieved.	Free text answer
We are keen to understand how the option to close the school might affect you. Please use this space to tell us if and how you are impacted by the option.	Free text answer
If you are impacted by the option, what can we do to address these impacts?	Free text answer
Do you think implementing the change in September 2026 is	<input type="radio"/> Too Slow <input type="radio"/> Too quick <input type="radio"/> About Right
If you have any concerns about the timing of the potential change, please tell us about them here.	Free text answer
Do you think amalgamations (mergers) will help to manage falling primary school applications in Lambeth?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> I don't know
If you answered 'no' to the above question, please outline your preferred alternative(s)	Free text answer
If you have any further comments, please tell us about them here	Free text answer

Section 3

Consultation Responses

There were 369 individual survey respondents in total to the initial public consultation. Lambeth reviewed all responses in detail.

- There was a submission from the Headteacher of Fenstanton and the Headteacher of E-ACT City Heights Academy offering an alternative to establish an all-through school and SEND resource base with E-ACT City Heights Academy.
- NAHT Branch Secretary Lambeth
- NEU Branch Secretary Lambeth

There were also 2 organisational submissions (Norwood Forum, Walcot Foundation) and 4 individual comments to the consultation inbox that were not specific to any school. The Walcot Foundation submission was a combination of 16 Lambeth-based voluntary and community sector organisations who have developed a joint response to the primary school places consultation on behalf of the Lambeth Peer Support Network.

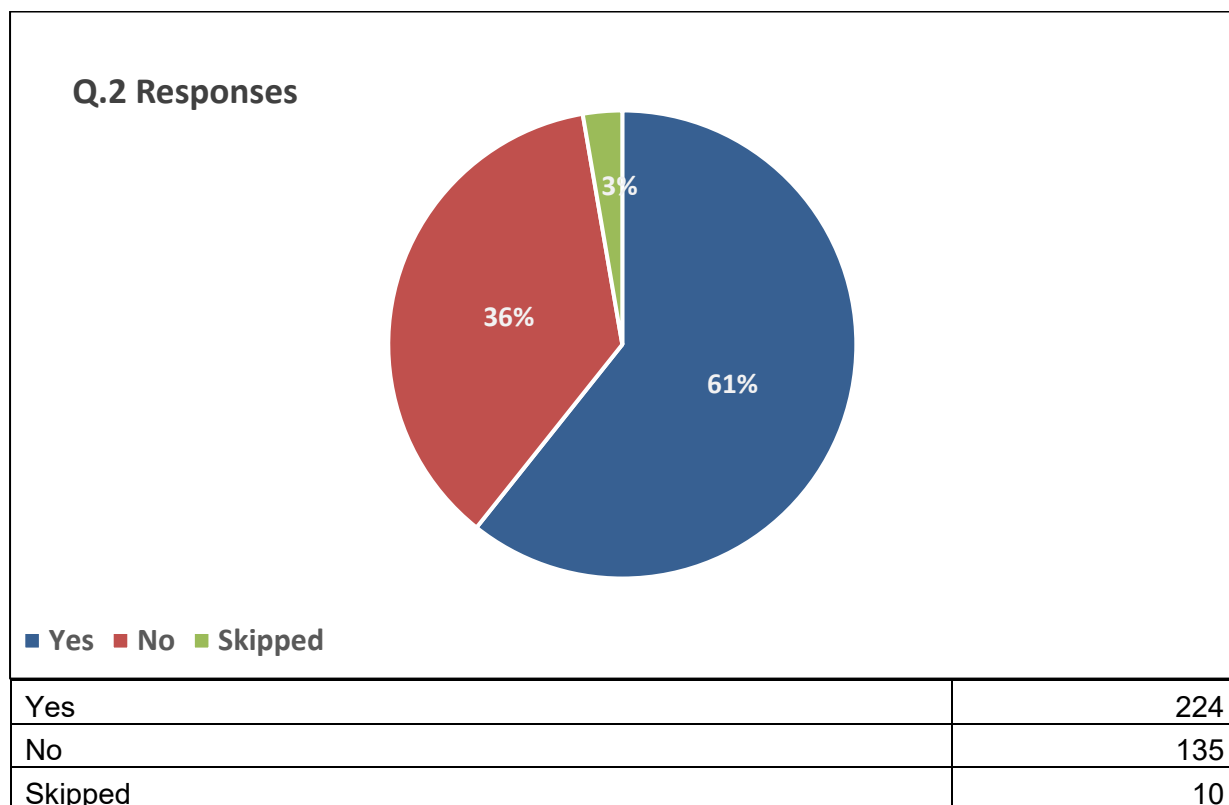
QUESTION 1:

Are you responding to this survey as (please tick all that apply)

