



## Southwark Primary Places planning – final report

### Purpose of the work

Isos Partnership was commissioned to support the London Borough of Southwark over the autumn and spring terms, to provide independent comment on and further develop their strategy for addressing the over-supply of primary places and the associated financial risks for primary schools.

Prior to the start of this project, Southwark had already made significant progress in developing a strategy to address the trend of declining pupil numbers and the subsequent over-supply of places in the primary phase. Working with school leaders and councillors, the local authority had established a set of principles to guide their work, had initiated the analysis to identify how many pupil places and/or forms of entry may need to be taken out of the system and in which areas and had begun to engage schools, including governors, in these difficult decisions.

The purpose of this project has therefore been to scrutinise and test the analysis carried out by Southwark across Primary schools which are potentially at risk from falling rolls and make a series of recommendations for possible future school reorganisations based on an objective analysis of the data. These recommendations were discussed and refined with the team of project officers within Southwark before developing a summary set of provisional proposals that could be more widely shared with the school leaders, elected members and affected schools. This report contains our recommendations.

### Methodology

The work with Southwark has had three distinct stages. Dr Helen Jenner and Natalie Parish (Isos Partnership Director) have worked together and individually to support different stages of the project.

Stage One - Autumn Term 2022 - Confirming direction of travel.

A desk top analysis of published information was undertaken to ensure the perspectives arrived at by LA officers reviewing the LA data, were mirrored using publicly available information. To collate the data, we accessed the January 2022 School Census, all DFE comparator websites, and Borough admissions brochures.<sup>1</sup> This was therefore a limited picture but gave insight into the issues that would need further exploration for a more

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<sup>1</sup> <https://schools-financial-benchmarking.service.gov.uk/Help/DataSources>  
<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics>

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detailed and up-to-date analysis and recommendations. The DFE comparator websites provide information on pupil population; equalities, for example SEN percentages, free school meals, which enabled us to keep inclusion and diversity in mind in our initial analysis; finance and expenditure; and the quality of education. The information was helpful in giving insight into the scale of the challenge, and to confirm that LA officers' analysis and Isos Partnership analysis had reached similar conclusions.

The analysis enabled us to confirm the Southwark estimations of the scale of change required, and to start to work with officers to develop our support for a more detailed second phase of work, which could consider more detailed information about the geographic and demographic area. This very early analysis was shared with officers. (Appendix A)

### Stage Two - Early Spring Term 2023 - Collating Agreed Data to begin considering possibilities

Southwark identified 49 schools where there was evidence for a trend of declining pupil number entering at reception and/or across the school, and were therefore deemed in scope for the purposes of this projects. Schools were deemed in scope if they had experienced:

- i) A drop between 2019 and 2022 of all school rolls by 5% or more and/or
- ii) More than 20% vacancies across the whole school

Schools in Southwark that were deemed in scope were provided with their core data by the LA in January 2023, they were invited to comment on the data to ensure accuracy and flag any other issues.

During this period the Local Authority provided Isos with the school level data, and full information on dates or previous and planned organisational change within the primary sector. Isos took this data and reviewed alongside DFE data looking in more detail at small geographical areas, as well as looking at groups of schools (Federations, MATs and faith groupings). Isos identified schools where changes could be made based on local clusters, linked to the 5 Planning Areas.

### Stage Three. Later Spring Term 2023 Agreed Analysis

Five workshops were held with LA officers to discuss these initial ideas for meeting the declining school population needs. These workshops enabled Isos to check their rationale for decision making, and refine their understanding of the likely impact of changes, both on provision and the sustainability of quality future provision.

The workshops helped us to refine suggestions for change, which have been considered based on smaller geographical clusters as well as the Planning Areas already established.

A meeting with the Lead Member was helpful in understanding the information Councillors would like before they are asked to reach decisions, and the principles they would like to be observed as part of the Southwark School Organisational Change Strategy.

### Current context

There are currently 26,399 places from reception year up to year 6 in Southwark's primary schools. **These are filled by 20,694 children, leaving 5,705 places empty in primary schools across the borough.** This is a borough-wide vacancy rate of 22%.<sup>2</sup>

Vacant places are not distributed equally between schools. Some primary schools in Southwark are full. At the other end of the spectrum, some schools have more than half of their places empty. There are many factors which are leading to a fall in primary aged children in Southwark – a phenomenon which is observable right across London. These are chiefly falling birth rate, reduced immigration, housing pressures, higher numbers of families moving out of London post Covid and benefit changes leading to relocation of families as set out in the Southwark Strategy in December 2022.

The current situation has been alleviated by actions that Southwark has taken historically. Between 2019 and 2023, a total of 495 places have already been removed from the school system through a mixture of reducing forms of entry and closing schools.

