ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why are you proposing to close the school?

A. We are proposing to close the school because of the low number of children on roll. Westminster City Council and the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) agree that despite St Matthew's 'Good' Ofsted rating, our school does not have sufficient numbers of children to fill the school from April 2027 and we currently have 165 vacancies across all year groups. As pupil numbers fall, each school's budget allocation falls, resulting in less money being provided to educate the children, pay salaries and manage the upkeep of the buildings.

Q. What alternatives to closure have been considered?

A. Yes, unfortunately there are no suitable local school partners to amalgamate with.

Q. Has a decision to close the school been taken already?

A. No, we are consulting on a proposal to close the school. After the consultation has ended Westminster City Council will decide whether to close the school, or not.

Q. Will any changes happen this school year?

A. Yes, the proposal is to close the school on the 31 March 2027, which is in this academic year.

Q. What would it mean for the children?

A. All children on roll would be offered places at other schools local to their home. The Local Authority plans to work closely with the LDBS to support families to move to other Church of England schools if that is their preference.

Q. What would it mean for my child being part of a different and potentially larger school?

A. We know that for some of the children at St Matthew's School, moving to a different and potentially bigger school might be difficult. Even though the new school will feel different to your child(ren), we will make sure they get the right support to settle quickly. We want to hear children's voices in the options being considered so we will ask the school for help in gathering their thoughts and feelings.

Q. How many children are there currently attending St Matthew's School?

A. The following number of children currently attend the school.

Nursery	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	PAN*
0	0	2	4	10	5	12	12	30

Q. If the school closes, are there vacant spaces in alternative nearby schools?

A. Yes and the Local Authority's Admissions Team will support all parents to find alternative places at whatever time they decide to move, should closure be the outcome of the consultation

Q. If the school closes how will parents get places at other schools?

A. The Local Authority's Admissions Team will support all parents to find alternative places at whatever time they decide to move, should closure be the outcome of the consultation and will be present at a meeting that the school will host to help families. The school will work closely with families via 1:1 meetings to support you with your choice of alternative school placement.

The Local Authority's Admissions Team will contact all affected parents with information about nearby schools with spare places to offer advice and support in finding alternative school places, if the proposed closure goes ahead.

Q. If the school closes will parents be able to get places outside the City of Westminster?

A. Yes, under Education Law parents can apply to schools anywhere, inside, or outside the borough where they live.

Q. If the school closes, how will pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) be supported to transfer to a different school?

A. Families with children who have an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) will be directly assisted by the Council's Special Educational Needs Service to support them through the transition, along with families with children who receive specialist support. EHCP applications that are in process will continue to be assessed with support from the plan coordinators. Families of pupils receiving support for special educational needs and disabilities, but who do not have an EHCP, will receive advice and guidance when considering changes to provision or settings. Specialist SEN advisory staff are available to provide support to schools.

Q. If the school closes, how will Looked After Children be supported to transfer to a different school?

A. Looked After Children will be directly supported by the Head of the Virtual School.

Q. What would it mean for the staff?

A. Westminster City Council will support the school in assessing the costs of redundancy for permanent staff whose jobs will be at risk if the closure goes ahead, but both the LDBS and the Council will be working actively to try to find places for those members of staff wishing still to work in the area.

Q. Would there be any changes to the school building?

A. The building and site are not owned by the school. The Diocese will work with the Secretary of State for Education to decide what happens to the building and site in the future, once the consultation is over and a final decision is made.

Q. How can I have my say?

A. Any person may object or make comments on the proposal by:

Email: consultation@stmwschool.org.uk

Post: St Matthew's CE Primary School, 18 Old Pye Street, London, SW1P 2DG

The closing date for responses is:

- Online: 5pm on Friday 18th December 2026
- Written responses: 12:00pm (midday) on Friday 18th December 2026