

**Consultation on Change of Character of
Roe Green Infant School from September 2020**



A Public Consultation

**Proposed Change of Character of
Roe Green Infant School from September 2020**

(Consultation period: 20 March to 07 May 2019)

**For further information please attend one of the consultation meetings
being held in April 2019**

Consultation meeting for staff	2 April 2019 at 4.00 – 5.00 pm
Consultation meeting for school governors	2 April 2019 at 5.30 – 6.30 pm

Location:

Roe Green Infant School, Princes Avenue, Kingsbury, London, NW9 9JL

Public meetings for parents/other interested parties	4 April 2019 at 9.00 – 10.30 am
	4 April 2019 at 5.00 – 6.30 pm

Location:

Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School, Strathcona Road, Wembley, HA9 8QL

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1. The proposal

Brent Council is proposing the closure of the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School. The council is seeking the views of interested parties through this informal consultation on proposals to:

- change the age-range of Roe Green Infant School from 4-11 to 4-7
- reduce the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 to 120 for September 2020
- implement closure of provision on the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School. The proposal is that no children will start in Reception at the school in September 2020. All other year groups could either be relocated to other schools in the area or remain on the site.

With these changes Roe Green Infant School would revert back to the status it had in 2015 - an infant school with 120 pupils (4 forms of entry) in Reception to Year 2.

- **No changes are proposed for the Princes Avenue site.** The Princes Avenue site (NW9 9JL) will continue to have a nursery for 40 full time equivalent places, and Reception to Year 2 provision that admits up to 120 pupils each year into Reception. This is the provision that already exists on the site. Children will continue to apply to other schools for their Year 3 to Year 6 education.
- The Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School (HA9 8QL) currently has provision for children in Reception to Year 6, with up to 30 children admitted each year into Reception. It is proposed to close provision on the Strathcona site from September 2020.

This informal consultation provides an opportunity for discussion with governors, staff, parents and the public about the issues that need to be considered in relation to this proposal.

If, following informal consultation, officers remain of the view that the proposals should be progressed, Cabinet will be asked for approval to undertake formal consultation through publishing a statutory notice. A statutory notice would then be published allowing for formal representations on the proposals for a period of four weeks from the date of publication. The statutory notice must contain sufficient information for interested parties to make a decision on whether to support or challenge the proposed changes. Following formal consultation, Cabinet would be asked to make a final decision on the proposals.

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2. Background and rationale

This proposal is in response to falling demand for primary schools and increasing spare places across Brent, as identified in the 2019-23 School Place Planning Strategy, approved by Cabinet in November 2018.

Roe Green Infant School is situated in the north of the borough. Following discussions with schools in Autumn 2013 about the urgent need for more school places to meet unanticipated demand, the Governing Body of Roe Green Infant School agreed to expand on a temporary basis in March 2014 on a site in Wembley known as the Roe Green Strathcona Site. The provision was for 210 places in total, 30 in each year group from Reception to Year 6. In order to do this, the age range of the school had to change from 4 – 7 years old to 4 – 11 years old. Following Department for Education regulations this arrangement became permanent from 2016.

Many other schools in the borough also expanded on a permanent basis to meet an anticipated increase in demand for school places, based on projections from the Greater London Authority (GLA) used for school place planning. However, demand for Reception places in the borough started to reduce in September 2017 and the latest GLA projections indicate that this trend will continue. As a result, there are now many spare places in primary schools across the borough. This pattern of reducing primary demand is consistent with many other London boroughs.

Currently there are 117 pupils on roll at the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School, with only 6 pupils admitted into Reception in September 2018 (and one additional pupil since) and 14 pupils in September 2017. Other than Year 5, all other year groups currently have significantly lower numbers than the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30. Some year groups are currently taught as mixed age classes due to low pupil numbers.

Applications for Reception places in September 2019 are also lower than the PAN of 30 with only 6 first preferences for the school. The number on roll will be lower than 100 from September 2020 onwards if larger cohorts leaving the school in Year 6 are not replaced by a similar number in Reception.

Numbers on roll at the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School

Year	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2014/15	34	59	14	28	-	-	-	135
2015/16	15	30	55	9	28	-	-	137
2016/17	16	19	26	49	6	27	-	143
2017/18	7	14	11	22	42	3	22	121
2018/19	7	8	17	18	20	44	3	117

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Predicted numbers on roll at the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School

Year	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2019/20	7	7	8	17	18	20	44	121
2020/21	7	7	7	8	17	18	20	84
2021/22	7	7	7	7	8	17	18	71

The low number of pupils provides a significant budget challenge. Roe Green Infant School currently receives an additional £200k allowance each year for running a school on split sites. However, as school budgets are driven by pupil numbers, a declining school roll will make it increasingly difficult to manage.