### Recommendations for the scale of further reductions needed

The information that Southwark shared with us indicated that, in addition to the 495 places that have already been removed from the system, there is more action underway right now to reduce the number of primary school places in Southwark further.

#### Changes already underway:

The first way in which primary surplus capacity is being reduced is through agreed reductions in Published Admission Numbers (PANs). Between 2019 and 2023, 17 schools agreed to reduce their PANs and two schools will lose bulge classes, as listed in Appendix B. These changes will take several years to work through the system. For example, a school that reduced its primary admission number from 60 to 30 in 2019 would continue to experience a reduction in the overall places up until 2026 (when the cohort of children in reception in 2019 enters Year 6). **Once all these agreed PAN reductions have worked their way through the system, this will lead to a further reduction of 2,100 places.**

#### Further reductions:

The second way in which primary surplus capacity is being reduced is through proposed closures and amalgamations of schools. At present, consultation is underway to close Townsend school, close St Francesca Cabrini RC school and amalgamate Coburg and Camelot schools. Discussions are also underway around a potential amalgamation of St Jude's and Charlotte Sharman. **As and when these changes have been completed a further 1,170 primary places will have been removed.**

However, at the same time there are a small number of schools (mainly free schools or academies) which have opened or expanded in recent years and are filling to reach their

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<sup>2</sup> Pupil numbers based on October 2022 Census returns.

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planned capacity. This will lead to a small increase of 228 places. A list of schools where changes are already planned is included in Appendix B.

Despite the action that has already been taken, the analysis that we have undertaken suggests that there is further to go. Once all the changes described above have been achieved, **we estimate that there will still be 2,663 vacant places in Southwark's primary schools.**

It is not desirable to get to a position of zero vacancies. There needs to be some flexibility in the system for parental choice and movement of pupils in year, particularly in an inner city environment where pupil mobility tends to be higher. The accrued experience of local areas over time suggest that Southwark should be aiming for a vacancy level of about 10% - or between 2000 and 2100 places on current pupil numbers. That means that to ensure a primary school system that is sustainable, based on the current number of pupils, Southwark still needs to remove around 600 places.

A primary school is structured around class sizes of 30, therefore a single form entry primary school has 210 pupils, a two-form entry primary school has 420 pupils and so on. When removing places from the primary system, it is therefore expedient to do so in multiples of 210. **To stabilise the system, based on current numbers of pupils, we therefore recommend looking to remove a further 630 places** – this could be achieved by 3 schools each reducing their Primary Admission Number by one form of entry (this would take several years to have full impact), or by closing or amalgamating schools, or some combination of these actions.

The reduction by 630 places that we are recommending, in addition to the changes Southwark already have in train, **is a minimum.** It is what should come out of the primary education system based on **current pupil numbers.**

Unfortunately, projections by the Greater London Authority, based on birth rates and projected pupil yield from housing developments, suggest that over the next five years, the number of primary aged pupils in Southwark will continue to fall. According to GLA projections, in 2026/27 there will be 1,143 fewer primary aged children in Southwark than there are today.

If these projections are accurate, that would suggest **that Southwark may need to lose a further 1,143 places, on top of the 630 that we already know we need to take out.** This would equate to five further units of 210.

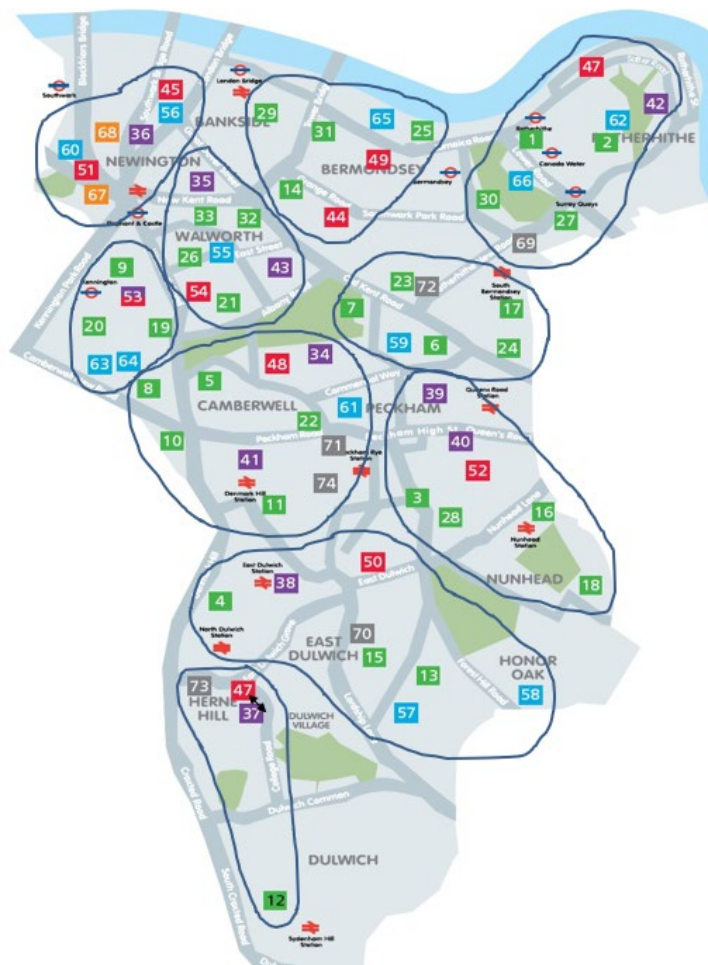
However, we do not know how accurate the population projections will be. We therefore recommend that Southwark continues to keep a watching brief on actual numbers and sets **a target to take out a minimum of 630 and a maximum of 1,773 places over the next five years.** This equates to between 3 and 8 forms of entry. To manage the uncertainty of fluctuating pupil numbers we recommend that Southwark approaches this reduction in phases and prioritises options that build flexibility into the system.

