Camden Council
5 Pancras Square
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www.camden.gov.uk

12 October 2026

Dear staff, parents, carers and governors at La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School,

My name is Tim Aldridge and I am the Executive Director for Children and Learning at Camden Council. I am writing with an update about La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School.

As you may know, all schools in Camden and many across London are under increasing financial pressure. Falling birth rates and families moving out of London means that there are fewer children to take up school places. This is leading to falling pupil numbers and surplus school places. This is a challenge because every empty school place means that primary schools lose an average of £7,500 of vital Government funding per year, and secondary schools lose an average of £9,700 per year.

As a council, we have a duty to ensure that there are sufficient, high-quality and sustainable school places and to manage these school places efficiently. With falling pupil numbers, we need to manage this working closely with schools.

Over the past year as part of our School Sufficiency Programme, we have been working closely with schools that have been particularly affected by these issues to support them to respond to these challenges.

Proposed consultation

Despite everyone's commitment, La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School is one of four schools that continues to face the most acute and sustained pressures – including high vacancies and increasing financial pressure. We have been working closely with senior leaders at La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School to discuss next steps.

Next steps:

- At 5pm today (12 October 2026), we will publish a report on this web page that recommends consulting on the future of La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School

- On 20 October 2026, Camden's Cabinet Members – the group of lead councillors – will meet to consider this report and decide whether or not to go ahead with the consultation.
- We will email you on 21 October to update you on their decision and next steps.

If the consultation goes ahead, we expect the timeline to be as follows and it is subject to change:

- **2 November 2026 to 14 December 2026:** consultations would run during this 6-week period and schools and families will be consulted on the following options:
    - Reduction in Published Admission Number (PAN)
    - Federation with another secondary school
    - Closure of the school Years 7–11 provision only AND retention and reconfiguration of post-16 provision (Years 12 – 13/14)
    - Full closure of the school Years 7 – 13/14.
- We are currently developing a plan to make sure that if consultations go ahead, every parent and carer can have their say.
- **February 2027:** Cabinet members would then review the outcome of the consultation, along with other factors, and consider which option to take forward for each school.
- **February 2027:** If Cabinet decide on a proposal to close a school, a 4-week prescribed statutory consultation period would follow where the school, parents and carers, and wider stakeholders can again comment on the proposal.
- **April 2027:** The final decision would be made.
- **April to May 2027:** If the decision has implications for school staff, a formal consultation process would begin.
- **Implementation date:** This will depend on what change is agreed, if any – but changes could be implemented from next academic year (September 2027).

We recognise that this is a difficult message to hear, however it is important that we act now to address these challenges and prevent them from worsening. The aim is to safeguard the quality and sustainability of Camden's education offer for all children now and in the future. If consultations go ahead, the approach we take will be underpinned by our education strategy, Building Back Stronger, and the following principles will guide everything we do during this process:

- **Children's needs will be at the heart of everything we do**: every Camden child will have a place in a Camden school that is suitable for their needs.
- **Collaborative:** We will manage this process and make decisions in collaboration with schools, parents and carers, and children (where age appropriate).
- **Transparent:** We will keep parents, carers and schools updated every step of the way.
- **Evidence-based:** Every decision will be based on evidence, which we will proactively communicate to you.

- **Supportive:** We will ensure there is support in place for staff, parents, carers and children at affected schools – and especially for vulnerable cohorts.
- **Inclusive and accessible:** We have carefully considered how proposals could impact different communities via an Equalities Impact Assessment for each school. If consultations go ahead, we will ensure all affected families have a fair opportunity to have their say.

More information

Visit **camden.gov.uk/SchoolProposals** for:

- More information
- Answers to questions
- Information in British Sign Language
- Information in EasyRead
- Information in different languages

We will update you on the Cabinet decision and next steps on 21 October. If you have any questions, please email lasainteunionconsultation@camden.gov.uk.

Many thanks,

Tim Aldridge
Executive Director, Children and Learning
Camden Council