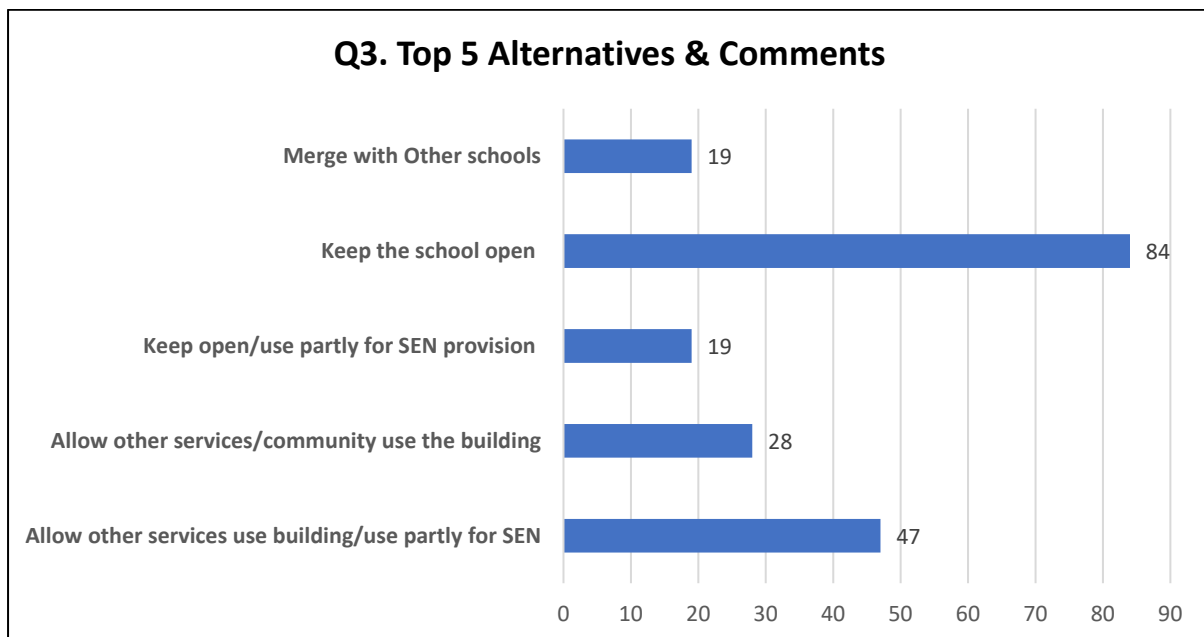
Respondent	Number
A parent/carer of a child or children who go to this school	90
A Governor at this school	1
A member of staff at this school	31
A childminder who looks after a child or children who go to this school	8
A local resident	137
Other	121
Skipped	7
Total responses (Please note, 369 people responded to the survey and were able to choose more than one option).	388

QUESTION 2:

Do you have an alternative option to the closure of Fenstanton Primary School?



If you answered 'yes' to the previous question, please provide detailed reasons for this and suggestions as to how this could be achieved.



Section 4

Alternative options and LA responses

Suggestion	Reflections
Don't close	Lambeth note that whilst this question was asked to understand possible alternatives, some respondents simply stated they did not want anything to change. If no change is made at the school, it is likely to see a decline in pupil numbers, placing pressure on long-term sustainability. Therefore, it is not currently being considered as a preferred option compared to the closure of Fenstanton.
To create an 'all through school' with City Heights	Lambeth does not have the powers to action this proposal. This would still involve a closure of Fenstanton school and City Heights making a significant change application to the Department for Education to become a new all-through school. In addition to this, the 30 places to be removed from the South-East Planning area to achieve the optimum rate of 5-10% surplus, would remain if this proposal was agreed. To note just under a quarter of pupils offered places at City Heights were from Fenstanton. Evidently City Heights is not the preferred school for the majority of parents of Fenstanton school. This would therefore leave the new proposed school vulnerable at the primary and secondary phase.

Amalgamation with Holy Trinity	Holy Trinity primary is of 'most concern' based on the LA's assessment of pupil trends across all Lambeth schools ² . It is in the East Planning area. It is an option in the current consultation for closure. An amalgamation between the two schools would leave Published Admissions Numbers (PAN) numbers needing to be reduced by a further 30 places, to achieve the optimum rate of 5-10% surplus. Therefore, this alternative is not currently being considered as a preferred option compared to the closure of Fenstanton.
School to academise	Lambeth do not have the powers to action this proposal. In addition to this, it would leave another 30 places to be removed from the East Planning area to achieve the optimum rate of 5-10% surplus.
Amalgamation with another school	Analysis has been done on amalgamating the school with another school, no viable option has yet been found to achieve the required Published Admission Numbers in the South-East Planning Area. Therefore, this alternative is not currently being considered as a preferred option compared to the closure of Fenstanton.
Reduce PAN in other schools	The council has been working in partnership with schools over a number of years to reduce PAN in an equitable way across the borough, with the last round of proposed reductions consulted on in December 2023. This partnership approach has seen 975 places removed from schools across Lambeth - from 3,650 to 2,675 - between 2016 and 2025. However, PAN is required to be reduced further to create an optimum 5-10% vacancies. A further 155 school places would have to be removed to reach the numbers agreed by Lambeth Council in November 2022, and with the population projected to continue to fall, a further 100 could be removed. Continuing to reduce PANs creates an imbalance in the number of 1FE schools. There were 21 schools (34%) with a PAN of up to 1FE in 2021, and there will be 39 (64%) in 2025. Lambeth do not consider that reducing PAN alone will achieve the required reductions.
Alternative Education use for the building	Lambeth have stated that for any buildings where the council is the freeholder, it will seek to protect that site for alternative education provision or services for children, families and young people. Lambeth is the freeholder for this building.
Open a Resource Base or use partly for SEND	The opening of a SEND Resource Base would not overly impact on the declining pupil numbers due to new Resources Bases in Lambeth usually starting with 3 pupils per year and building to 15 to create a stable and viable SEND provision. Also, the funding for a SEND Resource Base would not greatly impact on the financial sustainability regarding the financial

	viability of Fenstanton, as the funding is directly allocated to the child and to support the complexity of their level of need.
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Question 4 and 5

We are keen to understand how the option to close the school might affect you. Please use this space to tell us if and how you are impacted by the option.

If you are impacted by the option, what can we do to address these impacts?

