



CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE NURSERY CLASS AT ST MARY MAGDALENE CE ALL- THROUGH SCHOOL (PENINSULA CAMPUS) AND RAISING OF THE LOWER AGE RANGE FROM THREE TO FOUR YEARS

St. Mary Magdalene CE All- Through School
Primary Phase
1 Hendon
Street
Greenwich
London SE10
oNF

What are we consulting you on?

St Mary Magdalene School, Peninsula Campus (Primary Phase) Nursery Class currently offers part-time free early education to three and four year olds (through the early years free entitlement) term time only.

The class has 26 part-time morning places.

This consultation is about a proposal to close the school's nursery class at the Peninsula Campus with effect from September 2023 and as a result to raise the school's lower age range from three to four years.

We are not consulting about our nursery class at the Woolwich Campus. This will remain open and continue to offer 26 part time morning places in September 2023.

Why are we doing this?

The governing body of the Koinonia Federation which is responsible for St Mary Magdalene School has a duty to consider the viability of the school's nursery class on each campus in the context of the demand for places and funding. The number of children on roll in the nursery class at the Peninsula Campus has historically been low and has continued to fall over the last couple of years. This has caused significant pressure on the school's overall budget.

For the spring term 2023 of the 26 nursery places available at the Peninsula Campus there were 6 children on roll.

As with all maintained schools, St Mary Magdalene School, Peninsula Campus, receives a budget for its nursery class based upon the number of children who attended in the previous financial year. This is adjusted each term according to the number of children who actually take up places. If numbers are lower than expected funding is clawed back from the school's budget. Early years funding cannot pay for empty places.

To meet statutory ratios school nursery classes must employ one teacher and one support staff to every 26 children. On average the cost of a nursery class is estimated to be around £50,000 to £60,000 per annum, depending on levels of staff pay. With our current numbers the maximum we will receive is £20,000 for the year and are therefore having to use the wider school budget to subsidise the nursery class.

For this reason the school's Executive Co-Headteachers and Governing Body wish to consult on the future of the provision and its possible closure.

The proposed closure will not necessarily be permanent and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body which is mindful of a number of future housing developments in the local area. If more affordable family homes are built in the local vicinity in future years, then it is understood there will be a need to reopen the Nursery class.

Alternative local provision

In terms of alternative early years provision for children and parents, in East Greenwich there is one other maintained school with nursery classes (Millennium Primary School) as well as Robert Owen Nursery School and Children Centre.

In addition there is a wide range of high quality childcare available with private, voluntary and independent childcare providers in the local area

What impact will the proposed changes have?

The proposed change will close the nursery class at St Mary Magdalene, Peninsula Campus and raise the lower age range at this campus from three to four years. This means that parents who wanted their child to attend the school's nursery from September 2023 will have to choose an alternative early years provider.

What does this mean if my child is already in the nursery class?

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 your child will be starting Reception in September 2023. This may be at St Mary Magdalene Peninsula Primary Campus or at another school. For this reason the proposal will not affect your child directly. As the Nursery currently has no child born before 31 August 2020 there are no children who will need to move to an alternative provider.

What will be the impact on staff?

As our primary provision at St Mary Magdalene Peninsula campus is still expanding this means staff who currently work in the Nursery will be allocated roles in the other year groups for the new academic year.

What is the process of consultation and change?

The timeline for these proposals is outlined below:

Date	Action
27 th March to 17 th April 2023	Consultation period
17 th April to 17 th May 2023	Analysis of responses received during the consultation
25 th May 2023	Decision by Governing Body
9 th June 2023	Publication of formal decision
21 st July 2023	Last day of nursery class, if closure agreed

Having your say

We welcome feedback from everyone and this can be given in any of the following ways:

- replying online to our questionnaire on the consultation - <https://www.koinoniafederation.com/page/?title=Admissions&pid=176>
- sending your completed questionnaire to Ellis Holliday - eholliday@koinoniafederation.com
- emailing your comments to eholliday@koinoniafederation.com

We will need your feedback by **midnight on 17th April 2023** for us to be able to take it into account.

Consultation Questionnaire on the Proposed Closure of St Mary Magdalene School, Peninsula Campus of Lower Age Range from Three to Four Years

Please tell us in what capacity you are responding by ticking just one box

	Please tick ✓
Parent of child at St Mary Magdalene School, Peninsula Campus nursery class	
Parent of child/children not at St Mary Magdalene School, Peninsula Campus nursery class	
Staff at St Mary Magdalene School, Peninsula Campus	
Governor at St Mary Magdalene School, Peninsula Campus	
Manager/owner/staff person from other local childcare provision	
Headteacher/staff person/governor at local maintained primary school	
Headteacher/staff person/governor at local independent school	
Other (please state)	

If you are responding as representative of a group please name the group clearly (e.g. governing body of xxx school) and include below your contact details and the number of people in the group you are representing.

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Do you agree in principle to the closure of the nursery class at St Mary Magdalene School, Peninsula Campus

	Please tick ✓
Strongly agree	
Tend to agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Tend to disagree	
Strongly disagree	
Don't know	

Before you heard about this proposal, were you planning to send a child to the nursery class in future?

If applicable, please indicate how many children you were planning to send to the nursery class in future:

If you have any comments relating to the proposal please send your comments to eholliday@koinoniafederation.com

