

APPENDIX 4 – STATUTORY PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ANN BERNADT NURSERY SCHOOL

Southwark Council publishes these proposals under section 15(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to close Ann Bernadt Nursery School with effect from 31st August 2024.

Category	Information																																								
1. Contact details																																									
a. School contact details and category	Ann Bernadt Nursery School is a Community Nursery School. Ann Bernadt Nursery School's address is 29 Chandler Way, London SE15 6DT Ann Bernadt Nursery School's phone number is 020 7703 1905 and the school's email address is office@annbernadt.southwark.sch.uk																																								
b. Local Authority contact details	The London Borough of Southwark, 160 Tooley Street, LONDON, SE1 2QH. Phone number is 020 7525 5000																																								
2. Implementation																																									
The date on which it is proposed to close the school or, where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.	Ann Bernadt Nursery School is proposed to be closed from the 31 st August 2024 onwards.																																								
3. Reason for closure																																									
3. A statement explaining the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.	3. The closure of Ann Bernadt Nursery School is considered necessary because it is no longer financially sustainable. The pupil roll has fallen consistently over the past five years resulting in reduced funding which the school receives based on pupil numbers. From the start of the next academic year, the funding gap due to falling pupil numbers is anticipated to be approximately £300,000, incurring further debt every year thereafter, due to the number of vacant places if the school remains open. The Council believe that, were Ann Bernadt Nursery School to remain open, a reduced staffing model would be required from September 2024, which would not enable children to continue receiving the high quality education they deserve and need.																																								
4. Pupil Numbers and Admissions																																									
4. The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.	4. The reduction of (non-compulsory Year E2 to N2) pupil numbers at of Ann Bernadt Nursery School is self-evident – there has been a 42% loss of pupils (51 children less) since 2016/17 (Source, School Censuses 2019-23) particularly in the N1 year group (-57%). There is no boarding provision and no specialist SEND provision. Ann Bernadt Roll by year group 2016-23 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>E2</th> <th>N1</th> <th>N2</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>3</td> <td>61</td> <td>59</td> <td>123</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>0</td> <td>42</td> <td>74</td> <td>116</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>0</td> <td>45</td> <td>54</td> <td>99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>0</td> <td>14</td> <td>70</td> <td>84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>0</td> <td>22</td> <td>45</td> <td>67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>0</td> <td>23</td> <td>32</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>0</td> <td>26</td> <td>45</td> <td>71</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	E2	N1	N2	Total	2016/17	3	61	59	123	2017/18	0	42	74	116	2018/19	0	45	54	99	2019/20	0	14	70	84	2020/21	0	22	45	67	2021/22	0	23	32	55	2022/23	0	26	45	71
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5 to 7. Displaced pupils	
<p>5. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.</p> <p>6. Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including</p> <p>6 (a) any interim arrangements</p> <p>6 (b) the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and</p> <p>6 (c) in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school.</p> <p>7. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.</p>	<p>5. Demand for nursery places in the area has reduced dramatically in the last 5 years, This school is situated in the Southwark's school place planning area 3 – (PA3) – “Peckham & Nunhead”.</p> <p>Demand in this locality has decreased substantially, due to consistently falling birth rates, as well as a variety of socio-economic factors that have led to fewer families living in the area. The table in Section 4 shows a substantial drop in pupil numbers</p> <p>6. Ann Bernadt Nursery School is located within walking distance of two maintained nursery schools. Nell Gwynn Nursery School (approximate distance and walking time 0.9 miles and 18 minutes), which is the federation partner of Ann Bernadt Nursery School. Grove Nursery School (approximate distance and walking time 0.3 miles and 6 minutes) Depending on home address for some parents Nell Gwynn and Grove may offer a closer provision than Ann Bernadt. Ann Bernadt is located within walking distance of two maintained primary schools that have teacher led nursery provision. Oliver Goldsmiths Primary School (approximate distance and walking time 0.3 miles and 5 minutes) and Brunswick Park Primary School (approximate distance and walking time 0.5 miles and 10 minutes)</p> <p>6a) there are no interim arrangements required</p> <p>6b) there is no SEND specialist reserved provision at this school - this section does not apply. There are five children with EHCPs – transition arrangements for these children into alternative schools are being managed by caseworkers on the local authority's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) team to ensure appropriate placements are made.</p> <p>6c) Ann Bernadt Nursery School is not a special school, this does not apply</p> <p>7. There is no need for additional places to be provided in order to accommodate the children displaced by the closure of Ann Bernadt Nursery School, as there are currently numerous nursery and early years spare places within half a mile of the school available across year groups to accommodate displaced pupils.</p>
8. Impact on the community	
<p>8. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.</p>	<p>8. The decision to propose closure of Ann Bernadt Nursery School has been taken to protect the education of children attending the school, and ensure that, should the school close they can have a managed transition to other local schools. Southwark Council is working in partnership with the school as they move through this statutory process. Southwark Council acknowledge that the closure of the school will have an impact on the community, and by many</p>

