



# **Statutory Proposal to Amalgamate Copenhagen Primary School and Vittoria Primary School**

## **Part 1 - Proposal to discontinue Copenhagen Primary School and move Vittoria Primary School to the Copenhagen Primary School site (Treaty Street, London, N1 0WF)**

### **Contact Details**

Proposal published by the London Borough of Islington, Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

### **Name, Address and Category of the School it is proposed that should be discontinued**

Copenhagen Primary School, Treaty Street, London, N1 0WF, a Community School.

### **Implementation**

We propose to close Copenhagen Primary school and move Vittoria Primary School from 31 August 2023.

### **Reason for Closure**

The proposal is due to a fall in pupil numbers and the associated impact on the future viability of the schools. Copenhagen and Vittoria primary schools have been acutely impacted by reduced pupil demand in the area.

The school organisation proposal is to amalgamate (merge) Vittoria and Copenhagen primary schools into a single school on the existing Copenhagen site – bringing together the identities and strengths of both schools under one roof.

The amalgamation would mean these schools merging to operate from a single site, enabling them to make the best use of the staff expertise, while securing the merged school's financial future.

### **Pupil numbers and admissions**

There are currently 134 pupils on roll at Copenhagen Primary school as of January 2023 (not including Nursery). 18 pupils in reception, 15 pupils in Year 1, 23 pupils in Year 2, 21 pupils in Year 3, 11 pupils in Year 4, 21 pupils in Year 5 and 25 pupils in Year 6.

The school's age range is 3-11 years, and provision is available to boys and girls. There is no boarding provision. There are 17 pupils with Education, Health and Care

Plans and 134 pupils. Total pupil numbers are significantly lower than the capacity of the school which is designed to accommodate up to 210 pupils.

## **Displaced pupils**

Under the proposals, the amalgamated school would become a 1.5 form entry school. All existing pupils would be offered a place.

## **Impact on the Community**

We propose to amalgamate Vittoria and Copenhagen primary schools into a single school on the existing Copenhagen site – bringing together the identities and strengths of both schools under one roof. The amalgamation would mean these schools merging to operate from a single site, enabling them to make the best use of the staff expertise, while securing the merged school's financial future. All displaced pupils would have continued access to Ofsted rated 'Good' local provision.

## **Balance of denominational provision**

Not applicable

## **Maintained nursery school**

Not applicable

## **Sixth form provision**

Not applicable

## **Special educational needs provision**

The existing provision at Copenhagen Primary School is not reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

Copenhagen Primary School and Vittoria Primary School have a higher proportion of pupils with SEND Support than the borough average and Copenhagen Primary School has the fourth highest proportion of pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan in the borough.

For pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan, their SEND Keyworker will contact the family directly to see if there were any special transition arrangements needed to help the move to the amalgamated school go smoothly.

## **Travel**

The two schools are located close together – just 0.3 miles apart. Most pupils live close to both schools and the proposal is not expected to change travel plans.

## Related proposals

This proposal is related to the proposal to increase the capacity of Vittoria Primary School from 210 to 315.

## Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object or make comments on the proposal by:

- **Email:** [copenhagenandvittoria@islington.gov.uk](mailto:copenhagenandvittoria@islington.gov.uk)
- **Post:** Copenhagen and Vittoria Proposal, Wilmington Room, Laycock Centre, Laycock Street, London N1 1TH

The closing date for responses is **23 March 2023** at 11.59pm.

## **Part 2 - Proposal to increase the capacity of Vittoria Primary School from 210 to 315**

### **Contact Details**

Proposal published by the London Borough of Islington, Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

### **Name, Address and Category of the School**

Vittoria Primary School, currently 38 Half Moon Crescent, Upper Holloway, N1 0TJ, a Community School.

### **Related proposals**

This proposal is related to the proposal to discontinue Copenhagen Primary School and move Vittoria Primary School to the Copenhagen Primary School site (Treaty Street, London, N1 0WF).

### **Implementation**

We propose to increase the capacity of Vittoria Primary School from 1 September 2023.

### **Description of alteration**

The proposal is to increase the capacity of Vittoria Primary School from 210 to 315.

Under the proposal, Vittoria school would become a 1.5 form entry school. A maximum of 45 pupils would be admitted to Reception classes in the merged school from September 2023.

### **Objective**

The objective of this proposal and the related proposal to close Copenhagen Primary School, is to create an amalgamated school through the technical closure of Copenhagen Primary School as a separate entity from 31 August 2023 and increase the capacity of Vittoria Primary School.

Copenhagen and Vittoria primary schools both have high levels of spare school places, with pupil numbers set to fall further still in the coming years. Falling pupil numbers has impacted on what each school can provide and deliver individually. As a result, both schools are expected to experience budget deficits. This could lead to a decline in the educational offer if it is not addressed.

Through these proposals, the objective is to combine the best of what each school offers to create an exceptional single school. This would build on existing close partnerships between the schools, which includes shared staff, resources,

professional development and joint trips and other educational experiences for children.

### **Effect on other educational institutions within the area**

All existing pupils of Copenhagen Primary School and Vittoria Primary School would be offered a place in the amalgamated School. We do not anticipate any effect on other educational institutions.

### **Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved**

Schools' funding from central government is based on the number of pupils in school at the start of a new academic year. As the number of pupils entering the education system is declining each year, so too is the funding schools receive. For every vacant place in an Islington primary school, the school is missing out on an average of £5,430 a year which has an impact on staffing and resources at the school. A school with vacancies is still required to fund the same level of fixed costs as though it was full, including the maintenance and operation of school buildings.

Smaller, one form entry schools are particularly vulnerable to changes in pupil numbers as they have less flexibility to group classes of 30 children.

The proposal to amalgamate Vittoria and Copenhagen primary schools to a single school on the Copenhagen site would make best use of the staff expertise and enable the merged school to be financially viable.

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