



4 February 2020

Dear Parents and staff

As you are aware the Local Authority has decided to move to statutory notices to amalgamate Redlands and Smithy Street Primary Schools.

We wanted to make sure that you have seen the notices before they are published publicly.

Laminated copies of the notices will be posted outside the schools on Wednesday, when they will also be put on school websites. In addition they will be published on Council websites and in a local newspaper later this week.

The statutory notice period lasts for 4 weeks, and the papers give information on how to make representations.

Thank you for your cooperation through this process.

Yours sincerely

Anna Gouge

Redlands Chairs of Governors

Ros Coffey

Smithy Street Chair of Governor

## **Statutory Proposal to amalgamate Smithy Street and Redlands Primary Schools**

**Publication date 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

### **Proposal to combine Redlands Primary School and Smithy Street Primary School from 1 September 2020.**

**On 29 January 2020 Tower Hamlets Cabinet approved the recommendation to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposal to amalgamate (combine) Redlands Primary School with Smithy Street School.**

The proposal will have the effect of combining Redlands Primary School and Smithy Street Primary School in order to provide a combined Primary School. Upon final approval in Cabinet in March 2020, Governors intend reviewing the name of Redlands School to become Stepney Park Primary School from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. No pupils will be displaced and all the pupils attending the schools at the time of implementation would continue to be educated in the current school buildings. The current Smithy Street School entrance will provide the main entrance to the new school, and would be the point of measurement for distances for new applicants for the 2020/21 academic year. Children with siblings at Redlands or Smithy Street Schools would be given priority for admissions to the amalgamated school.

#### **Part 1 Smithy Street School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Tower Hamlets Council, Tower Hamlets Town Hall, Mulberry Place intends to discontinue Smithy Street School on 31 August 2020. The financial balance at Smithy Street School will transfer to Redlands School on the last business day for Smithy Street School (28<sup>th</sup> August 2020). The balances will form part of the budget for the amalgamated school.

#### **Part 2 Redlands Primary School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Tower Hamlets Council intends to make the following prescribed change to Redlands Primary School to extend the provision at Redlands Primary School to accommodate Smithy Street pupils with an annual intake of 90 pupils.

## **1. Contact details**

### **Name and address of Local Authority publishing the proposal:**

Tower Hamlets Council, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG

### **Name, address and category of schools proposed to be amalgamated: (inc DFE number)**

Redlands Primary School, Redmans Rd, Stepney, London E1 3AQ

Smithy Street Primary School, Smithy St, Stepney Green, London E1 3BW

## **2. Implementation**

### **Date on which it is proposed to amalgamate Redland and Smithy Street Schools:**

1 September 2020

### **It is proposed to implement the amalgamation as follows:**

Redlands Primary School will expand to 3 Forms of Entry from 1 Sep 2020

Smithy Street Primary School will close from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

All children attending Redlands and Smithy Street Schools will be offered a place at Redlands School from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

## **3. Reason for amalgamation.**

The proposal arises due to a fall in pupil numbers and the associated impact on the educational and financial viability of Redlands and Smithy Street Schools. The amalgamation is proposed to ensure the stability of a single 3 form entry (90 places) school, rather than 2 schools competing for children and becoming financially unstable.

A six school week period of public consultation, including meetings with staff, governors, and parents, along with other interested parties has been undertaken from 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The consultation documents and responses can be viewed on the school websites:

<http://www.redlands.towerhamlets.sch.uk/amalgamation.html>

<http://www.smithystreet.org.uk/amalgamation.html>

## **4. Pupil numbers and admissions**

### **The numbers for whom provision is currently made at the school:**

Redlands School is a co-educational mainstream community school for pupils aged 3 to 11. The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 for each year group, giving a 5-11 capacity of 420 children. As at October 2019 the school had 384 pupils on roll, of who 47 were reception age.

Smithy Street School is a co-educational mainstream community school for pupils aged 3 to 11. The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 for each year group, giving a 5-11 capacity of 420 children. As at October 2019 the school had 380 pupils on roll, 53 of whom were reception age.

## **5. Displaced pupils**

Provision has been made to accommodate all pupils from both schools at Redlands School, no children will be displaced.

## **6. Impact on the community**

The local community will not be significantly affected. In order to mark the changes and to bring the school communities together, if the proposal goes ahead, Redland School governors will consider changing the school name to Stepney Park Primary School from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

## **7. Rural Primary Schools**

Not applicable

## **8. Balance of denominational provision**

The amalgamation of these two schools will not affect the balance of denominational provision in the Borough

## **9. Maintained nursery schools**

The amalgamated school will offer nursery provision for all current nursery pupils at Redlands and Smithy Street Schools.

## **10. Sixth form provision**

Not applicable

## **11. Special Educational Needs provision**

Redland and Smithy Schools are inclusive schools they not provide educational provision recognised by the local authority as being reserved for children with special educational needs.

Redlands School has 10 students with Education Health Care Plans or Statements, and Smithy Street School has 18. Their needs will continue to be met in the amalgamated school.

## **12. Travel**

Redlands and Smithy Street Schools back on to each other. Although the Smithy Street entrance will be used for calculating admissions (the majority of children currently live South of the schools), an entrance to the school from the Redmans Road will be maintained so that children's travel distances will not be affected.

## **13. Finances**

The Smithy Street School financial balances will be transferred on the Smithy Street School's last business day (28<sup>th</sup> August 2020) to the newly amalgamated school as part of the school's budget from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

## **14. Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)**

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by:

**Email:** [school.organisation@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

**Post:** School Organisation and Place Planning Manager  
Pupil Services and School Sufficiency  
Tower Hamlets Children's Services  
Town Hall  
Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
E14 5BG

### **Closing date for responses is 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

We will not be able to consider any responses received after this date. All responses received during the representation period will be published on the Council's website in mid-March 2020. The website address is: <https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Home.aspx>