

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR THE DISCONTINUANCE OF ODESSA INFANT SCHOOL

1. Contact details (name and address of proposer)

London Borough of Newham
Newham Dockside
1000 Dockside Road,
London, E16 2QU
Tel: 02033733144
Email: schoolplaceplanning@newham.gov.uk

1b. Name, address and category of school proposed to be discontinued:

Odessa Infant School (Community school)
Wellington Road,
Forest Gate, E7 9BY

2. Implementation

The proposed date for the closure is 31st August 2026.

3. Reason for closure

The Local Authority has brought forward the proposal as an amalgamation of Odessa Infant and St. James CoE and Junior Schools as it will be in the best educational interest of current and future pupils.

Odessa Infant School is 1 of 8 Newham maintained schools in budget deficit (as of March 2025). Although Odessa has stable pupil numbers, the deficit is in part due to an increase in pupil numbers with special educational needs & disability (SEND) and insufficient funding

The proposed amalgamation would help sustain and maintain Odessa's financial stability by merging it with the neighbouring St. James' Junior School, which is Voluntary Controlled and not forecasting a deficit.

If the amalgamation is not agreed, this will mean significant challenges to Odessa Infant School as they will be unable to operate effectively up to a point that they may become unsustainable, with substantial financial implications for the local authority.

4. Pupil numbers and admissions

Odessa Infant School is a maintained community school for pupils aged 3-7. The school has a published admission number (PAN) of 90 in each year group giving a total of 270 places excluding the nursery provision. However, it has successfully consulted on a permanent PAN reduction from 90 to 60 per year group, to be implemented from 1 September 2026.

As at the January 2025 census the school had 159 pupils on roll of which, 92 were boys and 67 were girls. Of the on roll numbers, 34 pupils have been identified as having special educational needs; of which 24 were on SEN support and 10 had an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

There were 46 children on roll at the school-based nursery provision.

The school does not have any boarding provision or provide educational provision recognised by the local authority as being reserved for children with special educational needs

5. Displaced pupils

No pupils will be displaced. All pupils attending Odessa Infant School at the time of its closure will automatically transfer onto the roll of the enlarged Primary School

6. Impact on the community

There will be no impact on the community through the closure of Odessa Infant School as the current school site will form part of the single primary School and will serve the same community.

7. Rural primary schools

Not applicable

8. Balance of denominational provision

Not applicable

9. Maintained nursery schools

A school-based nursery provision currently exists at Odessa Infant School.

The enlarged primary school will include this provision, and local parents will still be able to access the nursery provision.

10. Sixth form provision

Not applicable

11. Special educational needs provision

Odessa Infant is an inclusive school and does not provide educational provision recognised by the local authority as being reserved for children with special educational needs. Odessa Infant has 10 pupils with Education Health and Care plan; their needs will continue to be met in the amalgamated single Primary School.

12. Travel

The new Primary School will utilise the site of both Odessa Infant and St. James' CoE Junior Schools, therefore, there will be no change in the travel journey to the new amalgamated single primary school.

13. Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal either by **emailing:** Schoolplaceplanning@newham.gov.uk or **writing to:** Education Access and Sufficiency, Children and Young People Service. 2nd Floor, Newham Dockside 1000 Dockside Road, London, E16 2QU.

The closing date for receipt of responses to the representation period is **17 December 2025 at 5pm.**