



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOL CAMPAIGN (NSC), WANDSWORTH

The NSC comprises 1,500 parents in Wandsworth. We aim to create a small, socially inclusive neighbourhood secondary school, where teaching and learning opportunities enable students to become knowledgeable, confident, competent, and self-reliant citizens, fully prepared for adult life and the world of work. The school, parents and carers will work in partnership to ensure every child fulfils their potential. We have identified a suitable site for our 5FE and 6th Form school. We are also in discussion with a number of Education Providers who would operate our much-needed school.

The School Vision

To provide an environment where students are encouraged to achieve academically, the school will:

- Have an exceptional head teacher with an outstanding track record
- Have great teaching to ensure lessons are suitably challenging and accessible to all students
- Have high academic targets, to achieve excellent GCSE results in all subjects
- All students achieve at least grade B in English and Maths, with specific learning strategies in place to support this
- Provide good resources that underpin a broad, balanced curriculum
- Offer separate Physics, Chemistry and Biology at GCSE and A Level
- Create an eco-friendly and sustainable built environment
- Implement and manage a robust and green Travel Plan
- Develop the school as a keystone of the community

To support student's academic achievements we will ensure that:

- Behaviour is managed consistently and effectively
- Expert pastoral care is always available
- Children of all backgrounds will be educated together
- Parents have a real say in the way things are done
- We instil a lifelong love of learning in all our students

Background to the NSC

The NSC's goal is to deliver a state-funded secondary school in a part of Wandsworth that has many primary schools but no secondary provision. In that respect, we differ from other Parent Promoted schools – we do not want to close a 'failing' school and indeed accept there are several good schools already in Wandsworth. However, we struggle on distance grounds to gain access to the successful borough schools (which by definition are oversubscribed).

Here are the **key metrics** relating to the 11 borough secondary schools:

1. Of the 11 secondary schools, 7 are oversubscribed – for example, one of the more popular schools has a catchment zone of 0.4 miles, we live over 3 miles away;
2. As at Sept 2009, of the 346 surplus places, 50% relate to Catholic schools. Non-Catholics are not offered places on religious grounds.
3. Of the 2 schools that are left with surplus places, the % of pupils achieving 5 A*-C inc E&M are: 43% and 37%. We believe it reasonable to be offered a choice outside of these 2 schools.
4. Plans to expand all borough secondary schools under BSF will only dilute (not solve) the choice issue and may adversely impact quality benchmarks – two of the expanded BSF schools will have a NOR of +1,500.
5. For varied and unique local reasons, the borough has the lowest % in London of offering parents their 1st choice of school – 48%. As a result, our local Year 6 pupils disperse to 49 different secondary schools each year - a figure we find unacceptable.

In summary, on the basis of location, parental preference and standards as laid down in the EIA 2006, it is fair and reasonable to now provide Capital funding for a new school in a part of the Wandsworth that has no such school. Our borough has the lowest record of offering parental choice in London.