



Southwark Diocesan
Board of Education
Multi-Academy Trust

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT SCHOOL AMALGAMATION (TECHNICAL CLOSURE)

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 with effect on/after 1st September 2027, if approved.

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.

Have Your Say

You can complete the short consultation survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H6HB5WQ>

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.

Process and Timescale

STAGE	DESCRIPTION	TIMESCALE
1	Consultation period	12 June 2026 to 13 th July 2026
2	Decision	31 August 2026
3	Implementation	On/after September 2027, if approved

What happens next?

At the end of the consultation period any objections to, or comments on, the proposal will be considered by the governing bodies of the schools, and a decision will be taken by the Trust on the proposal and whether to propose to the Department for Education for approval.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
Why are the schools proposing to amalgamate?	To formally bring together the Infant and Junior Schools into a single primary school, building on existing shared leadership, governance, budget and site arrangements.
What exactly is being proposed?	The Infant School would technically close, the Junior School would extend its age range from Nursery to Year 6, and be renamed The Minster Church of England Primary School.
Will the standard of education be affected?	No, as in reality, both schools already work together as one. We think it will actually give the school more capacity to drive standards even further as the schools' will not have multiple inspections by Ofsted and SIAMS, consuming their time.

Will the opening and closing time of the school change?	No. We propose to keep the same times of the day.
Does this mean a school is shutting down?	No. The term 'closure' is a legal and technical requirement. Education will continue on the same site with the same community.
Will my child lose their school place?	No. All pupils currently attending either school will continue their education within the new primary school.
Will children have to move to a different site?	No. Children will continue to learn on the existing site and in the existing buildings.
Will there be changes to class sizes?	No. The overall number of places will remain the same.
Will there still be a nursery?	Yes. Nursery provision will continue as part of the new primary school.
What benefits will the amalgamation bring?	A seamless Nursery to Year 6 journey, stronger curriculum continuity, simpler communication, improved pastoral support and greater efficiency.
Will parents still need to apply for a Year 3 place?	No. Children will move through the primary school without a separate Year 3 transfer process.
Will the school's Christian character change?	No. The school will remain a Church of England school within the SDBE Multi Academy Trust.
Will support for children with SEND change?	No. Existing SEND support and provision will continue.
Will there be changes to staffing?	No staffing changes, restructures or changes to terms and conditions are proposed.
Will any staff lose their jobs?	No. No redundancies are proposed as part of the amalgamation.
Will school uniforms change?	There are currently no proposals to change the uniform.
Will school opening times change?	No changes to the school day are proposed.
Will traffic or parking increase?	No significant change is expected because pupil numbers will remain the same.
Will there be any building works?	No major building works are proposed.
Will any school land or buildings be sold?	No. There are no proposals to sell land, buildings or school assets.
What impact will this have on local residents?	Minimal impact is expected because there will be no increase in pupil numbers or site expansion.
What impact will this have on local businesses?	No material impact is anticipated as the school will continue operating on the same site.
Why is this financially beneficial?	It reduces duplication and allows more efficient use of resources and procurement.
Who will make the final decision?	The Department for Education will make the final decision after considering consultation responses.
When would the change happen?	Subject to approval, the proposed implementation date is 31 August 2027.
How can I share my views?	Responses can be submitted online, by email or by post during the consultation period.
Where can I read the full proposal?	The proposal is available on the school and Trust websites, at reception and in hard copy on request. (<i>This can be found on our website.</i>)
Will the admissions policy change?	There are currently no proposals to change admissions arrangements as part of the amalgamation.
Will the school's name definitely change?	The proposed name is The Minster Church of England Primary School, subject to approval.
What happens if the proposal is not approved?	The schools would continue operating under their current arrangements.
Who owns the land and buildings after amalgamation?	The ownership arrangements remain unchanged and the site continues to be used for educational purposes. (<i>The Diocese of Southwark own the land and buildings of the school.</i>)
Will there be any impact on breakfast clubs, wraparound	No changes are currently proposed to these services.

care or extracurricular activities?	
Will the Governing Body/Board change?	No. One Governing Body currently serve both schools, and this will remain the same.
What happens if a significant number of respondents oppose the change?	All views will be taken into consideration as part of the decision-making process. However, the consultation is not a vote, it is about listening to what residents think about the proposal and the impact of the proposed change.
What happens at the end of the consultation?	All feedback will be collated and analysed. A consultation outcomes report will be produced which will be published on the school's and Diocese website.