IMPACT	How to address impacts
Disruption to Education	Whilst the aim of Lambeth Council is to have the optimum number of school places in each Planning Area, it is noted that any change in the environment for a pupil will have an impact. The council and school leaders will endeavour to provide a sense of continuity for all stakeholders impacted. Ninety-five (95%) of Lambeth’s primary schools are good and outstanding and will work with pupils to ensure that they have the opportunity to have a highly fulfilling Primary School experience, leading to positive outcomes for the pupil. Ultimately, it is believed that education outcomes will be improved with pupils attending sustainable schools, and this proposal will enable more schools to be sustainable.
Disruption to wider services	Lambeth notes the multitude of other services received by pupils and stakeholders currently at Fenstanton primary school, including enrichment clubs, nutrition workshops, food banks and church services. Lambeth have stated that for any buildings where the council is the freeholder, it will seek to protect that site for alternative education provision or services for children, families and young people. Lambeth will endeavour to work with organisations such as the Walcot Foundation, and the Voluntary and Community Sector, to ensure these wider services can still be accessed by pupils.
Increased travel distance	Lambeth will ensure that every pupil has the option to be placed at a Lambeth school that is within a reasonable distance from their home. Every Lambeth resident on roll at Fenstanton school in January 2024 lives within 1km (a 10–15-minute walk) of a Lambeth school. We note that for some pupils, Fenstanton is their closest community school, and for others it is not.
Employees losing place of work	Lambeth Human Resources will, if the decision is approved by Lambeth cabinet in November 2024, design a bespoke programme of training and support. This will include 121 discussions, interview training, range of Frequently Asked Questions and responses, HR coaching sessions and more, so that during the implementation period employees are offered a range of tools and signposted to helpful information so they can make informed choices and decisions to plan their next steps. Lambeth acknowledges the uncertainty that a change to employment circumstances can have and will look to minimise this as much as possible. Lambeth will look to work with all schools in the borough, including ones where they are not the employer, to secure opportunities for employees whose roles are impacted via redeployment.

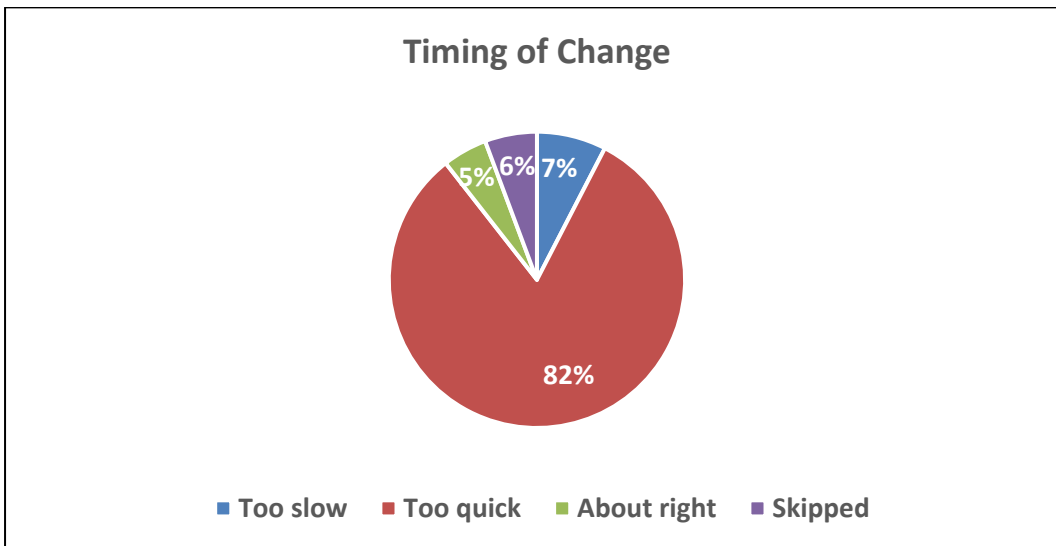
Impact on building	Lambeth have stated that for any buildings where the council is the freeholder, it will seek to protect that site for alternative education provision or services for children, families and young people. Lambeth is the Freeholder of this building.
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Question 6 and 7

Do you think implementing the change in September 2026 is

- Too Slow
- Too quick
- About Right

If you have any concerns about the timing of the potential change, please tell us about them here.



Too slow	28
Too quick	302
About right	18
Skipped	21

TIMING	How to address impacts of the change
Too slow – Other schools may suffer due to falling numbers	Whilst the aim of Lambeth Council is to have the 5-10% optimum surplus of Published Admissions Numbers in each Planning Area, it is noted that any change in nature to schooling for a pupil will have an impact. A date of September 2026 has been identified as it provides a significant lead in time for any stakeholder impacted by a change to understand the implications and the opportunities available to them.
Too quick – Only recently back to normal post pandemic	Lambeth notes the significant challenge that schools and pupils went through during the Covid pandemic. All schools and pupils responded amazingly to the challenge. Unfortunately, Lambeth has had a falling number of primary school applications. For reception year classes, in January 2024, there were 539 vacancies, (equivalent to roughly 18 classes of 30 children) in Lambeth. When

	there are lots of empty school places, this can impact on the quality of education provided and the ability of teachers to deliver a full curriculum, as well as putting schools at risk of incurring big debts, putting schools under financial pressures that would put their future at risk. A date of September 2026 has been identified as it provides a significant lead in time for any stakeholder impacted by a change to understand the implications and the opportunities available to them.
Too quick – Not enough time for families to adjust	A date of September 2026 has been identified as it provides a significant lead in time for any stakeholder impacted by a change to understand the implications and the opportunities available to them. Though it is noted some stakeholders may prefer a longer lead in time, this date also hopes to ensure that no changes happen at short notice, which has been experienced by some secondary school pupils in Lambeth.