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### Analysis of where reductions should take place

The distribution of primary school vacancies across Southwark is not even. There are some areas of the borough with significantly higher levels of vacancy than others. At the same time, further reductions in pupil numbers is more likely to affect some areas of the borough than others. It is therefore important that the 3 to 8 forms of entry are removed from the right areas. If not, there will remain over capacity in some bits of the borough and in others there will not be enough places to meet parental demand.

In order to assist in determining where reductions should take place, we split Southwark schools in 10 clusters for the purposes of analysing pupil numbers. We attempted to base these on natural 'geographies' that correspond to the different neighbourhoods in Southwark. The map below shows the clusters that we used for our analysis.



In each cluster we considered data on:

- the number of pupil vacancies in primary schools now
- the number of pupil vacancies there will be when all the planned changes have come into effect
- the projected decrease in primary pupil numbers up until 2025/26 according to GLA estimates
- the number of first choice preferences for schools in that area for September 2023

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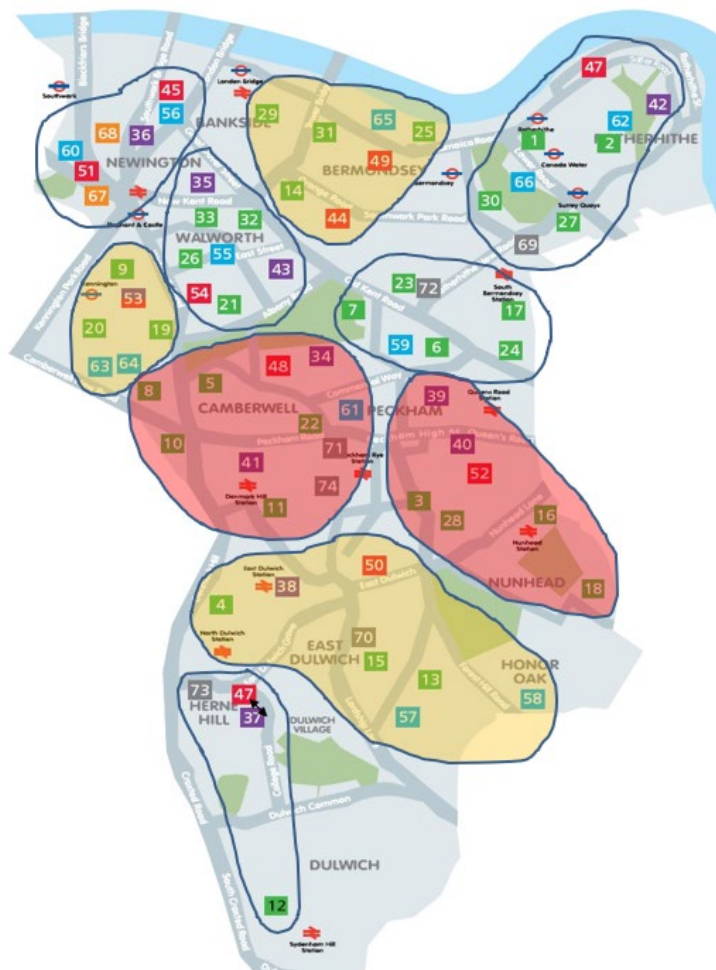
We used this information to identify how the maximum of eight forms of entry reduction might be distributed across the cluster areas. This is shown in the table and map below:

