FAQs

Why was Tiverton primary school chosen for this consultation?

The situation regarding falling pupil rolls and surplus primary school places is kept under constant review. Our annual **School Place Planning report** is a key document that outlines historic data on school place demand and projected future demand. It, along with a range of other school-level data has helped the council decide which schools are best placed to be consulted on options for the future.

The council is particularly mindful of the overall primary roll position and future pupil roll projections of Tiverton Primary School and the schools' budget position at the end of the 2023/24 financial year. A consultation on the options for the future of the school has been triggered by a lack of demand for places at the school against a backdrop of falling demand in PA3 coupled with concerns about the long-term financial viability of the school.

Are falling pupil rolls a Haringey issue?

No. Most boroughs across London have been experiencing sharp falls in demand for primary school places for several years now. For instance, our neighbouring borough Hackney permanently closed four primary schools in August 2024 in response to this problem and is currently consulting on changes that would affect up to six primary schools on 31 August 2025.

The reasons for the decline are varied but related to lower birth rates; the cap on rent benefits; families leaving the capital as a result of the housing crisis; Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic.

What has already been done to cope with falls in the number of pupils?

The council is continually working with schools to mitigate the effects of falling pupil rolls. Measures taken so far include staffing restructures, reducing planned admission numbers, combining year groups and classes in the school, establishing local school partnerships to achieve savings, limiting extra-curricular activities such as school trips, and establishing school budget deficit recovery plans. However, these measures have not, in every case, managed to avoid the need to consider other options.

Have any decisions been made already on the future of Tiverton Primary school?

No. This consultation aims to examine options and receive the views and opinions of affected stakeholders.

What will be done to ensure the wellbeing of all children and families if they need to change schools?

Our primary schools are very experienced in supporting children that transition to secondary schools, as well as those that are transferring from one school to another during the school year. If the final decision of the Cabinet is to proceed with closure or amalgamation, we will support families and children to ensure that transition plans have as little impact as possible on the children's wellbeing, meeting the needs of those most vulnerable.

Will there be more support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)?

All schools in Haringey provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for children with SEND. Many of our schools have a high number of pupils with SEND, and one of our priorities in recent years has been to deliver more new SEND places in the borough.

If an amalgamation or closure was progressed, children with SEND, with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), will receive additional support to ensure a smooth transition.

What will happen with the staff of the schools affected?

In the event that Tiverton Primary School amalgamates or closes, the council will do everything it can to help staff find alternative roles. However, as a last resort, some staff will be offered redundancy, which the council hopes would be managed through voluntary redundancies and retirements package.

We will work with the leadership team of Tiverton Primary School to assess the full impact on staff. Staff and all other relevant parties including trade unions would be consulted about any potential changes.

How will you ensure standards of teaching are maintained between now and any potential merger/closure?

Whilst options for the future of the school are being considered, the council remains firmly committed to ensuring that all pupils on roll are receiving an excellent education that supports them in reaching their potential. Senior leaders are robustly addressing educational standards with support from the council's school improvement partner, Haringey Education Partnership (HEP). Staff will continue to access training and development in the same way.

What if demand for school places increases and there is more need for school places in the future?

Our 2024 School Place Planning report shows that we are projected to have surpluses of spaces in Reception of around 400 places between now and the end of the decade should action not be undertaken. There is therefore a lot of spare capacity in the system and even if existing primary schools reduced their entry (as many have done in recent years including Tiverton) they will still retain the physical capacity to revert to their original capacity if required. That said our projections up until 2030 do not indicate any additional demand for primary school places.

Are other primary schools at risk? Can the council guarantee that the schools children would move to wouldn't also close in a few years?

Other primary schools are at risk due to falling pupil rolls across the borough. Reducing the number of school places will help the finances of many schools but there can be no guarantee that additional schools won't also need to close in future if pupil rolls continue to fall.

Will secondary schools need to reduce in future years?

We are currently working closely with all our secondary and all-through schools to ensure their capacity matches well with falls we have already started to see in demand. The good results and popularity of Haringey secondary schools will help to protect them from the greatest impact. We are working with our secondary schools to mitigate the future risks.

Can't the council receive more funding for schools?

No. Funding for school places is nationally set and allocated according to pupil numbers. The council has to ensure sufficiency of school places but also ensure there isn't an over-provision of school places as well.

Are there any housing development plans in the areas impacted that would affect the demand for school places?

All housing developments have been incorporated into our calculations for school rolls in PA3 where Tiverton primary school is located. Our latest 2024 School Place Planning report continues to show that future projections for PA3 remain low.

Will there still be sufficient places for all school aged children if all the schools close?

Yes. There will be enough primary school places both in PA3 and across the whole borough. As of October 2024, there are over 250 surplus reception places in Haringey.

Will families have enough time to choose an alternative place for their children if the council decides to close Tiverton Primary school?

In the case of a school closure, families will be supported to secure a place at an alternative school near to their home. The Haringey School Admissions Service will assist parents with information and guidance and support them to apply for alternative schools.
If a proposal to amalgamate is implemented, families will have a guaranteed place at the continuing school. Parents will not need to apply because their child will automatically transfer at the end of the school year.

Parents also have a right to secure a place at an alternative school at any time via the council's In Year Admissions process. Although, we encourage families to keep their children at their current school through to the end of the school year.

The process will be different for children with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP). For these families, parents will be contacted as soon as possible to begin discussion about the transition to alternative schools, in case the council decides to implement proposals in relation to an amalgamation or closure.