If you have any further comments, please tell us about them here:

Theme	Response
What measures would be put in place prior to a closure to support pupils/families?	All pupils on roll will be allocated to the closest school with a vacancy using the Lambeth in-year coordinated process. This includes those pupils on roll at a Lambeth school but who are not a Lambeth resident. Lambeth School Admissions will coordinate the process with Lambeth own admission authority schools in line with 2.33 of the code ('Where a maintained school or Academy is to be closed, the local authority must collaborate with all schools in their area to consider the best way to secure provision for children in other local schools')
Worried about impact on secondary schools	The data shows that the numbers for secondary schools are currently healthy, although the falling number of primary school pupils has already begun to lead to a falling number of secondary school pupils. Lambeth will work with all secondary schools as part of the consultation process.
New policy of private school fees impacting numbers	Though it is noted that any policy change may impact on school numbers, estimates for pupil numbers are derived from many factors, including birth rate, migration rate, and past trends. The conclusion from independent analysis, published by the GLA is that: The most likely scenario is for the size of the primary-school-age population to continue to decrease over the next decade in London. Forecasts for 2026/27 currently suggest a fall from the 2023/24 actual number of Reception pupils on roll in Lambeth schools of – 8.0%, (195 pupils or 6.5 classes).
Pupil numbers could increase in the next few years	Estimates for pupil numbers are derived from many factors, including birth rate, migration rate, and past trends. The conclusion from independent analysis, published by the GLA is that:

	<p>The most likely scenario is for the size of the primary-school-age population to continue to decrease over the next decade in London.</p> <p>Forecasts for 2026/27 currently suggest a fall from the 2023/24 actual number of Reception pupils on roll in Lambeth schools of – 8.0%, (195 pupils or 6.5 classes).</p>
Impact on E-ACT Secondary school	<p>Lambeth recognise that E-ACT City Heights Secondary Academy and Fenstanton Primary School use shared premises. The consultation included discussions around the option with stakeholders from both schools. Just under a quarter of pupils offered places at City Heights were from Fenstanton. Lambeth will continue to work with the Academy to ensure there is no negative or increased burden to the academy if Fenstanton closed. Note E-ACT City Heights are the leaseholders for their part of the building and lease terms would continue and variations made where required.</p>
Impact on pupils with pupil premium	<p>It is noted that Fenstanton has a higher level of pupils than average, in Lambeth, that receive the pupil premium. A full Equalities Impact Analysis has been conducted as part of this process and will have to be reviewed by a panel before any decision is made. Lambeth will work with all pupils, including those who are eligible for the pupil premium, as part of any change, if it does occur, to ensure that their educational needs are met within a Lambeth school.</p>

Section 5

Local Authority Consultation

1. At the conclusion of the Stage 1 consultation outlined above, Lambeth Council reviewed the feedback received. Whilst it is recognised that many respondents outlined alternative suggestions, it is believed that at this stage, no viable alternative proposals were put forward which would satisfy the required Published Admissions Number to be achieved in the South-East planning area. It is also recognised that potential negative impacts were outlined. On consideration of these negative impacts, Lambeth considers they could either be a) mitigated and managed or b) did not outweigh the potential negative impacts that could occur if the required Published Admissions Number could not be achieved in the South-East planning area.

After careful consideration Lambeth agreed, with the ambition to achieve strong and sustainable schools within South-East planning area and with the required level of Published Admissions Number, to move to Stages 2 and 3 of the Statutory Process.

What Do the Next Stages Involve?

2. Stage 2, publishing a Statutory Notice, informs all stakeholders of both schools and the wider community about the proposed amalgamation.

- The Statutory Notice is placed outside of each school building where it can be seen by parents/carers, staff and the public.
 - It is placed in local libraries.
 - A brief notice containing a website address to obtain a copy of the Full Proposal and Consultation Form is placed in South London Weekly.
3. Formal consultation (Stage 3, Representation Phase) begins on 9 September for four (4) weeks and is an opportunity for stakeholders, the wider community, businesses, residents and anyone else to share their views, comments, or concerns.

At the end of this document there are details of how you can get involved and have your views represented.

Section 6

Background Information

1. We face a significant challenge in Lambeth due to falling applications to our primary schools over a few years.
2. Several factors, including people leaving London due to Brexit and a one-third drop in birth rates, means fewer children are going to school in Lambeth. Councils across inner London and outside of London are facing similar issues. We have already removed 975 places (roughly 33 classes) from primary schools across Lambeth (between 2016 and 2025 from 3,650 to 2,675).
3. Forecasts for 2026/27 currently suggest a fall from the 2023/24 actual number of Reception pupils on roll in Lambeth schools of -8.0%, (195 pupils or 6.5 classes).
4. In January 2024, Fenstanton had 271 pupils on roll in Reception to Year 6 out of a possible 480 total PAN. Based on the physical size of the school, in January 2024 Fenstanton was 57% empty, with 359 spaces for additional pupils.
5. School funding is dependent on pupil numbers. Vacant school places have an immediate impact for schools through reduced budgets, which in turn can affect the overall sustainability and quality of education standards.