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Cluster	Pupils now	Places now	Vacancies now	%	First place prefs Sept 2023	Reception places in excess of first choices	Places after planned changes	Vacancies after planned changes	%	2026/27 projected pupils	Projected vacancies 2026/27	%	Reduction needed to meet 10% target	Possible whole forms of entry reduction
Newington (PA1)	1399	1860	461	25%	182	58	1470	71	5%	1237	233	16%	110	0
Bermondsey (PA2)	1782	2100	318	15%	213	87	2100	318	15%	1690	410	20%	241	1
Rotherhithe (PA2)	2826	3270	444	14%	442	8	3150	324	10%	2680	470	15%	202	0
Walworth (PA1)	2040	2610	570	22%	204	156	2100	60	3%	1803	297	14%	117	0
Kennington (PA1 & PA4)	1452	1845	393	21%	180	75	1755	303	17%	1267	488	28%	362	1
Old Kent Road (PA1, PA2 & PA3)	1969	2865	896	31%	247	143	2100	131	6%	1799	301	14%	121	0
Camberwell (PA3 & PA4)	3240	4170	930	22%	384	156	3570	330	9%	2792	778	22%	499	2
Peckham (PA3)	1771	2535	764	30%	194	136	2310	539	23%	1526	784	34%	631	3
North and East Dulwich (PA3, PA4 & PA5)	2853	3720	867	23%	408	102	3360	507	15%	2790	570	17%	291	1
Herne Hill and Dulwich village (PA5)	1362	1424	62	4%	292	-86	1442	80	6%	1408	34	2%	-107	0

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The map shows colour coded yellow those clusters where a 1 form of entry reduction may be needed, and red those areas where two or more forms of entry reduction may be needed by 2026/27.



What this analysis shows is that many of the planned reductions in place numbers that are already underway are likely to have most impact in the North of the borough – particularly Newington, Walworth and the Old Kent Road areas. It is therefore the middle of the borough – Kennington, Camberwell, Peckham and Nunhead where this analysis suggests there will be the greatest oversupply of places in future.

**Our recommendations, therefore, are that over the next five years Southwark should look to reduce primary numbers by around 1 form of entry in the Bermondsey, Kennington and North Dulwich areas, around 2 forms of entry in the Camberwell area and up to 3 forms of entry in the Peckham and Nunhead area.**

However, these recommendations can only be a guide. One of the things that we cannot know, at the moment, is how parental choice will respond to some of the changes already underway. To take a concrete example, our analysis at present assumes that the impact of closing Townsend school will chiefly be felt by schools in the Walworth cluster, meaning that current vacancies there are used by families that would otherwise have gone to Townsend. However, it may be that families choose instead to travel North to schools in the



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Bermondsey or Newington clusters, or West to schools in the Kennington cluster. It is impossible to know the actual impact until changes have taken place. It is therefore recommended that Southwark repeats this analysis at frequent intervals to test the geographical impact of changes to pupil numbers and adjust plans accordingly if necessary.

### Assessment of which schools may be affected by reductions

In assessing which schools may be affected by reductions we have limited our analysis to those schools which have been deemed in scope by Southwark. We have also been guided by the principles that are important to Southwark. These are:

- Assuring future sustainability for schools
- Ensuring minimum possible disruption
- Protecting the education estate
- Recognising that change is essential
- Avoiding, or minimising, the impact of closure
- Supporting diversity and equality