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<p>8. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact (cont'd)</p>	<p>families/local residents due to the significant, community links and emotional ties developed at Ann Bernadt Nursery School. However, given the significant level of capacity at high quality schools in the locality and across Southwark as a whole, families will be able to access alternative school places in the community. The closure of Ann Bernadt may enable some of the surrounding schools with low rolls to strengthen their intake and as a result, to become more financially viable. No mitigation will be required because of the availability of alternative school places at other schools in the local community.</p>
9. Rural primary schools	
<p>9. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered section 15(4).</p>	<p>9. Ann Bernadt Nursery School is not in an area that has been classified as "rural", nor has it been designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15.</p>
10. Balance of denominational provision	
<p>10. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.</p>	<p>10. The school does not have a religious character</p>
11. Maintained nursery schools	
<p>11. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out</p> <p>(a) the local authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and</p>	<p>11. The proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school. As regards</p> <p><i>(a) Southwark's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available</i></p> <p>Ann Bernadt Nursery School is located within walking distance of two other maintained nursery schools. Nell Gwynn (approximate 0.9 miles 18 minutes walking time the federation partner of Ann Bernadt Nursery; Grove Nursery School (approximate 0.3 miles and 6 minutes walking distance. The majority of home addresses for the children and families currently at Ann Bernadt are within postcode area SE15 - the same postcode area that Nell Gwynn and Grove Nursery Schools are located in. The schools concerned are both Ofsted rated "Good" and have sufficient vacancies to take on the pupils displaced by the closure. Staff can be redeployed within the federation meaning that the expertise and specialism would continue to be available</p> <p>Depending on home address for some parents, Nell Gwynn and Grove may actually offer a closer provision than Ann Bernadt. For example the majority of children that attend Nell Gwynn Nursery School live within the postcode area SE15</p>

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(b)the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.	<p>As regards (b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.</p> <p>As maintained nursery schools Nell Gwynn and Grove have a similar ethos of accessibility and inclusivity for all children and families regardless of need. Both schools offer an equal level of accessibility for parents as Ann Bernadt, with experienced staff who are able to meet the broad range of needs of children and families. Ann Bernadt is located within walking distance of two maintained primary schools that have teacher led nursery provision. Oliver Goldsmiths Primary School (approximate distance and walking time 0.3 miles and 5 minutes) and Brunswick Park Primary School (approximate distance and walking time 0.5 miles and 10 minutes)</p>
12. Sixth form provision	
<p>12. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, the effect for 16 to 19 year olds in the area that the closure will have in respect of</p> <p>(a)their educational or training achievements;</p> <p>(b)their participation in education or training;</p> <p>and</p> <p>(c)the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.</p>	<p>12. Ann Bernadt is a 2-4 nursery school, it does not include sixth form provision, this section does not apply.</p>
13. Special Educational Needs Provision	
<p>13. Where existing provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) believe the proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children</p>	<p>13. There is no special educational needs provision reserved for SEND pupils at Ann Bernadt, so no specialist provision is proposed for discontinuation.</p>
14-15 Travel	
<p>14. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.</p>	<p>Ann Bernadt Nursery School is located within walking distance of two other maintained nursery schools. Nell Gwynn (approximate 0.9 miles 18 minutes walking time the federation partner of Ann Bernadt Nursery; Grove Nursery School (approximate 0.3 miles and 6 minutes walking distance. The majority of home addresses for the children and families currently at Ann Bernadt are within postcode area SE15 - the same postcode area that Nell Gwynn and Grove Nursery Schools are located in.</p>

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14. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision (<i>continued</i>)	Depending on home address for some parents, Nell Gwynn and Grove may actually offer a closer provision than Ann Bernadt. Ann Bernadt is located within walking distance of two maintained primary schools that have teacher led nursery provision. Oliver Goldsmiths Primary School (approximate distance and walking time 0.3 miles and 5 minutes) and Brunswick Park Primary School (approximate distance and walking time 0.5 miles and 10 minutes)
15. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use.	15. As outlined above, the pupils displaced by the school closure may not be unduly inconvenienced by lengthier travel, as there is plenty of provision within walking distance of Ann Bernadt Nursery School. This would help to mitigate against any increase in car use, as no more car journeys will be necessary than at present.
Making objections to or comments on these proposals	<p>Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, by 5 pm on February 2024 any person may object to or make comments on the proposals or, request a paper copy of the proposal by emailing</p> <p>questions.education@southwark.gov.uk</p> <p>or by post to: Georgia Pritchard, SELA, Children's Services, Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH</p>

Signed

Alasdair Smith
 Director of Children Services