Reasons for the decline in demand

Falling birth rate

6. The falling number of births is a national problem and in England and Wales the number of live births has dropped by 14% since 2012. However, in Lambeth the problem is greater, with a 26% fall in births. London and neighbouring boroughs have seen their numbers fall at a higher rate than the national average. As evidenced in the table below:

Area	Births 2012	Births 2021	Difference	Percentage
Lambeth	4,833	3,554	-1,279	-26%
Southwark	5,056	3,525	- 1,531	-30%
Lewisham	4,940	4,024	-916	-19%
Inner London	53,965	43,120	-10,845	-20%
London	134,037	110,961	-23,076	-17%
England and Wales	730,883	625,008	-105,875	-14%

Demographic changes

7. The 2021 Census found that the number of children aged between 0-15 living in Lambeth had reduced by around 6000 (-12%) since 2011. In addition, the number of children in the age group 0-4 had reduced by -26% over the same 10-year period.

0-15

Area	0-15 2011	0-15 2021	Difference	Percentage
Lambeth	51,831	45,700	-6,131	-12%
Southwark	50,398	48,500	-1,898	-4%
Lewisham	53,937	54,900	963	+2%
Inner London	563,297	549,900	-13,397	-2%
London	1,531,169	1,595,900	64,731	+4
England and Wales	9,891,138	10,352,600	461,462	+5

0-4

Area	Percentage
Lambeth	-26%
Southwark	-21%
Lewisham	-13%
Inner London	-17%
London	-11%
England and Wales	-7%

EU Migration / Brexit

8. EU migration has fallen since 2016, having a significant impact on London. Between the Brexit referendum in 2016 and the first emergence of Covid 19 in early 2020 migration from the EU fell sharply with a significant number of EU citizens returning to their countries of origin.

Housing Costs

9. Lack of affordable housing is a London wide problem and a real problem in Lambeth, contributing to falling rolls. Prices in the private sector have risen rapidly in recent years making private housing increasingly unaffordable for families.

Area	Median property price March 2022	Average property price March 2016	Difference
Lambeth	£550k	£475k	+£75k (+15.7%)
Southwark	£547.5k	£487k	+£60.5k (+12.4%)
Lewisham	£445k	£368k	+£77k (+20.9%)
London	£510k	£418.5k	+£91.5k (+21.9%)
SE England	£360k	£279k	+£81k (+29%)
England	£275k	£215k	+£60k (+27.9%)

Pupil Numbers

Pupil Rolls in January 2024 at Fenstanton Primary School

Primary Rolls January 2024								
School	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	YR-6
Fenstanton Primary School	21	40	35	39	31	58	47	271

In January 2024, Fenstanton has 271 pupils on roll out of a possible 480. All Lambeth Primary School roll trends can be found [here](#).

Total Pupil roll in each year at Fenstanton

Fenstanton Primary School																	
Total roll in each year group as at January each year from 2011/12 to 2023/24																	
Year	PAN	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Cohort size	YR/PAN	Roll YR-6	Total PAN	Vacancies	Capacity	Spaces		
2011/12	90	87	82	84	81	90	77	71	-	97%	572	630	58	9%	630	58	9%
2012/13	90	86	85	74	85	71	85	72	-	96%	558	630	72	11%	630	72	11%
2013/14	90	83	86	90	81	85	71	84	+21.7%	92%	580	630	50	8%	630	50	8%
2014/15	90	82	82	89	87	86	80	73	-14.1%	91%	579	630	51	8%	630	51	8%
2015/16	90	80	78	84	87	87	75	83	-5.7%	89%	574	630	56	9%	630	56	9%
2016/17	90	78	80	74	81	83	87	80	-5.9%	87%	563	630	67	11%	630	67	11%
2017/18	90	69	76	75	69	77	88	88	+1.1%	77%	542	630	88	14%	630	88	14%
2018/19	90	57	66	74	76	69	78	85	-1.2%	63%	505	630	125	20%	630	125	20%
2019/20	90	47	54	63	65	78	59	78	-6.0%	52%	444	630	186	30%	630	186	30%
2020/21	60	43	41	49	56	59	72	57	-30.5%	72%	377	600	223	37%	630	253	40%
2021/22	60	38	45	40	54	49	56	73	-8.8%	63%	355	570	215	38%	630	275	44%
2022/23	45	43	37	43	35	58	48	59	-24.4%	96%	323	525	202	38%	630	307	49%
2023/24	45	21	40	35	39	31	58	47	-31.9%	47%	271	480	209	44%	630	359	57%

Fenstanton Pupil Roll has fallen from 572 in 2011/12 to 271 in 2023/24.

LA Assessment of pupil trends at Fenstanton Primary School

Primary Schools by Planning Area Figures used for Scorecards, Summer 24	YR Roll Numbers		Roll change, Jan 22-24	Determined PANs up to 2024/25				FE count (PAN 2024 /30)	1st Prefs		Offers		Vacancies YR				Vacancies YR-6				Total PAN		
	Jan 22	Jan 24		PAN 2021/22	PAN 2022/23	PAN 2023/24	PAN 2024/25		Sept 24	Per FE	Sept 24	Per FE	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24	Ave Per FE	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24	Ave Per FE	Sep 21	Sep 22	Sep 23
	Fenstanton Primary School	38	21	-44.7%	60	45	45	30	1.0	10	10.0	13	13.0	22	2	24	9.6	215	202	209	11.9	570	525

PAN Change

Fenstanton has experienced a -44.7% decline in Reception over the past three years.

Fenstanton had 24 vacancies in Jan 2024 and an average of 11.9 throughout the school.

In January 2024, Fenstanton had 271 pupils on roll in Reception to Year 6 out of a possible 480 total Published Admissions Number (PAN). Based on the physical size of the school, in January 2024, Fenstanton was 57% empty, with 359 spaces for additional pupils.

