



# OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

Thank you to those of you who have already commented on our Federation Consultation. The consultation lasts until 22<sup>nd</sup> November so there is still time to share any comments or ideas.

We are attaching the questions we have received so far and will add to these as new comments arise.

Due to issues regarding the availability of the independent consultant, Helen Jenner, we have had to change the date of the zoom meeting for parents and staff. This will now take place on 18<sup>th</sup> November, at 6pm. The log in details remain the same:

## **Topic: Children's House and Old Palace Consultation Zoom Meeting**

Time: Nov 18, 2024 18:00

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88647517192?pwd=bacrwaikXzDdVCPNYaUGo4t8nDzIcT.1>

Meeting ID: 886 4751 7192

Passcode: 096348

The Governing Bodies will consider the proposals on 28<sup>th</sup> November and we will let you know the outcome before the end of term.

Kind Regards

**Ms Dolamore & Mr Palmer**



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL  
2023 - 2024



EXCELLENCE MARK  
Training & Development



Healthy School



Headteacher: Mr G. Palmer B.A. (Hons)

**Summary of Questions asked during Children’s House and Old Palace Schools Federation proposal.**

<b><u>Questions Raised</u></b>	<b><u>Responses</u></b>
How will our children be affected?	Children at both schools will continue to attend sites as they do now, but the schools will work more closely together. This should help transition to primary school but also protect the unique provision at Children’s House Nursery, including the Deaf Support Base.
Will transition to primary school be affected?	The transition to primary school will not be affected. Children have to apply for their primary school place at 5 in all primary schools. Parents will have the option to apply for any primary school, and being at Children’s House Nursery does not ensure a place at Old Palace, Marnar or any other Primary School. The staff at all sites will continue to work closely together to support transition for the children, being one school is likely to further improve this process. Transition processes for children in the Deaf Support Base will continue as they are now.
Will staff lose their jobs	The only role significantly affected by the proposed federation is that of the Nursery School Headteacher. The Primary School Headteacher would become Executive Headteacher across both schools, but other senior leaders will retain their posts.
What will happen to the wonderful Children’s House Headteacher?	Becky is happy with these proposals and her skills are hugely valued by the governors and Tower Hamlets. Any staff member in Tower Hamlets whose job no longer exists, through no fault of their own is supported to access redeployment (with salary protection) or can choose voluntary redundancy (with additional severance).
How will early years quality be protected with an Executive Headteacher, with limited early years experience?	Senior leaders are key to setting the ethos and vision across a staff team. Strong leadership teams are able to build the team and vision for many children and staff. Our schools are fortunate in having very strong early years provision, the Governors at Old Palace are committed to ensuring the governing body is supplemented to ensure

	<p>a focus on maintaining outstanding early years provision. Old Palace senior leaders are excited to learn about provision for younger children to extend their outstanding reception provision and Children's House leaders are pleased to be building on their outstanding practice to link more closely with the reception provision.</p>
<p>What will happen to the Deaf Support Base?</p>	<p>The Deaf Support Base is part of the outstanding Children's House provision and there are no plans to change this in any way. Old Palace Governors and senior leaders fully recognise the quality and importance of this provision.</p>
<p>Will there be joint training for staff?</p>	<p>Absolutely! Training for the Summer Term will focus on coming together and developing new and shared expertise, particularly for early years provision and continuity.</p>
<p>Will the Children's House training for parent continue?</p>	<p>Yes, there are no plans to change any of the Children's House provision.</p>
<p>The partnership between Children's House and Rachel Keeling Nursery has been helpful, we are worried the Nursery might feel isolated without the previous links.</p>	<p>Leaders and governors will ensure that staff continue to benefit from work across early years partnerships. There is no reason why schools cannot support each other across partnerships.</p>
<p>Will the Governing Body know enough about early years and deaf provision?</p>	<p>It is too soon in the consultation process to confirm the possible arrangements. Because of the relative sizes of the schools Old Palace School Governing Body will be the Governing Body for the federated schools. A Steering Group with an independent chair and representatives from both Governing Bodies has been set up to help prepare for the possible changes. Every LA Governing Body has an "Instrument of Governance" that has to be approved by the Local Authority. Old Palace Governing Body are likely to consider the addition of further governors with early years experience and , if possible experience of deaf provision</p>
<p>Will parents' voices be heard?</p>	<p>Governors at both schools are keen to listen to and respond to parents' queries and ideas, please continue to let us know your thoughts so we can consider all perspectives before reaching our decision.</p>

	Please speak with your Headteacher, return your response and/or attend the zoom consultation meeting on 18 <sup>th</sup> November
Will Children's House still offer the same range of early years provision?	There are no plans to change provision at Children's House. 2 year old, 15 hour, 30 hour and Deaf Support provisions will continue.