

Frequently asked Questions

Here are some of the questions you may have immediately. Over the coming weeks you may have more questions and we will respond to these at regular intervals. Please send your questions to the email address below.

Why are you proposing closing Townsend Primary School?

Schools are funded through the number of children on the roll of the school and as our numbers fall the amount of income or budget the school receives reduces. Falling numbers of children at the school mean that the large deficit we are carrying has grown every year. Despite achieving savings over the last three years and even with significant further reductions in staff numbers we would not be able to achieve a balanced budget in 2022/23. The proposal to consult on closing the school has been taken to protect the quality of education for children that attend Townsend.

What other options were considered before the decision was made to consult on closure?

A number of options were considered with their relative risks and benefits. These included a further restructure to reduce staff numbers, potential merger with other local schools and a delayed closure until September 2023.

What is the timeline in the consultation for the proposed closure?

The proposal in the consultation is to close the school by 1s September 2022.

Why is this happening so quickly?

Applications for reception places for September 2022 indicate that there will be a further significant fall in roll numbers which will impact on the school's income for the next academic year.

Why were parents not consulted before the decision was made to propose a closure?

No decision has been made to close the school. At present governors have made a decision to consult widely on a proposal for school closure. We are entering the consultation period now. There will be meetings and opportunities for parents to ask questions and hear from school leaders, governors and Local Authority. This will be followed by a six weeks formal consultation period.

What support will be put in place for children during the consultation process?

We will work together with the Local Authority, governors and staff on how to support the questions or anxieties that children may have. Children will have the support they need to help manage their questions and receive emotional support. We will increase our support through engaging trained professionals to work with children, staff and community as and when needed.

What do I say to my child over the next few days/weeks?

If your child asks, you may wish to say that the school has sent a letter explaining that they would like to talk to parents and children before the end of term about changes that the school needs to make. This might mean closing the school at the end of the year – August 2022. If the children have questions they should write them down ready to ask when they come back to school.

What do I do if I need support or help?

There will be meetings for parents at the end of November. If you need support or have questions between now and the end of December then please ric.euteneuer@southwark.gov.uk or if you would like to speak to someone please email your number to the email address above and you will get a call back. You may need to leave a message but an LA officer will call you back.