Demographic data of the pupil population

Fenstanton Primary school

Pupil Evidence	Data	Source
Age	4-11 135 potentially affected (Reception to Year 3, as of January 2024)	School census January 2024
Sex	Girls 50% Boys 50%	School census January 2024
Disability	25% EHCP + SEN Support 4% EHCP	School census January 2024
Race/Ethnicity	Black African – 21% Black Caribbean – 19% White British – 6%	School census January 2024
Religion and Belief	Data not collected	
EHCP + SEN Support	25%	School census January 2024
EHCP	4%	School census January 2024
English not a first language	45%	Lambeth Council Survey 2023
Not proficient in English	19%	Lambeth Council Survey 2023
Eligible for free school meals	51.5%	School census January 2024

Protected Group	Positive	Negative
Age	<p>Pupils in current school years 5 or 6 will have completed primary school by the time of the recommended closure in September 2026. Pupils in reception to year 4 will be guaranteed a school place at a new school.</p> <p>There are sufficient places across a range of school types across the year groups to accommodate this need.</p>	<p>Any change resulting in the need for a child to change school, or school location, will be disruptive to their education. However, to mitigate this impact we will work with staff on a transition plan for children as they move to the new school and think about the positive learning opportunities.</p> <p>The closure may affect siblings of pupils attending Fenstanton if they intended to attend the same school. Governors, working in consultation with the council would ensure that appropriate provisions are in place for any displaced pupils.</p> <p>Parental preference and family circumstances such as siblings will be considered when offering school places to minimise the impact on families wherever possible.</p>

		The proposals are subject to statutory consultation.
Disability	<p>Children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability are given priority in the admissions criteria or attend specialist provision. The process for securing educational provision for children with an EHCP is managed through the Special educational needs assessment service and all schools are required to admit a child if the EHCP names them. There is an opportunity to develop Capital SEND infrastructure investment to further expand SEND resources bases in a more concentrated and targeted way.</p>	<p>If the necessary PAN reductions as approved in the November 2022 Pupil Place Planning strategy are not met, it may result in the closure of schools that adversely impact students with an EHCP or receive SEN Support.</p> <p>Fenstanton has 4% of pupils with an EHCP and 25% of pupils with EHCP + SEN support.</p> <p>The proportion of pupils with an EHCP or receiving SEN support is higher than the profile for all primary schools in Lambeth which is 4% and 18 % respectively. Transition for these pupils will be managed carefully to ensure the new school is fully informed of pupils needs.</p>
Sex	<p>As above, children are allocated school places in line with Admissions Code. The proposed changes are not sex specific. Places are allocated without reference to sex.</p>	None Identified
Gender Reassignment	<p>When the GRA (Gender Recognition Act) was passed by Parliament, related government literature at the time estimated 6,000 'visible' transgender people in the UK. These were people living fully in the opposite gender, who had come to statistical attention through applying for Passports in their changed status. This was therefore estimated to be 0.01% of the population or around one in 10,000 people. This was not broken down by sub national geography, but applying this proportion to Lambeth, this would equate to around 32 transgender people in Lambeth.</p> <p>Pupils in the age range served by the school are unlikely to be going through gender re-assignment. Staff who are undergoing gender reassignment would not be</p>	

	discriminated in terms of redundancy or redeployment.	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	n/a	
Pregnancy and maternity	n/a	
Race / Ethnicity	<p>The admission criteria, in accordance with the national Admissions Code and equalities legislation, are used to allocate school places without reference to ethnicity or race.</p> <p>The school's population and workforce are as diverse as the local population. Staff and pupils are likely to be transferred or redeployed to schools in the locality that are as diverse as Fenstanton.</p> <p>The recommended amalgamation of the schools will not have a differential effect on different ethnicities, as race or ethnicity forms no part of the selection process.</p> <p>Redundancy and redeployment policy and process will ensure staff are not discriminated against.</p>	<p>The proposed closure of Fenstanton would affect current pupils at the school, particularly those in year groups up to year 4. To mitigate against the impact on local applicants, the council has also assured itself that there are sufficient places in the local area for current pupils and future projected pupil numbers. There are sufficient places in good local school across the year groups to accommodate all pupils.</p> <p>Parents would also have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.</p>
Religion and belief	<p>Fenstanton is a school classed as no religion.</p> <p>This amalgamation ensures a balance of community, faith and academy schools, retaining choice and access for parents across the Borough.</p> <p>In 2023/24, there are 2,120 no religion primary school places in Lambeth which makes up 71.3% of all primaries. The closure of Fenstanton, with the reduction of a further 30 PAN places (accounting for the previously agreed fall in PAN from 45 to 30), will have a 1.5% effect on the number of no religion places available in Lambeth.</p>	<p>To mitigate against the impact on local applicants, the governing body, in consultation with the council and the Pupil Place Planning Advisory Board, has assured itself that there are sufficient places in schools in the local area for current pupils and future projected pupil numbers.</p> <p>Parents would also have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.</p>
Sexual Orientation	n/a	

10. Finance and Assets

The proposal set out is based on the requirement of the Local Authority to have the optimum number of Published Admissions Numbers within each Planning Area. The finance and asset information outlined below is done so to provide a wider context.

Lambeth note that any financial figures for future years are based on projections.

