

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Council planning to change the use of the Former Charles Edward Brooke School?

The former Charles Edward Brooke school was formerly a maintained secondary school, which closed in 2012. The playgrounds were used to accommodate temporary buildings for the Cole St Gabriel College to decant to during the construction of its current site, the site has otherwise been unoccupied and remains vacant today.

The building is a complex, Grade II listed former London Board School, and is owned by London Borough of Lambeth. The property requires significant investment given the length of time it has been vacant. It has also attracted antisocial behaviour, including trespassing, squatting and vandalism.

The playgrounds, which are formed mostly of tarmac and informal areas around the building, are also in a very poor condition and the surfaces have been broken up by significant weed growth.

The Lambeth Local Education Authority has confirmed that the site is no longer required to meet education needs and is surplus to requirement.

What is Lambeth Council intending to do with the site?

The council is considering options for the future of the site, which may include conversion and development. A final decision on the future of the site has not yet been made, although it is expected that this may require a disposal of land interest in some or all of the site.

Have other schools in the borough been consulted as to whether they might need the school?

Yes, we have invited primary schools within a 0.5-mile radius and secondary schools within a 1-mile radius of the site to express an interest, should they wish to do so, in using the hard-standing playground areas, in the current condition and in connection with their school.

When will a decision be made on the future of the site?

The consultation process with local schools will last 6 weeks, following which Lambeth Council will formally submit an application to the Department for Education seeking the consent of the Secretary of State for Education under both Section 77 of the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 and Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010.

There is no fixed determination period for the application. The decision-making process will be based on the complexity of the site.

If consent is obtained, officers will make recommendations to members of the council, which may include conversion and development. A final decision on the future of the site has not yet been made, although it is expected that this may require a disposal of land interest of some or all the site.

How can I find more information about the consultation process?

We will be sharing an update on the next steps once the consultation ends on this webpage.