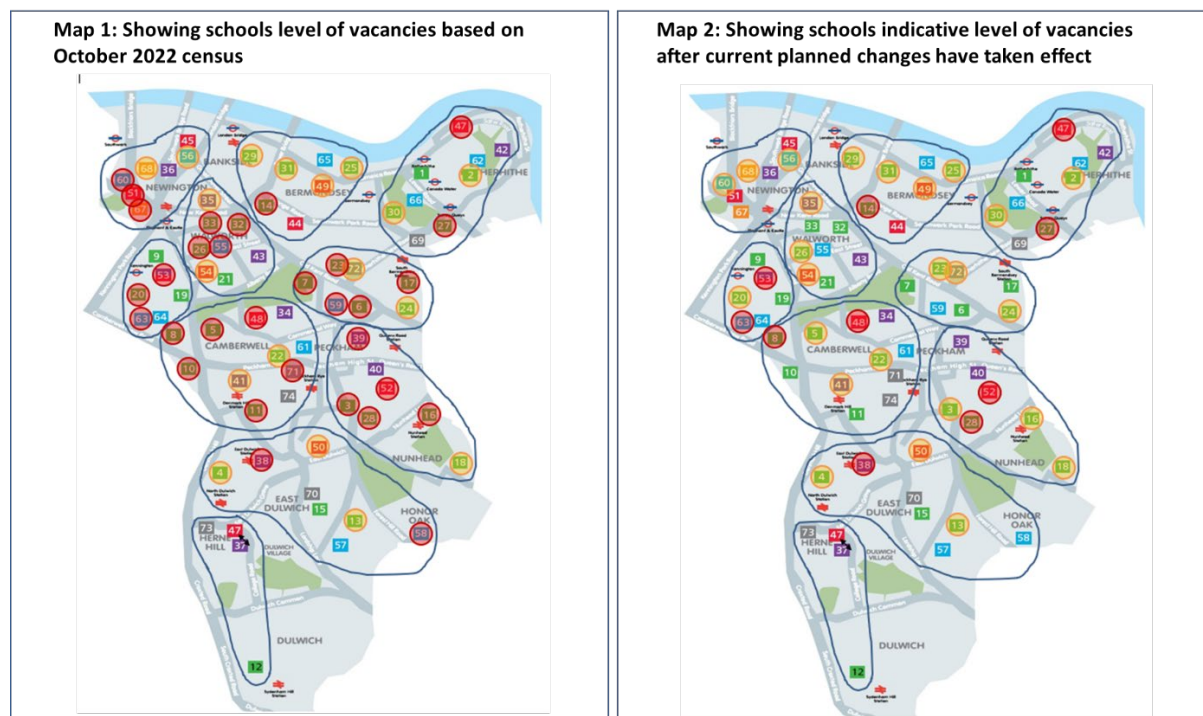
Beyond these principles, we have been guided by our geographical analysis outlined above and taken into account four key pieces of data:

- 1) A calculation of the expected vacancy rate in a school, after any already agreed changes have been implemented.
- 2) Evidence of financial risk – either large in-year deficit or a cumulative deficit.
- 3) Quality of education
- 4) First place preferences for September 2023

Experience shows that it is difficult to maintain the quality of education in a school carrying much more than a 10% vacancy rate – once there are fewer than 27 children per class it is difficult for schools to afford the full range of services. Where population figures are showing trends falling below this level they were considered to be at risk in our analysis, those schools with high deficits and those where quality of education is less than good were also highlighted as being at risk.

The first map below colour codes schools based on the current level of vacancy, according to the October 2022 census. Those schools with more than 10% vacancies are circled in orange. Those with more than 25% vacancies are circled in red. The second map shows an approximation of how those levels of vacancy might change, after the planned changes that are in the pipeline have all fed through the system. For the sake of simplicity, we have used some very basic rules to underpin this analysis. We have assumed that where a school is reducing PAN that will just have an impact on the school itself; where a school is amalgamating that pupils will transfer to the amalgamated school and where a school is closing pupils will go to the nearest school of the same type (community, CofE, RC etc). The real-world will, of course, be infinitely more complex than this but we have used this as a simple basis upon which to illustrate how the planned changes could impact on vacancy levels.

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Following our risk analysis of schools, we considered a possible approach to phasing the work, identifying schools where Southwark leaders could begin to take action in the shorter term and also looking ahead to where further capacity may need to be removed in the medium to long term:

**Phase 1** – includes those schools in which possible reductions in pupil numbers should be considered and discussed in order to meet the minimum reduction of 3 forms of entry required based on current pupil numbers. These are schools in the cluster areas where most reduction is thought necessary.

**Phase 2** – includes those schools where further exploration is required but may be candidates for reducing by a further 5 forms of entry if the number of primary aged children continues to decline.

**Phase 3** – includes those schools unlikely to be involved in pupil reductions in the near future but which are in areas where populations could continue to fall so will need regular review.

In general, our consideration of the phases is based on weighing up a series of inter-related factors. These are:

- Our assessment of whether an individual school is currently at risk in terms of pupil numbers, financial sustainability, or quality of education.
- Where schools are located – specifically aiming to bring forward action in areas of the borough with a significant over-supply of places.
- Whether the proposed reduction in places is something that might be relatively quick to achieve or may take longer to broker and work through.

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- Whether there are other changes (such as a neighbouring school closing) that need to happen and where the full impact needs to be understood, before proceeding.

These are not hard and fast ‘rules’ but they are factors that we have taken into consideration in suggesting the phasing of possible changes, and which schools might be involved at each stage. For each school we have suggested a possible course of action to pursue and a rationale for this. This detail is included in Appendix C.

A summary of the three phases, the possible number of schools involved at each phase, and the potential for places reductions, is set out below. It will be apparent that across groups 1 and 2 there are more than 8 possible reductions in forms of entry. This is prudent as it is likely that not all will be achieved.