The Strathcona site provision is located in Brent Council's Primary Planning Area 2, and the most recent GLA forecasts show an ongoing surplus of places in the area for the next 5 years. There are currently over 120 spare Reception places in schools within the planning area (16% of capacity) – the equivalent of four classes of 30 pupils.

Reception forecasts for Planning Area 2

Planning Area 2		Rec
2018/2019	Capacity	780
	Projections	653
	Surplus	127
2019/2020	Capacity	780
	Projections	650
	Surplus	130
2020/2021	Capacity	780
	Projections	657
	Surplus	123
2021/2022	Capacity	780
	Projections	645
	Surplus	135
2022/2023	Capacity	780
	Projections	653
	Surplus	127
2023/2024	Capacity	780
	Projections	663
	Surplus	117

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This proposal is due to falling pupil demand. It is not about the quality of provision at Roe Green Infant School – pupils at the school make good progress and Ofsted graded the school as ‘good’ in November 2017.

There are, however, other high quality schools in the area served by the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School that have capacity to provide for local children. This includes Byron Court Primary School, Preston Park Primary School, Uxendon Manor Primary School and East Lane Primary School.

Only one school in Planning Area 2 is expected to fill to planned capacity in September 2019; all other schools are considered to be viable alternatives for families that might be served by the Strathcona site provision. Analysis shows that of the 184 pupils living within 0.5 miles of the Strathcona site who were offered Reception places for September 2018, 41 were offered a place at Preston Park Primary School, 36 at Wembley Primary School, 33 at East Lane Primary School and 31 at Byron Court Primary School.

Number of children and places in all schools within the local area

Planning Area 2 Schools	PAN	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Byron Court Primary School	150	101	120	89	134	88	120	89	741
Mount Stewart Infant School	90	90	87	89	-	-	-	-	266
Mount Stewart Junior School	-	-	-	-	83	89	119	90	381
Preston Park Primary School	120	83	118	114	113	89	137	90	744
Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School	30	7	8	17	18	20	44	3	117
Sinai Jewish Primary School	90	48	71	86	90	90	89	89	563
Uxendon Manor Primary School	120	76	105	102	87	60	59	60	549
Wembley Primary School	120	107	119	117	114	120	116	117	810
Total	720	512	628	614	639	556	684	538	4,171
Planning Area 3 schools near the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School									
Ark Academy	60	59	57	59	59	59	60	56	409
Chalkhill Primary School	60	60	60	60	60	58	86	90	474
East Lane Primary School	120	90	75	44	29		26		264
Sudbury Primary School	120	120	118	119	121	120	120	119	837
Total	360	329	310	282	269	237	292	265	1984

Source: October 2018 census

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3. Detail of Proposals

In the context of current and predicted demand and places available at other local schools, primary provision on the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School is not considered to be sustainable or required. It is therefore proposed that the site ceases to be used for primary provision and the legal status of Roe Green Infant School reverts to its position before 2015, operating from its Princes Avenue site for Reception to Year 2.

There are different ways that provision on the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School could come to an end:

- a phased closure of the provision (which means children would remain at the school until the end of year 6);
- a full closure of the provision at a fixed point in time (which means that all children would move to alternative schools);
- a combination of the above - (for example children in Key Stage 1 could be relocated to alternative schools, while children in the Key Stage 2 remain until the end of year 6);
- any alternative proposal resulting from responses received during this informal consultation.

As the Admission Arrangements for 2020/21 have already been formally determined, the council would need to seek a variation to the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Roe Green Infant School to reduce it from 150 to 120 from September 2020 from the Schools Adjudicator. This would mean that the main school site in Princes Avenue would continue to admit 120 pupils to Reception, but no admissions would be made at the Strathcona site.

To change the age range of Roe Green Infant School from 4-11 years to 4-7 years, the council would need to include, as part of the statutory notice, full details of how this would be implemented. In the event of a phased closure, the age range of the school would remain as 4-11 years as long as children are still on roll at the Strathcona site. In-year applications could still be made for Key Stage 2 year groups that are still running.

If the proposals were eventually to be implemented, then this would impact on Roe Green Infant School's staffing requirements and there may be a need to consider potential redundancies for staff which would be subject to a separate formal consultation process in line with the school's procedures.

