

Decision by Hackney Cabinet to agree a proposal to change Our Lady's Catholic Girls' school to a co-educational Catholic School, by 1st September 2024.

On 24 July 2023, Hackney Cabinet agreed the proposal submitted by the Governing Body of Our Lady's Catholic Girls' School, to become a co-educational (mixed) School by 1st September 2024.

The impact of fewer secondary aged pupils has been evident at Our Lady's Catholic Girls' School for several years, affecting the school's finances and long term sustainability. The school has carefully considered both future income and expenditure in light of the projected fall in roll numbers and developed a medium term financial plan, proposing co-education.

The Governing Body carried out a consultation for four weeks starting on 26 April - 26 May 2023. On the basis of the responses received during the consultation period, a decision was made to issue a statutory notice which commenced on 9 June 2023 to 7 July 2023. During this period no representations were received. Hackney Cabinet agreed the proposal on 24 July 2023, subject to formal approval from the Archbishop of the RC Diocese of Westminster and the Schools' Adjudicator.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block, which is awarded to fund education provision, is primarily calculated using pupil numbers and pupil characteristics. Schools are funded on a formula basis and the number of pupils attending the school drives the level of funding received by a school. As such, schools with unfilled places are under increased financial challenge and struggle with financial sustainability.

Hackney Council agrees that by increasing the demand for places by changing from a single sexed girls' school to a co-educational (mixed) school, could increase the number of pupils who choose to attend the school. This could help the school to continue to operate within their funding allocations over the medium to long term.

The school currently has a PAN (Published Admission Number) of 120 which will not increase. The change will be implemented over time, with boys joining the school in Year 7 as they move from primary education. The first intake of boys will be in September 2024. Sixth form provision at Our Lady's High School will continue as mixed gender provision.

Paul Senior

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Senior'.

Interim Director of Education and Inclusion
28 July 2023