Phase	Possible number of schools involved	Potential for reduction in forms of entry
1	14	8.5 to 9.5
2	14	6
3	20	None at present

### Expected impact of proposed reductions

If Southwark were to be successful in reducing by 8 further forms of entry as recommended, and if overall population estimates prove to be accurate, we calculate that in 2025/26 the overall vacancy rate in Southwark’s primary schools would be 9.8%, and the vacancy rate in reception year should be 11.1%. This is very close to the target set of 10%. However, as we have cautioned throughout, this analysis is based on snap-shot in time and will require regular review to ensure that both the totality of place reductions remains accurate as more information becomes available about pupil numbers, and that the geographical targeting of those place reductions remains sensible as more information comes to light about the real-world impact of planned changes.

### Recommendations

Our recommendation is that Southwark councillors and officers work with schools to both ensure that currently planned reductions are realised and that up to 8 further forms of entry are removed from primary schools in a phased approach. It will be necessary to continue to monitor real-time data on numbers of pupils and the impact of changes to primary pupil numbers to ensure that this reduction remains on-track and that it is geographically targeted to the right areas. Our suggestions for which schools might be approached is set out in Appendix C. This is based on a snap-shot in time and will require careful monitoring and adjustment as the programme of changes is realised.

As councillors and officers work with schools to reach final decisions about the changes to make we make the following observations.

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1. Any changes required are done so to ensure Southwark maintains excellent primary education whilst addressing population change. To not change would lead to unplanned decline as some schools become unaffordable.
2. The most effective and least stressful organisational changes are those where the school leadership and governors understand and support the rationale, even if the change proposal brings some sadness.
3. It is important to recognise that parental preference will always be difficult to predict so assumptions that amalgamating schools will lead to a particular change in pupil population should always be carefully reviewed.
4. Communications is absolutely key – discussing a particular school publically too soon can lead to further decline in numbers, but schools also find being left with uncertainty drains staff pupils and parents morally, affecting the quality of education.
5. Although many of the schools most significantly affected have higher levels of FSM than the borough average, reducing the number of schools will increase the capacity to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Equality Impact assessments for each change process should help ensure sufficient finances to meet the needs of the vulnerable and to strengthen diversity in the schools.

## Appendix A – Phase one analysis

### Southwark Primary Pupil Place Planning

#### Preparatory Work

During the Autumn Term 2022 Isos Partnership undertook a top level analysis of pupil place issues for Southwark pupil place planning, based on data accessible on line, prior to accessing Southwark’s strategy and without specific knowledge of the individual schools, their location, or the communities that attend them.

To collate the data we accessed:

the January 2022 School Census, (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2022>) – this includes snapshot data about the number of children in every school on census day in January

DFE comparator websites, (<https://schools-financial-benchmarking.service.gov.uk/SchoolSearch/Search?nameId=&suggestionUrn=&locationorpostcode=&LocationCoordinates=&option=on&openOnly=true&laCodename=Southwark&SelectedLocalAuthorityId=210&searchtype=search-by-la-code-name>) – these are informed by key data collected by the DFE, including School Capacity returns.

Children and Maternity Statistics (ChiMAT) information for 2021, (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2022-child-health-profiles>) – this includes data on child birth rates

DFE School Capacity data (<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-capacity/2021-22>) – this includes pupil population forecasts

Borough admissions brochure. (<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-admissions/applying-for-a-primary-school-place>)

This introductory work was undertaken to give Isos and Southwark early insight into the issues that would need further exploration for a more detailed and up-to-date analysis and recommendations. It provided a tool to independently “stress test” the work undertaken by the Southwark Place Planning Team

#### Numbers across Southwark

The largest cohort year in Southwark appeared to be Year 9, all years below that show a constant decline, apart from Year 2. The birth rate is not yet increasing.

This indicates that lower numbers of children is a trend, rather than a blip, and Southwark are correct to be taking strategic and operational action to address this.

## Primary Capacity

If we consider Year 9 as the current highest possible number of primary spaces needed in the last 10 years, the spare capacity (based on 2020/21 data) was around 9 FE (around 8%) in comparison with current PANs. In 2019/20 The Local Authority and schools were proactive in reducing Forms of Entry and in having discussions with particularly vulnerable schools regarding mergers, without this action the gap from need would have remained around 17 FE (around 13%).

The reductions so far, and our recommendations have taken into account a flexibility buffer, in that in the unlikely event in the next 10 years, numbers were to return to above the Year 9 position, there would still be significant spare capacity in the system simply by restoring PANs to September 18 levels.

This is important because it means councillors and other stakeholders can be confident that any future reductions will not over reduce spare capacity in primary schools.

DFE Finance benchmark figures indicate at least 25 schools show some financial challenge. 8 of these have negative reserve figures. Of these 6 have negative in year spend and negative reserves. Two of these six schools have already reduced their PAN which will enable them to reduce staffing as part of financial recovery planning.