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4.	<p>Does this affect Roe Green Junior School?</p> <p>Roe Green Junior School is on the same site as the Princes Avenue site of Roe Green Infant School. Both schools are separate entities. Children who attend the Princes Avenue site of Roe Green Infant School will continue to apply for a school place for their Year 3 to year 6 education. Roe Green Infant School will remain as a feeder school to Roe Green Junior School. There is no change proposed for Roe Green Junior School.</p>
5.	<p>Frequently asked questions</p> <p>If the site closes, where will my child go to school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nature of the closure has not been decided. If the closure is phased, some children will remain at the site until the end of Year 6. If a decision was taken by the local authority to close the whole site, or individual year groups, the local authority would work with parents to identify an alternative school place. <p>Can I change my child's school now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes – you can submit an in-year application for any school. An offer will only be made for preference schools if there are vacancies. <p>I have been offered a place at the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School, can I choose an alternative?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will write to any parents who receive an offer of a place at the school, but whose children have not yet started to advise them that this consultation is ongoing and to ask if they would like to receive an offer for an alternative school. <p>Can applications still be made for the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• While the site remains open, in-year applications can still be made and offers will be made if there are vacancies in a year group or class. If the decision is taken in September 2019 to cease the provision, parents will not be able to apply for a Reception place at the school for September 2020. <p>What will happen to the existing school site?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are no formal plans which outline the future use of the site. The Strathcona site would be considered for other educational use if this proposal was implemented.

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6. Timeline

Brent Council will follow the statutory guidance set out in the Department for Education document 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools'.

The timetable for the full process is as follows:

Date	Action
20 March 2019	Informal Consultation begins
02 April 2019	Consultation meeting for school staff at 4.00pm
02 April 2019	Consultation meeting for school governors at 5.30pm
04 April 2019	Consultation meetings for the public at 9.00am and 5.00pm
7 May 2019	Informal Consultation closes – deadline for responses
17 June 2019	Cabinet decision on agreeing formal consultation
20 June 2019	Publication of statutory proposal notice and formal consultation
19 July 2019	Formal Consultation closes
09 September 2019	Final Decision by Cabinet
01 September 2020	Planned closure commences

All timings are subject to change.

If, after this informal consultation, Brent Council decides to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice would be published in accordance with school organisation legislation. This would provide a further period of four weeks of formal consultation when anyone can comment on any aspect of the proposal whether in support or disagreement.

Following the representation period, Brent Council's Cabinet would make a final decision on the proposal in accordance with Government guidance for school organisation decisions, taking into consideration consultation and statutory proposal responses.

A decision has to be taken within two months of the end of a statutory proposal representation period. If this proposal proceeds, it is anticipated that this decision would be taken by Cabinet in September 2019.

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7. How you have your say

Brent Council would welcome your views on this proposal to decrease the age-range and size of Roe Green Infant School by ending provision on the school's Strathcona site.

You can let us know your views by submitting a response to this consultation document and/or attending one of the consultation meetings that are being organised for the public (including parents), staff and governors.

The informal consultation closes on 07 May 2019 – please ensure that you have your say before then.

Please have your say by:

- Completing the attached Response Form and returning it by email or post to the council.

Email: StrathconaConsultation@brent.gov.uk

Post to: Admissions and School Organisation Team,
5th Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 0FJ

- Attending a consultation meeting:

The following consultation meetings are being held at Roe Green Infant School (Princes Avenue site):

- **Consultation meeting for staff** **2 April 2019 at 4.00 – 5.00 pm**
- **Consultation meeting for governors** **2 April 2019 at 5.00 – 6.00 pm**

The following consultation meetings are being held at the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School (Strathcona Road):

- **Public consultation meeting** **4 April 2019 at 9.00 – 10.30 am**
- **Public consultation meeting** **4 April 2019 at 5.00 – 6.30 pm**

Copies of this document are available from Roe Green Infant School (the Princes Road and Strathcona Road sites), and on request from the Admissions and School Organisation Team at StrathconaConsultation@brent.gov.uk.

The Consultation and response form are available online at Brent Connects consultations - www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/brent-connects.

A limited translation service can be provided for this document on request to StrathconaConsultation@brent.gov.uk.

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Roe Green Infant School Consultation Response Slip

Please return: **07 May 2019**

I agree / disagree with the proposal to change the age range and capacity of Roe Green Infant School so that it includes the closure of the Strathcona Road provision

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

I believe that the closure should be:

- phased with all children remaining at the school until the end of year 6
- at a fixed point in time with all children moving to alternative schools
- a combination of the above
- a different approach (please provide details)

Comments

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Name..... **Signed**.....

Telephone..... **E-mail**.....

Contact details are optional. We will respond to any queries where possible.

PTO

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Please indicate if you are a:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

If you are responding on behalf of a business or organisation, please provide details

.....

If you are a parent of a child attending the Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School, or of a child who is due to start at the school, please indicate their current year group.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reception | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 6 |

About you

By answering the following questions, you will help us ensure that we deliver a fair service to all our community. You do not have to give us this information, but we hope you will. All information will be treated in the strictest of confidence and will only be used to monitor and improve Brent Council services.

Gender (please tick one):

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|

Age group (please tick one):

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16-24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 65-74 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75+ |

Which one of these groups do you feel you belong to? (please tick one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Pakistani |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Black African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Black African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British | <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Ethnic Group |

Other Ethnic Group - please specify

Please return this form by post or e-mail:

- Post: Admissions and School Organisation Team,
5th Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0FJ
- Email: StrathconaConsultation@brent.gov.uk