

## **Appendix B – Responses to Formal Consultation**

### **Bishop's Ward**

Johanna Primary School, Lower Marsh, SE1 7RH (VAB)

From: Maria Parry-Burns

I live on Wellington Mills TMO which is located precisely behind Oasis Hub Kennington Road, SEW1 7RH (VAC). The majority of residents are elderly and would find it a lot easier if they could vote in Oasis instead of the extra walk to Johanna Primary School off of The Cut.

The total amount of dwellings I believe here on Wellington Mills is just over a hundred so would not be a burden on the Oasis.

I hope you will change our polling station with a view to allowing more residents to vote.

### **Gipsy Hill Ward**

The Park Campus, Gipsy Road, London, SE27 9NP (NNC)

From: Mrs Laleh Laverick, Head of Park Campus Academy

Park Campus is a school for vulnerable and at risk teenagers who need to be at school to receive the therapeutic support needed. Also, given the safeguarding risks that closing the PRU poses for its pupils, moving the polling station a few years away would minimise the risk.

Previously, Park Campus site was 'Norwood Primary School' which is was closed and divided into 2 separate school; a school for infants (3-7 year olds) and a secondary pupil referral unit. The infant school is at the back of the park campus site, a matter of 2 minutes' walk.

Suggested alternative - Kingswood Lower Site, 55 Gipsy Road

As Kingswood Junior School (Polling District Code: NNB) up the road is already a polling station, it would be logical to move the polling station a few hundred yards from Park Campus site to Kingswood Lower Site. It would also support the parents of Kingswood School who have children at Kingswood Upper/ Lower sites (we have had many requests from the local community to put their case forward).

Furthermore, Kingswood is a locally maintained school and therefore access to the building for electoral purposes would be free.

From

Berridge Road Community Resources Centre, 13-17 Bridgetown Close, SE19 1JZ (NND) is incorrectly listed in the report as Berridge Road Community Church Hall, 2 Berridge Road, West Norwood, London, SE19 1EF

### **Clapham Town Ward**

Macaulay CE Primary School, Victoria Rise, Clapham, London, SW4 0NU

From: Annie C E Shaw

In my opinion using schools is not acceptable use of resources. Triggering childcare issues and stress for hundreds of parents in every school closed. This is not acceptable but lazy

use of available resources. Wandsworth has a policy of never closing schools as polling stations and this should be enshrined in law for other boroughs.

Other options include churches. There is a church at the far south end of Victoria Rise which could be used instead of Macaulay School (in the middle of Victoria Rise). Or the omnibus theatre on Clapham Common Northside. There is the Royal British Legion on Victoria Rise. Is there a room in Royal Trinity Hospice, on Clapham Common Northside round the corner from Battersea Rise that could be used? I'm sure they have function rooms. The Holy Trinity Church could host a polling station too. There are many options.

I am currently away so have no access to a printer or laptop with which to complete your forms. I sincerely hope Lambeth reforms its practice of using schools, it upsets parents and causes a significant issue for our employers too, has anyone ever thought to find of the financial impact on residents of this policy?

### **Herne Hill Ward**

Jessop Primary School, Lowden Road, Herne Hill, London, SE24 0BJ (NKC)

From: Kate Chhatwal

I am writing to record my objection to Jessop Primary School's continued use as a polling station. Indeed, I object to any school being used as a polling station where it disrupts children's learning, but it is in Jessop that I have particular interest.

In recent years, frequent general and local elections, and the referendum, have meant that children's education has been disrupted once, and sometimes twice, a year. This is not acceptable. It is considered so important that our children are in school that the school – with the support of Lambeth – can issue penalty notices to parents who take their children out of the school in term time. Yet, the council itself can deny 450 children at Jessop (and many more across the borough) a day's education whenever an election comes round. This is not right.

There is a knock-on impact too for the many working parents who have to take a day off or pay for childcare every time an election comes round.

I urge you to consider alternative polling stations, including Carnegie Library, which is nearby, council owned, has lift access, and a large empty room that was once a children's library. You could also consider the church which is next door to the school on Lowden Road.

I am copying the Headteacher at Jessop and Chair of the Friends of Jessop, who I am sure will want to make their own representations before the deadline of 13 October.

Best wishes, Kate

From Kenneth Baffoe, Head of School, Jessop Primary School and Children's Centre

I am writing to state my desire that Jessop Primary school is no longer considered/used as a polling station.

Among the many reasons for this include the disruption to teaching and learning. When used as a polling station the school is forced to close entirely. This closure usually results in a lost day of learning. This then creates a break in the sequence of lesson structure, preventing the vital interleaving of teaching (***currently considered an essential***

**component of exemplary practice by the department for education).** The fundamental impact of this being a loss of curriculum coverage leading to disjointed pupil outcomes.

Equally the school closures resulting from the school being used as a polling station often severely disrupt the lives of families, particularly working families. Some parents have often struggled to gain the understanding and support of their employers when the school has had to close. Some parents have reported that this has resulted in a loss of earnings due to time taken off work. There are also safeguarding implications associated with sudden or unplanned school closure. For some vulnerable pupils lacking consistent pastoral structure/support networks outside of school, the loss of routine can be troubling.

I believe there are suitable alternative public buildings very nearby that can successfully operate as a polling station. I would ask that you explore the use of these spaces to facilitate future polling so that our pupils and families are no longer negatively impacted by the disruptive fall out from uncertainties that currently characterise politics at both national and local levels.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards, Kenneth Baffoe

From: Rob Blackie, parent

I'm writing in response to your polling stations review.

1. It seems like a terrible use of public money to have polling stations at schools, and to shut the school.
2. We spend huge amounts on schools - around £8,000 per day the school is open. To close a school for a day essentially wastes this money.
3. When schools are closed we also impose huge costs on parents - because this is a random day it's quite possible that parents will spend £50-100 on childcare for this day alone, or lose that much in earnings - a huge amount. This is particularly bad for the almost 20% of pupils whose parents are on low incomes.

Multiply this by the school population and maybe £40,000 is lost in childcare costs or lost income.

4. If the government was starting from scratch there is no way that it would spend £48,000 to secure a polling station, when for a few hundred it could rent one elsewhere.
5. It's also possible to use school premises without closing the school - for instance borrowing a classroom or putting a large awning the playground.
6. If you are not willing to consider that option, I urge you to consider alternative polling stations, including Carnegie Library, which is nearby, council owned, has lift access. You could also consider the church which is next door to the school on Lowden Road.

Best wishes,

Rob Blackie.

From: Tamora Langley

I am writing to object to Jessop Primary School's use as a polling station. Indeed, I object to any school being used as a polling station where it disrupts children's learning. As a parent of two children attending Jessop I have a particular interest in the education of the children attending the school.

The frequent general and local elections, and the referendum, have meant my children's education has been disrupted once, and sometimes twice, a year. This is not acceptable. It is considered so important that our children are in school that the school – with the support of Lambeth – can issue penalty notices to parents who take their children out of the school in term time. Yet, the council itself can deny 450 children at Jessop (and many more across the borough) a day's education whenever an election comes rounds. This is not right.

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