Across the Borough 40 schools were showing some level of pressure from vacancies in 2022, in 24 of these their reception numbers are below the level needed for financial efficiency (based on their PAN). Based on work in other Boroughs Isos estimates that where reception figures fall below 27 in a one form entry school the costs of providing the necessary school infrastructure, a full curriculum range and meeting individual educational needs starts to become financially challenging. Below 25 it is likely to become educationally limiting, potentially leading to a reduced curriculum offer, sometimes mixed age classes and less leadership expertise.

Following this analysis, we estimated that across the borough the removal of 17 forms of entry at Primary level (9 currently planned and a further 8 to be identified) would still leave 6 FE capacity for parental preference, and a number of schools that could easily re increase their PAN if necessary.

Based on 2020/21 figures, this would give capacity of 105 FE (3150 places) with flexibility to increase to 110 (3300) if required. Allowing 5% for parental preference based on Jan22 reception figures – with access to allow for up to 10% if required. (These figures are updated in our main report once DFE data for 2021/2 and local information were available)

From the available Local Authority information we could see that it would be possible to analyse by planning area and to identify possible groups of schools well located for PAN reductions. At this stage of analysis, we looked at the 5 Planning Areas and provided a top level summary for the areas that, based on 2021 data, appeared to be facing the greatest challenges. For information, we have included as examples Planning Area 1 (which from

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2021 statistics had the largest capacity challenge), and Planning Area 5 (which had the least capacity challenge)

The DFE benchmarking also provides information on equalities and diversity, but not on quality of buildings or local environment. Whilst these aspects have been born in mind further analysis will be crucial as we move to next stage considerations in the Spring and Summer Terms.

### **Planning Area 1**

There are 115 children fewer in reception classes in Planning Area 1, than there are in Year 6. Despite four schools having reduced their PAN in this area (St George's Cathedral, Charlotte Sharman, Keyworth and Robert Browning) there was still an overall vacancy rate of around 20 % vacancy in the Reception numbers for Jan 22. There seems to be a particular density of schools in the Walworth area.

Three schools are already in the position of having in year over spends and no reserves and one had a large in year deficit. Several schools may face financial constraint if numbers fall further.

Eleven of the schools appear to show signs of unaffordable vacancy levels – which is likely to become an increasing problem if numbers continue to fall.

Two schools seem to be located close to each other and between them only have enough reception children for 1 FE.

Faith schools in the area reflect varying demand, but overall have over capacity, only 1 of the 6 faith schools has reduced its PAN in recent years, despite there being around 2 FE spare capacity across the faith schools in this planning area.

There is a need to reduce capacity in this area. We understood that some discussions and changes have already taken place and the Spring Term analysis would help us plan further changes.

### **Planning Area 5**

In planning area 5 the number of children enrolling in Reception is going up. Further analysis is needed as this could either be population growth or parental preference from other planning areas causing a southward drift of children.

Even with this possible southward drift in some schools there are more forms of entry than are necessary (allowing for parental choice between 5-8%).

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None of the schools in Area 5 has currently reduced their PAN, but 2 schools appear to have a significant challenge to fill reception places. Four schools appear to be facing financial challenge.

Without knowledge of parental preference data it is difficult to analyse where children might move IF PAN was reduced in any of the schools in this planning area.

### **Variation Across Southwark**

There appears to be significant risk across the Borough, however analysis of Area 5 suggests that there may be southward population drift into the area, mitigating the pressure in that area.

Parts of Planning Area 1 appear to be particularly crowded for primary schools, and there may be some “border” issues for particular schools at both primary and secondary level. Isos understands that this is an area where possible changes are already being considered. These changes will impact on our Spring Term analysis and recommendations.

### **Stress-testing Southwark work to date**

There was strong agreement between our independent analysis of published data and the premises in the agreed Southwark Strategy. Southwark officers’ analysis of the challenge and number of schools at risk appears to be appropriate and as accurate as possible in a period where population change is especially volatile.

We agreed with Southwark that the planned more detailed area analysis with possibly at risk schools would give further information for Isos Partnership to be able to make recommendations for further changes that may be needed. Based on our early analysis we would consider around 35-45 schools are likely to be affected by the impact of a reducing population. The level of vacancies appears to be increasing in all planning areas, although the impact is less obvious in Planning Area 5. The planned forms of entry changes seem appropriate, we will use updated data to confirm what further changes may be needed in our Spring Term 2023 work.

As part of next stages work we needed further information on where new and existing changes had been planned and agreed and in which years changes were expected to impact. This was necessary for us to be able to evaluate the balance between implemented changes, planned changes and new recommendations.

