

Appendix 2

Summary Report on the consultation on the proposal to close

Mount Carmel Catholic College for Girls

1 Consultation process

The proposal to close Mount Carmel Catholic College for Girls was published by the Governing Body on 21 September 2016.

Consultation on the closure proposal closed 2 November 2016

Consultation document and Questionnaire sent to all families with daughters currently attending Mount Carmel Catholic College for Girls:

Made available on school web-site

Mail drop to local neighbourhood including all local schools and schools in neighbouring boroughs

Informal drop-in and information-giving sessions for local communities held at the school throughout the consultation period

Local Ward Councillors informed, letter sent to inform Secretary of State for Education of proposed school closure

Mail-box established at Islington Council to receive any comments throughout the consultation period Local Press published details of Consultation process and notification of duration and how to respond

2 Responses to the Consultation

The number of responses received – Total = 7

5 = parents

1 = student

1 = member of the community

6 respondents stated that they had read the consultation document

6 respondents agreed that the reasons for proposing to close the school were clear

6 respondents agreed with the proposal to close the school (of which) one respondent said it was an 'excellent decision' – no further elaboration was provided in addition to this comment.

1 respondent said they were 'really unhappy' about the proposal to close the school. – no further elaboration was provided in addition to this comment.

3. Commentary on Responses: The main points raised in the consultation responses are:

3.1 'I am really unhappy about the proposal to close the school'

Observation

3.2 The assumption taken from this comment is that the respondent is unhappy with the proposal to close the school in its existing form as a girls' Catholic college and re-open as co-educational non-denominational academy school

3.3 In direct contrast to this comment the only other one received said that the proposal to close the school and re-open as a Co-educational non-denominational academy school is an excellent idea.

Conclusion

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors supported by officers from Islington Council and the Diocese of Westminster have worked together during the period from ^t February 2016 when the Governing Body first decided to explore the option of closing the school and its replacement by a mixed non-denominational academy on the school site from September 2017.

They have enabled the school and its community to participate in a range of events, meetings and discussion groups to understand, explore and question the reasons for the proposed closure.

It is testament to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors efforts that so few responses (and only one objection) to the closure proposal have been received.

It is clear from the lack of objections to the closure proposal that the local community understands the reasons why Mount Carmel Catholic College for Girls is no longer viable in its current format and has embraced the decision to seek to open a non-denominational co-educational academy school on the Mount Carmel school site

The evidence that the community supports the decision to close Mount Carmel Catholic College for Girls and immediately open the City of London Academy Highgate Hill (COLAHH) on the existing school site is manifest in the level of interest generated by the Admissions applications submitted to attend the proposed new school in September 2017 currently standing at 299 (as at November 2016) compared to last year's final figure of 52.