

Consultation on the potential closure of Calverton Primary School

Share your views with us by Monday 14 July 2025

London Borough of Newham is consulting on a proposal to close Calverton Primary School. This is the first stage in a statutory process that we have to follow before a decision is taken on whether or not the closure will go ahead.

This document forms part of a six-week public consultation, setting out the reasons for the proposal and seeking your views and comments about it.

Background

The Council has a statutory responsibility to both ensure that there are sufficient school places for every child that needs one and that schools provide high quality education for all children, whilst remaining financially secure.

Many London areas, including Newham, have seen a significant and continuing decline in pupil numbers. Apart from the decline in birth rate, Brexit, the impact of Covid-19 pandemic and there is also evidence that lack of affordable housing for families and current economic factors have also had an effect on mobility and drop in pupil numbers.

The number of children in Newham mainstream primary schools decreased between 2019 and 2024 by 2,297, with no projected increase expected in the next five years. This ongoing trend has meant that 23% of the reception places in Newham were unfilled at the October census 2024 count, leaving schools struggling to fill up to their published admission numbers (PAN).

With school funding primarily determined by the number of children on roll, and falling rolls equate to reduced funding; some schools are currently facing budgetary reductions and pressures on their finances.

A school that is running at a large deficit will almost inevitably see performance and standards fall over time, as it will not be able to afford the staff and resources to provide high quality, inclusive learning.

Why is the Council consulting on a proposal to close Calverton Primary school?

Calverton Primary School is one of the schools whose pupil numbers have been falling at a significantly higher rate than most other schools.

The reduction of pupils joining the school has meant that it is currently operating temporarily as a one form entry instead of a three form of entry school, thereby resulting in a significant income loss and an unrecoverable budget deficit.

The table below shows the number of unfilled places against the school's PAN since 2020.

	Spring 20 census	Spring 21 census	Spring 22 census	Spring 23 census	Spring 24 census	Spring 25 census
No. of unfilled Rec. - Yr.6 places	209	229	245	285	340	191
% of unfilled Rec. - Yr.6 places	33%	36%	39%	45%	54%	45%
Published admission number	630	630	630	630	630	420

This year on year drop in numbers and smaller class sizes means that the school's viability and long term sustainability is at risk with no immediate prospect of reaching pupil capacity levels to enable a reduction or recovery of the accumulated deficit over a reasonable period.

This will unavoidably impact on its ability to continue delivering high quality education for children and will have a negative impact on the wellbeing of staff at the school.

That is why Newham's Cabinet took the difficult decision on 6 May 2025 to proceed with a pre-statutory consultation on the future of the school.

What does this mean for the children and staff of Calverton Primary?

We know schools have very close ties to their local area and communities, that's why closing schools is one of the most difficult decisions to make. The Council will continue to provide support for the education and wellbeing of children and staff in the school.

It is important to note that no decisions on the closure has been made and no closure would take place before September 2026. This would only follow only with a statutory (formal) consultation with parents/carers, staff, governors of Calverton primary school and interested parties.

If a closure is decided, all children will be transferred to other schools. The Council will work closely to support families to make a planned transition to a new school for their children and will provide support to staff in seeking redeployment opportunities.

What will happen next?

This pre-statutory consultation ('Informal' consultation) stage of the process will run from **Monday 2 June to Monday 14 July 2025**.

All views received during this informal consultation period including at engagement meetings will be considered before we can proceed to the next stage of the process.

How do I respond to this consultation?

We kindly ask that you provide any feedback/comments on the consultation proposal so we can take all views into consideration.

You can make your views known by completing the consultation response questionnaire online by clicking [here](#)

The deadline for consultation response is Monday 14 July 2025.

We have included a **frequently asked questions (FAQ) document**, which will help answer any questions you may have.

Representatives of the governing body and Newham Council officers will discuss the proposal with staff of Calverton primary at a meeting on **Thursday 12 June 2025 at 3.30pm in the school**.

A meeting has been arranged for parents/carers of Calverton primary school with representatives of the governing body and Newham Council officers to learn more about the proposal and to ask any questions you may have regarding the proposal or the consultation.

Please see details of the meeting

Date: Thursday 19 June 2025

Time: 3.30pm

Location: Calverton Primary School

Statutory Process Timeline

Process timescale	Description
6 May 2025	Newham Council's cabinet took a decision to consult on the potential closure of Calverton primary school
2 June-14 July 2025	Stage 1: Pre-statutory consultation ('Informal' consultation)
July/August 2025	Feedback and views expressed by all interested parties during this informal consultation will be considered and included in a report for the council to consider and decide whether to take the proposal forward to the statutory stage of the process.
September 2025	Stage 2: Publication (Statutory proposal/Notice) If the council decides to proceed with the statutory stage of the process, then a statutory notice & closure proposal will be published.
September/October (4 week period)	Stage 3: Representation (Formal consultation) This publication of the notice would provide a final opportunity for any person to object or make comments on the proposal.
December/January	Stage 4: Decision The Cabinet would consider all the views received during the statutory representation period and make the final decision whether to agree the closure proposal or not.
From February 2026	If the decision is to proceed, arrangements are made to implement the Cabinet's decision.
31 August 2026	Stage 5: Implementation If the decision is to proceed, the closure proposal is implemented.

If you have any other questions regarding this proposal or you require this document in a different format, please email; schoolplaceplanning@newham.gov.uk

This e-consultation document is being sent electronically to all parents/carers, governors, teachers and support staff of Calverton Primary School.

Electronic copies will also be sent to all the Newham schools/academies including special schools, teaching and support staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at the school, Councillors, MPs, Church Dioceses, all primary schools governing boards/academy trusts, all early years' providers, community groups, other local authorities, and trade unions.