The calculations used when considering options are based on the following assumptions:

- INCOME Assumes 23/24 plus 1.5% uplift per year as per budget letter plus pro rata adjustment for pupil numbers.
- Loss of the lump sum DSG for amalgamating/ closing schools.
- TEACHING COSTS:
 - Teacher requirements and costs are based on Lambeth's pupil projections and on maximum class sizes of 30 pupils plus 1 Deputy HT teaching for 0.5 of their time- based on average Lambeth salaries including oncosts.
 - Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) at 10% of average teacher costs.
 - No salary safeguarding has been assumed as average staff costs have been applied rather than individual schools' staffing costs.
- OTHER EXPENDITURE – assumes 3% increase per year.
- An extra 10% premises costs have been assumed for extra wear and tear on premises at amalgamated schools.
- EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF COSTS – assumed at total of current levels.
- The cumulative surplus/ deficit of each existing school has been ignored for the purposes of calculating the (in-year 26/27) projections.

The Financial information appendix shows Fenstanton 's financial balances have steadily decreased in recent years, reducing from a £380k cumulative surplus at the end of 2020/21 to £131k at the end of 2023/24. Fenstanton is currently forecasting a £1.4m cumulative deficit by the end of 2025/26, increasing to £2.3m by the end of 2026/27.

If the school were closed, there would be no on-going financial implications for the school.

In terms of the council's accounts, the one-off cost is indicated at £2.0m (from writing off Fenstanton's forecast cumulative deficit of £1.4m plus estimated redundancy costs of £600k). Also, annual net security costs of £10k. This needs to be considered in the context of "doing nothing" with increasing forecast deficits, and the alternative need to incur higher costs from the write-off of larger deficits in the future, as noted above.

The LA asset appraisal work, based on existing running costs per school, analysed by existing pupil numbers and analysed by school capacity numbers over 3 years. The outcome for Fenstanton in terms of asset running cost shows that it is currently averaging £563 per pupil per year, which is more than double the capacity cost of £241 per pupil, if the building was fully utilised.

Section 7

Statutory Requirements

1. In line with the Departments for Education's (DfE) Opening and closing maintained schools, Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, January 2023 and Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 as amended by the Education Act 2011, the LA are following the Statutory Process that consists of 5 stages.

"Stage 1" Consultation	The publication of this consultation document marks a period of consultation during which the views of interested parties are sought. The purpose of the consultation is to seek the views of and engage with those that will be directly affected by the proposed amalgamation. COMPLETE
"Stage 2" Publication	Dependent upon the outcome of the consultation, the local authority will decide whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice regarding the proposal. The proposal will invite further comment and such comments will be made during the next phase, "Representation Phase". 9 SEPTEMBER 2024
"Stage 3" Representation	The Representation Phase starts on the date of publication of the Statutory Notice and must last for a period of four weeks. During this period, any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal, to be taken into account before a final decision is made. 9 SEPTEMBER TO 7 OCTOBER 2024
"Stage 4" Decision	Within two months of the end of the Representation Phase, the Local Authority must make a decision on the proposal. 4 NOVEMBER 2024
"Stage 5" Implementation	If the Council's Cabinet decides to close the school, the date it takes effect will be determined. (In the consultation, it is stated that a date of September 2026 would be recommended.)

What happens next?

2. The Full Proposal is published on Lambeth Council's website with details of how people can participate in the Formal Consultation (if translations are needed, respondents should contact the stated email inbox). Paper copies of the proposal will be available from both schools or from the email below and all comments can be registered on the survey accessed through the website. Notice of the consultation is placed in the South London Weekly. Additionally, a copy of the Full Proposal Statutory Notice and any other information is sent to:

- Secretary of State
- SDBE
- Any other religious authority in the area
- The Local Authority
- Other neighbouring authorities
- Trade Unions
- MPs

3. The representation period concludes on October 7th.

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)


4. You can give your views, within 4 weeks of the proposal being published

- i. Via the online survey, on the Lambeth Council website [here](#). We encourage you to complete the online survey as the most efficient and secure way to give your views.



- ii. by email to: pppconsultation@lambeth.gov.uk
- iii. By hand to the office at Fenstanton primary school in a sealed envelope

