

Facilities and Student Experience:

Are the proposed properties large enough to accommodate the school programme?

We will have approximately 80 children at Elmore Street from Nursery to Reception and 120 at King Henry's Walk from Year 1 to Year 6 (circa 20 children per year). We are already licensed to accommodate 160 children over both sites and will be adding a further 40 children.

Like many London schools, we have a tight site and will rely on clever timetabling and the use of external facilities for sports and extended learning activities. For example, one key stage will eat an earlier lunch and then go into the playground, while the next key stage eats their lunch and then goes offsite to the KHW Adventure Playground or for sports activities. In this way, our facilities will not be overcrowded at any one time and quiet learning periods will not be disrupted by children playing outside.

How will you manage crowding at the main entrance gates at both sites?

Drop off and collection times at Elmore Street are already staggered depending on age, therefore we do not expect there to be congestion at these key times.

At King Henry's Walk, we have this year brought our Reception children collection time in line with Years 1 and 2 and have been experiencing congestion at the main gate. We are investigating several options for bike storage as we feel this is the major contributor to the problem, as children navigate their way through the playground and up the main path. We also feel that our existing book bags may be exacerbating the problem as children struggle to gather their helmets, lunch bags, book bags etc. We are considering rucksacks for the children and will write later in the year regarding this.

In the short term, we ask that parents consider a scooter for their child, rather than a bike. We will reorganise the playground in the coming weeks to allow more circulation space near the main gate. Should the above options not alleviate the problem, we may consider using our entrance on Queen Margaret's Grove and will constantly review our options as the school expands.

Will the playground at King Henry's Walk be large enough to accommodate more children?

Younger children tend to congregate around activities and play in a small area, while older children need a larger space to run and play large games, with breakout areas for groups to gather. We have found a wonderful new space for our pirate ship in a local adventure playground to create a larger space, as well as improve storage to de-clutter the playground. We are working with a school playground company to deliver a beautiful playground with equipment geared for older children and will keep some existing play equipment to see us through our transition phase. We won't have more than 3 year groups in the playground at any one time.

Why is Reception moving to Elmore Street in September 2024?

The Early Years Foundation Stage includes the Reception year and we plan to build a beautiful centre at Elmore Street to house this key stage. In addition to age-appropriate learning and play equipment and a free-flow indoor/outdoor play area, we will continue to employ teachers who will deliver a curriculum which will prepare children for the step up to Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2).

We will prepare our Reception children for the prep environment through weekly timetabled play sessions, dance, PE and assemblies with the older children at King Henry's Walk.

What equipment will the new indoor/outdoor area at Elmore Street have?

We follow a theme-based curriculum and include our play areas in these topics. Across the school, we already have a huge number of beautiful toys, trays, climbing equipment etc. which is changed each week and enables children to explore their topics through play. The indoor/outdoor nature of the play area will allow children to move between activities, playing and learning simultaneously.

Will you provide transport?

Yes, from September 2022 we will provide transport for the children which will take them between our sites, to off-site facilities and on school trips.

Will you have specialist facilities?

We are fortunate to have full size, professional sports pitches within close proximity to our King Henry's Walk site, which we will use for games lessons and competitive matches with other schools.

We will use the redecorated and remodelled church hall as a multi-use space for lunches, assemblies, music lessons, drama classes etc. We want children to continue using their classrooms for art as we want it to form a part of our integrated curriculum, however children will also have standalone art lessons one afternoon every week.

The children at our Early Years Centre will continue to walk to the Almorah Gardens once or twice a week for a more physical play experience. We expect the hall facilities and play area at the gardens to be renovated in the coming year, however the timeline for this will be decided by Islington Council.

What new equipment will there be for the older years?

In many cases, educational schemes we currently use for our younger children can be expanded easily to key stage 2. For ICT, we will continue using Google Classroom on Chromebooks to expand learning through carefully chosen educational websites and



The Children's House

programmes. Our library will be expanded to include books for older readers and PE equipment will also be renewed and upgraded for older children. Our playground at King Henry's Walk will be redeveloped to include more grown-up equipment and more space for children to play. Science equipment will be bought to meet the requirements of the curriculum.