We recommended that it may be useful to look at smaller planning areas (ie not necessarily Planning Areas as a whole) where schools are feeling particular impact.

We also recommended that it may also be helpful to look at data across Catholic/C of E and MATs in the Borough to support the Diocese and MAT leaders with their thinking.





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### Appendix B - List of schools in Southwark where planned changes have been agreed

Name of school	Planned change	Date decided	Places reduction
Bellenden Primary School	Reduce by 1FE	2019	90
Brunswick Park Primary School	Reduce by 0.5FE	2019	45
Camelot Primary School	Reduce by 0.5FE and merge with Coburg	2019 & 2023	45
Charlotte Sharman Primary	Reduce by 1FE and merge with St Jude's	2019 & TBC	90
St Jude's C of E	Merge with Charlotte Sharman	TBC	210
Coburg School	Merge with Camelot	2023	210
Crawford Primary School	Reduce by 1FE	2019	120
Dog Kennel Hill School	Reduce by 1FE	2023	210
English Martyrs RC Primary School	Reduce by 1FE	2022	210
Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park	Reduce by 1FE	2021	150
Harris Primary Free School Peckham	Reduce by 1FE	2022	180
Hollydale Primary School	Reduce by 0.5FE	2019	45
Ilderton Primary School	Reduce by 1FE	2023	210
Keyworth Primary School	Reduce by 1FE	2019	90
Phoenix Primary School	Reduce by 1FE	2019	60
Robert Browning Primary School	Reduce by 1FE	2019	90
St Francis RC Primary School	Reduce by 1FE	2023	210
St George's Cathedral School	Reduce by 1FE	2019	90
Townsend	Closure	2023	210
St Francesca Cabrini	Closure	2023	210

## Appendix C – Proposals and rationale

## Phase 1

School name	Proposal	Rationale
Grange	Reduce PAN to 1FE	Small class sizes increasing financial pressure. Reduction to 1 FE would increase viability and therefore capacity to improve quality of Education. There are nearby schools with spaces, and first preferences would not be affected as they are below 30
St Paul's CofE	Reduce PAN to 1FE Discuss possibility of school amalgamation with the SDBE MAT.	0.5 PAN Reduction, review sustainability longer term. Concerns over quality of education. Very low numbers from R to Year 4. Parental preference would not be affected by reduction to 1FE. Longer term viability may need to be considered.
St Joseph's Catholic Infants	Reduce to 1FE, amalgamate with junior school	Infant School reducing to 1FE, 1 FE will work through to juniors. Schools may be more financially viable as a Primary. Schools share a site. Year 1 and Reception numbers below 40. If current low numbers in the infant school feed through to the junior school, without PAN reduction, it will have an impact on sustainability for the junior school.
St Joseph's Catholic Juniors		
Comber Grove	Possible amalgamation of Comber Grove with a nearby school. If an amalgamation is not an option may have to consider closure of Comber Grove.	Comber Grove first preferences too small to be viable, with implications for finances and quality of education. Amalgamation is more comfortable for families than straightforward closure, and there are potential schools with spaces nearby that could provide an option for amalgamation.
Goose Green	Explore possible reduction in 1FE discuss possible options with MAT	Goose Green runs risk of expensive class sizes by filling at just over 30. Reducing to 1FE is more sustainable for schools in partnership (Goose Green and Dog Kennel Hill in same MAT). As First Preferences below 30 parental preference will not be badly affected.  Dog Kennel Hill already reducing to 1 FE - the two schools may be sustainable as part

Appendix 2

Dog Kennel Hill		of MAT, possibly with closer forms of joint working / sharing assets or site.
St Mary Magdalene	Possible amalgamation with a nearby school. If an amalgamation is not an option may have to consider closure.	St Mary Magdalene numbers look unsustainable financially in the long term, despite school currently managing within budget. Low first preference means fewer children affected. Capacity available in nearby schools
Rye Oak	Reduce PAN to 1 FE	Has been operating consistently at around 1FE (just above and below 30 pupils) but has PAN of 2 FE, other schools in area have already experienced PA reductions. Possible implications for resources base and staffing across the school/resource base.
Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park	Explore merger as 1FE school with Harris	Financially costly. Neither school full, low applications, both Harris schools. Peckham School very close to The Belham. Two schools .6m apart flat walk, schools could decide how best to configure.
Harris Primary Free School Peckham		
Bessemer Grange	Possible reduction to 2FE	School runs risk of expensive class sizes by filling at just over 60. (Highest year group 76. Current first preferences 57). Spaces in nearby schools (Dog Kennel .5m uphill; Goose Green.6 flat). School likely to be financially viable at 2 FE, and as first preferences are below 60 parental preference will not be affected.