



Southwark Diocesan
Board of Education
Multi-Academy Trust

SCHOOL AMALGAMATION (TECHNICAL CLOSURE) BUSINESS CASE

THE MINSTER NUSERY & INFANT SCHOOL &
THE MINSTER JUNIOR SCHOOL, CROYDON.

Formal Proposal to Amalgamate (technical closure)

The Minster Nursery & Infant School and The Minster Junior School

Consultation Period:

12th June 2026 to 13th July 2026

Introduction

The SDBE Multi Academy Trust are undertaking a formal consultation on the proposed amalgamation of The Minster Nursery & Infant School and The Minster Junior School to form a single Primary School.

In order to amalgamate and comply with statutory guidance, it is proposed that The Minster Nursery & Infant School would (technically) close, with The Minster Junior School extending its age range to accommodate all primary-aged children from the two schools within the same buildings.

Public Notice

Notice is given in accordance with section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that the SDBE Multi Academy Trust is proposing to discontinue (technically close) The Minster Nursery & Infant School.

Notice is also given in accordance with section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that SDBE Multi Academy Trust is proposing to make prescribed alterations to The Minster Junior School.

The prescribed alterations proposed are:

- Extend the age range of The Minster Junior School to accommodate pupils from Nursery to Year 6
- Increase the PAN at The Minster Junior School to 600 pupils (Nursery to Year 6), combining the current total PAN of both The Minster Nursery and Infant School (240) and The Minster Junior School (360).

Contact Details

Name and address of proposer:

SDBE Multi Academy Trust, 48 Union Street, London, SE11TD.

Schools proposed to be amalgamated:

The Minster Nursery & Infant School, Warrington Road, Croydon CR0 4BH, URN: 101791 (Ofsted Good)
and,
The Minster Junior School, Warrington Road, Croydon CR0 4BH, URN: 101790, (Ofsted Good)

Process Observed

This proposal is published following Department for Education statutory guidance on "making significant changes to maintained schools".

Type of Proposal

This is the proposed closure of The Minster Nursery & Infant School and the expansion of the age range of The Minster Junior School to create a primary school which will include all pupils from both schools.

Proposal

The SDBE Multi Academy Trust is consulting on a proposal to amalgamate The Minster Nursery and Infant School and The Minster Junior School to create a single primary school.

The proposed primary school would continue to operate with the current combined Published Admission Number (PAN) of 600 pupils, serving children from Nursery through to Year 6.

For clarity, the existing collective PAN of 600 places is currently distributed across the two schools as follows:

- The Minster Nursery and Infant School: 240 places
- The Minster Junior School: 360 places

The proposal would not increase the overall number of pupil places available. Rather, it would bring the two schools together under a single primary school structure while maintaining the current total capacity.

The proposed process involves:

- Closing (technically) The Minster Nursery & Infant School, with all pupils transferring to The Minster Junior School; and,
- Extending the age range of The Minster Junior School from Nursery to Year 6, and renaming it to reflect its primary status; The Minster Church of England Primary School.

The new primary school would continue to offer nursery provision and would include all existing pupils from both schools.

It is important to note:

- No buildings or property will be sold as a result of the amalgamation
- No children will be displaced
- There will be no change in overall pupil numbers as a result of the proposal
- Children will continue to be educated on the same site(s)
- The term "closure" is purely technical and does not affect pupils, staff or provision

Implementation Date

Subject to Department for Education approval, it is proposed that The Minster Nursery & Infant School would close on/or after 31st August 2027 and The Minster Junior School would expand to become a primary school on the same date.

Reason for Amalgamation

The proposer sees a range of benefits in combining the schools into a single primary school, including:

- A consistent approach to teaching and learning across all key stages
- Stronger continuity of curriculum, pedagogy and pastoral support
- Improved opportunities for pupils to work and learn across phases
- Simplified communication and engagement with families
- Removal of the need for a Year 2 to Year 3 transfer process
- Greater opportunities for staff development and career progression
- Increased efficiency and better use of resources through economies of scale

Both schools currently serve the same community and share the same site, which makes amalgamation a natural progression.

For some years, the two schools have in all, but name, been working together as one school. There is a single governing body, a shared leadership team, a single budget, ever greater alignment in how we use resources, timetable learning and communicate with families. All of this has helped to create a stronger experience for our children and our community.

Objectives

The proposal is intended to improve educational standards and provide a coherent and continuous primary experience.

The amalgamation will support:

- A unified curriculum from Nursery to Year 6
- Consistent expectations for teaching and behaviour
- Stronger collaboration between staff
- A smooth transition for pupils across phases
- Improved economies of scale by having single procurement contracts and licences as opposed to two

This approach supports improved outcomes and a more stable educational journey for all pupils.

Displaced Pupils

No pupils will be displaced.

All pupils at The Minster Nursery & Infant School will be able to transfer into the expanded primary school. Following the amalgamation, pupils in Year 2 will transition into Year 3 without the need for a new application as is currently the case.

Staffing

There are no changes proposed to the staff structure, terms or conditions as part of this amalgamation. The Trust is the employer and remains the employer whether there is one school or two. This process will not necessitate any restructures.

Impact on the Community

The schools serve the same community and are located on a shared site.

There will be no impact on travel arrangements. The proposal provides greater continuity for families and strengthens community cohesion through a single primary school.

Rural Primary Schools

Not applicable.

Balance of Denominational Provision

The schools have a Christian denomination through the Church of England, and the proposal maintains this balance.

Early Years Provision

Nursery provision will continue as part of the primary school. There will be no change to access or availability for local families.

Effect on Other Educational Establishments

There is expected to be minimal impact on other schools. Pupils currently transition between the two schools, and this proposal formalises that pathway within a single institution. Parents will continue to retain the right to apply for alternative schools if they wish.

Special Educational Needs

Pupils with SEND will continue to receive the same level of support within the primary school.

Travel

There are no expected travel implications, as pupils will continue to attend the same site(s).

Financial Implications

The General Annual Grant represents the majority of the funding the schools receive. Following amalgamation, the school will receive a single lump sum allocation rather than two. While this reduces funding, it is expected that the benefits of operating as one school with reduced software, licences, procurement, and service level agreements will offset this. Funding levels will continue to be driven primarily by pupil numbers.

Project Costs

There are no significant project costs beyond those associated with the statutory process.

Process for Making Representations

During the consultation window, any person may object to, support, or comment on the proposal.

Responses can be made via:

- Online consultation: <https://www.minsterschools.co.uk/consultation/>
- Email: office@minsterschools.co.uk
- Post: The Minster Schools Warrington Road Croydon CR0 4BH

All responses must be received by 13 July 2026.

Decision

The Department for Education will make the final decision.

The decision will be made within two months of the close of consultation and communicated to all stakeholders.

Availability of Proposal

This proposal is available via:

- The Minster Nursery & Infant School website
- The Minster Junior School website
- The Trust website
- The School Reception

Hard copies are available on request.