St Matthew's
Westminster

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and I thank you for taking the time to read this important information about our school.

I need to write to you with some difficult news about our school. As you may already know, in recent years the number of primary age children in the City of Westminster, and in many parts of London, has fallen dramatically. There are many reasons for this, including lower birth rates, lack of affordable housing for families and migration out of London.

This fall in the number of children means there are many surplus primary school places in Inner London, and the number is projected to continue to fall. As schools are funded on the number of pupils who attend the school, fewer children mean a school has a reduced budget, and managing this reduction means some very hard choices have had to be made.

That is why a consultation is being launched regarding a proposal to close St Matthew's Church of England Primary School on 31 March 2027.

This is a sad day for St Matthew's School and for everyone in our community. I know how difficult this news will be to hear, and we start this consultation with a very heavy heart.

I want to stress that the decision to start this consultation is not linked to anything relating to the quality of education that our children receive. In fact, everyone acknowledges that there is a huge amount for our parents, pupils and staff to be proud of.

We are, however, only 21.4% full, with 165 vacancies out of a possible 210 places at the time of writing. Furthermore, we had no pupils join our Reception Class in September 2026, and 12 pupils will be leaving Year 6 in July 2027. From September 2027, we would therefore have even more surplus places, which would make the school's financial problems untenable.

In March 2027 the deficit is estimated to be over £448,537.00, and it is increasing every month.

This situation has arisen despite the governors and the Executive Head Teacher having already managed many changes to reduce costs and to try to balance the budget. For example, we have reduced the number of teachers and support staff at the school (in line with lower pupil numbers on roll). Most classes are now mixed-age, with two year groups being taught in one class.

Our children are our most important asset as a school. If we don't have enough resources to provide them with the education that they deserve, then it is only right that this proposal should be considered in order to ensure that those children are able to access a high-quality education at an alternative school nearby if it is decided that the school should close.

It should be noted that this is a proposal only. Your views and feedback are important to us, and we would encourage you to be part of this consultation process. Details of how to do this are at the end of the consultation document.

We also wanted to stress that we are here to support you. Throughout this consultation, the school, the Diocese and the Local Authority's Admissions Team, will provide emotional and practical support to children, parents and carers. If the school does eventually close, we will do all we can to help you and to support each child's individual needs.

We appreciate that you may wish to speak with your children about this before school tomorrow but want you to know that leaders will be talking to all the children tomorrow morning, in an appropriate and sensitive way.

Please do take the time to read the attached document, and if you need any further help understanding what it means then please do reach out to school leaders who are here to help.

Yours sincerely,



Amanda Sayers
Chairman of the Governing Board
St Matthew's CE Primary Primary School