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La Sainte Union

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Future of La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School

Camden

Thank you for attending this session today

We want to acknowledge that this consultation about your child's school may be causing you and them some anxiety and concern. We want to reassure you that no decisions have been made at this stage.

The consultation provides 3 options for you to consider, and we want to hear your thoughts on these and any other ideas or suggestions you may have.



Marcus Boyland
Cabinet Member for
Best Start for Children
and Families



Tim Aldridge
Executive Director
Children and Learning



Vikram Hansrani
Director of Education
Commissioning and
Inclusion

Why are we consulting?

Falling birth rates, as well as **families moving out of London**, mean there are fewer children to take up school places.

Births in Camden have fallen by approx. 28.8% since 2015

This impacts the number of secondary school places needed in Camden. In Camden in January 2026:

- There were **1,585** places available for Year 7. However, there were only 1,209 pupils.
- Across all secondary year groups, there were **8,210** places available. However, there were only 6,974 pupils.

Why are we consulting?

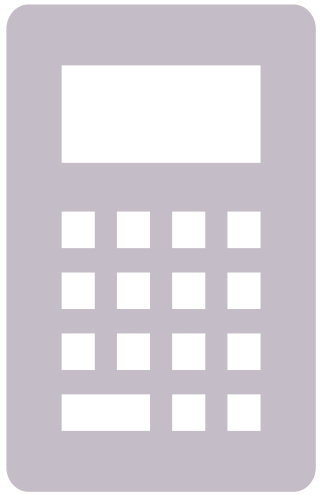
School Place Forecasts show that fewer children are expected to need Year 7 places, which means more school places are likely to remain empty.

By 2032 - 33:

- **Year 7:** Demand is projected to fall, leaving 25% of places unfilled
- **All secondary year groups**: Demand is projected to fall, leaving 26% of places unfilled



Why are we consulting?



Schools get most of their funding based on how many pupils attend a school.

Fewer pupils means less funding for schools, while costs like staffing and buildings often remain high. This can create financial pressure, with some schools spending more than they bring in. This may cause a risk to educational quality if resources are spread too thinly.

Some schools are already facing financial difficulties because of falling pupil numbers. La Sainte Union is one of those schools.

Why are we consulting?

La Sainte Union Catholic Secondary School has been significantly affected by falling pupil numbers.

For the 25/26 school year, La Sainte Union had:

- 120 places available at Year 7, but only **25** pupils.
- For Years 7 – Year 11, La Sainte Union had 780 places available, but only **292** pupils.

In March 2026, the school was in a £1,263,711 deficit. La Sainte Union have projected that the deficit will increase to **£6,476 million** by March 2029.

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What options are we consulting on?

No decisions have been made.
We have included some options in the consultation for your views:

1	Reduce number of places offered at La Sainte Union in Year 7
2	For La Sainte Union to federate with another secondary school
3	Close La Sainte Union Year 7 to Year 11 school provision, and keep post-16 provision (Years 12 – 13/14), with some changes
4	Full closure of La Sainte Union (Year 7 to Year 14)

What are we consulting on?

Option	What does this mean?	Anything else I should know?
Option 1: Reducing the number of Year 7 places available	To have only 90 Year 7 places available (currently 120)	No impact on current pupils identified

What are we consulting on?

Option	What does this mean?	Anything else I should know?
Option 2: La Sainte Union enters a federation with another school	Schools enter into a collaboration agreement	Schools may be able to share staff and resources

What are we consulting on?

Option	What does this mean?	Anything else I should know?
Option 3: Close Years 7 to 11. Keep post-16 provision	The secondary school part of La Sainte Union is closed, and pupils are supported to apply to other schools	Post-16 provision: La Sainte Union is part of a consortium with other schools

What are we consulting on?

Option	What does this mean?	Anything else I should know?
Option 4: Fully close La Sainte Union (Years 7 to 14)	La Sainte Union is closed, and pupils are supported to apply to other schools	The post-16 consortium will be impacted

Hearing from you:

Other Options?

We would like to hear whether you have alternative ideas as to how we can respond to the number of empty school places.

When looking at the options for La Sainte Union, it might be helpful for you to consider

1. Contributes towards reducing the levels of empty school places in Camden
2. Contributes to securing a viable future for the school
3. Helps to ensure that current and future pupils will continue to receive a high standard of education in a safe and inclusive environment

What happens next?

We will review your feedback and the feedback from the other consultation responses. We will update you early next year, to ensure we can properly consider all the feedback.