Appendix 1 - Financial Information

	<p>To ensure that all schools are compared on the same metrics, calculations have been based on each school's 23-24 outturn and LBL pupil projections. Schools have had the opportunity to review these figures and to submit evidence where they felt the 23-24 outturn was not a true reflection of their running costs. Where confirmed, these updates are reflected here. Future budgets submitted by schools are as shown.</p>	School	Fenstanton Primary School	
		Option	Fenstanton closed	
Background Information	Previous outturns (cumulative)	20-21 final balance	380,024	
		21-22 final balance	269,341	
		22-23 final balance	98,932	
		23-24 final balance	130,589	
	Previous outturns (in-year)	20-21 final balance	168,837	
		21-22 final balance	-110,683	
		22-23 final balance	-170,409	
		23-24 final balance	31,658	
	Detailed outturn 23-24	Teaching staff E01/E02	1,094,195	
		Education support staff E03	764,830	
		Premises staff E04	62,479	
		Admin staff E05	51,689	
		Energy E16	309,330	
		Agency (supply) E26	144,880	
		Total costs	3,274,214	
Total excl E01/2 and E03		1,415,248		
Total excl E01/2, E04 and E05		2,075,911		
LBL pupil number projections	23-24	269		
	24-25	246		
	25-26	211		
	26-27	204		
	% change (23/24 to 26/27)	-24%		
Metrics using 23-24 outturn and 23-24 pupil numbers	Total income per pupil	12,300		
	Total expenditure per pupil	12,172		
	Staffing cost per pupil	8,113		
	Learning resources cost per pupil	209		
	Premises cost per year (average of 3 years, rates removed)	151,515		
Information submitted by schools	Future budgets (cumulative)	24-25 budget	-593,789	
		25-26 budget	-1,403,608	
		26-27 budget	-2,271,897	
	Future budgets (in-year)	24-25 budget	-724,375	
		25-26 budget	-809,822	
		26-27 budget	-868,289	
	Funds delegated by LA (I01) as per budget plans	23-24 outturn	2,436,873	
		24-25 budget	2,189,769	
		25-26 budget	1,781,181	
		26-27 budget	1,758,409	
		% change	-28%	
	Total income as per budget plans	23-24 outturn	3,308,796	
		24-25 budget	3,012,950	
		25-26 budget	2,629,219	
		26-27 budget	2,515,438	
		% change	-24%	
	Teaching staff as per budget plans	23-24 outturn	956,258	
		24-25 budget	1,362,346	
		25-26 budget	1,141,832	
		26-27 budget	1,140,097	
		% change	19%	
	Total costs as per budget plans	23-24 outturn	3,274,214	
		24-25 budget	3,736,054	
		25-26 budget	3,339,041	
26-27 budget		3,383,727		
% change		3%		
LA assumptions Based on cost per pupil in 23-24 multiplied by difference in pupil numbers	Loss of income if based on LBL pupil projection changes	24-25	-282,908	
		25-26	-430,513	
		26-27	-89,103	
	Staff cost potential change based on LBL pupil projection changes	24-25	-189,588	
		25-26	-283,938	
		26-27	-56,788	
	Learning resources cost potential change based on LBL pupil projection changes	24-25	-4,737	
		25-26	-7,209	
		26-27	-1,442	
	LA calculations re potential closure impact (ESTIMATED, based on assumptions)	Cost to LA (all ESTIMATES at this stage)	Extra net security costs (at closed site)	10,000
			Redundancy	600,000
			Deficit write off (surplus available) from closed school - uses school cumulative position for 25/26	1,403,608
Total cost to LA			2,013,608	

Appendix 2 - Number of vacancies in Jan 2024 all years in Lambeth schools within 2 km of Fenstanton primary school.

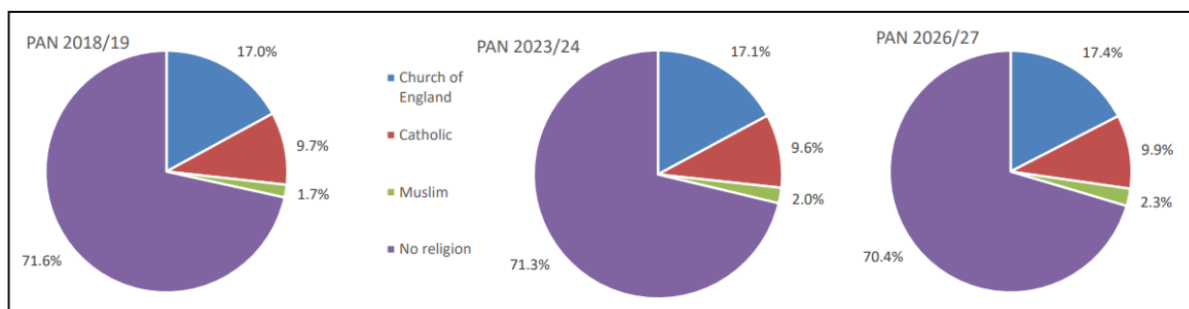
School, distance in km	Vacancies	Fenstanton
Streatham Wells Primary School	1	0.30
Orchard Primary School	3	0.52
Christ Church Streatham	48	0.62
Hitherfield Primary School	58	0.69
Dunraven School	2	1.12
Richard Atkins Primary School	29	1.13
Jubilee Primary School	73	1.13
Rosendale Primary School	103	1.17
Julian's School	126	1.35
St Judes CE Primary School	45	1.47
Sunnyhill Primary School	82	1.53
St Bedes Catholic Infants School	48	1.55
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary	50	1.61
Telferscot Primary School	30	1.63
Iqra School	3	1.82
Sudbourne Primary School	34	1.84
Elm Wood School	54	1.89
St Lukes CE Primary School	46	1.97
18 schools	835	

Appendix 3 – Comparison of Faith Based and No Religion places in Lambeth

Proposed PAN in Lambeth schools, by religious character	PAN 2016/17	PAN 2017/18	PAN 2018/19	PAN 2019/20	PAN 2020/21	PAN 2021/22	PAN 2022/23	PAN 2023/24	PAN 2024/25	PAN 2025/26	PAN 2026/27	PAN 2027/28
Church of England	630	570	600	600	570	570	510	510	510	495	450	450
Catholic	342	342	342	345	350	345	285	285	285	255	255	255
Muslim	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
No religion	2,618	2,620	2,520	2,540	2,405	2,325	2,120	2,120	1,925	1,850	1,820	1,820
Total	3,650	3,592	3,522	3,545	3,385	3,300	2,975	2,975	2,780	2,660	2,585	2,585

Church of England	17.3%	15.9%	17.0%	16.9%	16.8%	17.3%	17.1%	17.1%	18.3%	18.6%	17.4%	17.4%
Catholic	9.4%	9.5%	9.7%	9.7%	10.3%	10.5%	9.6%	9.6%	10.3%	9.6%	9.9%	9.9%
Muslim	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
No religion	71.7%	72.9%	71.6%	71.7%	71.0%	70.5%	71.3%	71.3%	69.2%	69.5%	70.4%	70.4%

Proportion of faith places in Reception classes in Lambeth schools



Column 2025/26 to 2027/28 are presented as current projections.