

Saint John Bosco School

Catholic Secondary School

St John Bosco School
The Director of Children's Services
Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PU

Email: bsf@wandsworth.gov.uk

Web: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/bsf/consultations

13th May 2010

Dear Parent or Colleague

Consultation on amended proposals for the location of pupils when the new Saint John Bosco School opens in September 2011

When the consultation on the new St John Bosco School was published two years ago, it was proposed that in advance of the new buildings being available, the 2011 intake of Year 7 pupils should all be located on the Salesian site in Surrey Lane, Battersea when the school opens in September 2011. The children in Years 8-11 of the new school, who will have transferred from the two former schools (John Paul II School and Salesian College), would continue to be taught at their existing sites.

It was further anticipated that the first phase of the new buildings on the Surrey Lane site would open in 2013, at which point all pupils would move to that location, though building work would continue on the site for a further 12 months.

The rationale behind these proposals was that, because of the number of pupils, it would be necessary to operate as a split site school. This would provide sufficient accommodation for all the pupils while at the same time ensuring that the number of pupils on the Surrey Lane site would be low enough to allow the pupils to be safely managed while the building works were progressed in phases.

Now that we are further on in the timetable for creating the new school, the actual number of pupils in the two existing schools has reduced to a lower level than was used in the original projections. It is now possible for the whole school to be accommodated on a single site in 2011. We have also been able to undertake some more detailed work with the prospective builders, so that a potentially better option is now available for us to consider. As a result, we would now like to consult you on an amended proposal, which is that all the pupils (Years 7-11) would be accommodated on the John Paul II site in Princes Way, Putney for two years from September 2011 to July 2013.



There are a number of strong arguments for this:

- leaving the Surrey Lane site free would allow the builders to clear and rebuild the site without any need for a phased building programme in order to accommodate pupils safely on site. As a result, it is expected that the new school would be ready up to a year earlier than originally planned so that all the accommodation would be available in 2013.
- the original proposals required 10 temporary classrooms to be located on the Surrey Lane site for two years, at a cost of just over £1m. These costs would not be incurred if all the pupils are located on the John Paul II site and the money saved could be invested instead in the new St John Bosco buildings. There would, in addition, be further savings due to the shorter building programme, estimated at £600,000, which could also be reinvested in improved facilities through the BSF programme.
- having all the pupils and staff on one site from the beginning would allow the new Headteacher, Mr Neal McGowan, to begin building a single, cohesive school with its own distinct ethos from the moment it opens, rather than having children and staff spread across two locations.
- placing all the pupils on one site would have significant advantages in terms of the curriculum and timetabling. For example, all specialist teaching in science laboratories and sports facilities could take place on the one site, removing any need for teachers to move between sites.
- finally, but perhaps most importantly, none of the children would be taught in a school that is adjacent to a major building site. Being taught at the John Paul II site would mean that there would be no disruption due to noise, temporary removals and so forth. Furthermore, the children will then experience the new teaching facilities and sports facilities at St John Bosco earlier than would otherwise have been the case, due to the shortening of the building programme.

The Governing Body recognises that these proposals have some implications for families, particularly those whose children will be in Years 7-10 from this September at Salesian College. From September 2011, these children would be taught temporarily at the former John Paul II site for up to two years, rather than at the Salesian College site. Coaches would therefore be provided daily from Surrey Lane (and possibly Clapham Junction) to John Paul II and back, at no cost to all the families who wish to take advantage of this transport.

We have consulted with the headteachers of the Catholic primary schools in Wandsworth and they are of the view that this proposal overall is a much better option for the children and the quality of teaching and learning, not only in the short term over the next couple of years but also in the longer term because the new building will be fully open much sooner. The money saved on temporary buildings will be re-invested, so that the new school will have even better facilities.

We are keen to hear your views about whether you agree that this is the right way forward. We have arranged three consultation meetings as listed below:

26th May 2010 **4.30** **at Sacred Heart Primary School, Battersea**
 6.00 **at Salesian College**
 7.30 **at John Paul II School**

The new headteacher designate of Saint John Bosco School, Mr Neal McGowan, aims to attend these and he hopes that you will be able to attend one.

We would also be very grateful for your written views on this proposal. The attached consultation document can be returned by post to the following address;

Bruce Glockling
BSF Project Director
Wandsworth Council
Room 90, Town Hall
London
SW18 2PU

Email: bsf@wandsworth.gov.uk or you may wish to reply via the website at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/bsf/consultations

Consultation on amended proposals for the location of pupils when the new Saint John Bosco School opens in September 2011

Do you agree with the proposal that all the children at Saint John Bosco School (Years 7-11) should be accommodated on the former John Paul II site in Princes Way for two years from September 2011 to July 2013? (Please indicate)

Yes No

If you want to, please put your name and contact details in the box below.

Please return this form by 10th June 2010:
Bruce Glockling, BSF Project Director
Children's Services Department, Wandsworth Council
Room 90, The Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
London, SW18 2PU
or email comments to bsf@wandsworth.gov.uk

This form may be downloaded from the website:
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/bsf/consultations

COMMENTS SHEET

Please send your comments on the proposal that all the children at Saint John Bosco School (Years 7-11) should be accommodated on the former John Paul II site for two years from September 2011 to July 2013 on this form, by letter, email or via the website.

Parent/Other (please state).....

Name.....

Postal address

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Date.....