



JULIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Parent/Carer Forum Q&A

Thursday 2 July – West Norwood Site

This document brings together all questions raised by parents and carers at the forum. Questions are grouped into themes for clarity. Answers are provided by the school unless otherwise stated. Where responses are required from Lambeth Council, insurers or project teams, this is clearly indicated.

Our aim is to keep families informed, be transparent about what we know, and explain where we are still awaiting external information.

1. Rebuild programme, progress & return to the Streatham site

Summary

Lambeth has now committed to a 5 October 2026 start date for works, with a six-month programme, meaning a planned return to Leigham Court Road (LCR) in April 2027. This is the first time we have been given a clear indicative timeline.

Overall programme

Q: When is the school likely to return to the Streatham site?

A: Lambeth has committed to a 5 October 2026 start date and a six-month programme, meaning a return in April 2027, at the start of the summer term.

Q: How long will the building works take once a contractor is appointed?

A: Lambeth has confirmed a six-month programme.

Q: Could repairs extend into another academic year?

A: Based on the current timeline, pupils – including Year 6 – will return before the end of the 2026/27 academic year.

Q: When will parents receive a detailed programme of works?

Status: Awaiting Lambeth Council response

We will share this as soon as Lambeth provides it.

Q: Why has almost a year passed without visible construction work?

Status: Awaiting Lambeth Council response

Understanding the delays

(These matters sit with Lambeth Council and their appointed teams.)

Q: How did the fire start?

A: Lambeth has indicated that the current hypothesis is that it was caused by hot works taking place as part of a building project over the summer holiday. The investigation continues.

Q: Can the school provide a timeline of what has been completed since August 2025?

A: Drying the building took significantly longer than anticipated. The complexity of accessing the underfloor heating system and lift shaft contributed to delays. Loss adjusters are clarifying the detailed reasons for the extended drying period.

Q: What does the current design phase involve?

A: It is a reinstatement specification based on the original building, not a new design.

Q: Why weren't procurement and design progressed concurrently?

A: Contractor procurement can only proceed once the Stage 3 design is complete. This is scheduled for completion on 17 July.

Q: Can the complexity of reinstatement works be explained?

A: Damage was extensive, caused by both fire and the water used to extinguish it. Water reached the fabric of the building, the underfloor heating system and the lift shaft, all of which required specialist drying and were difficult to access.

Moving the project forward

Q: What assurances can the school provide that the project is progressing with urgency?

A: We now have a confirmed start date and programme length. Assurance must come from Lambeth Council, Ingleton Wood (project managers) and Sedgwick (loss adjusters).

Q: Are there long-lead materials that could delay construction?

A: We do not currently expect long-lead items, but final confirmation will come once Stage 3 design is complete.

Q: Were temporary classrooms or modular accommodation considered?

A: Yes. Temporary accommodation at LCR was not feasible due to ground stability, the steep hill, the number of pupils, and the fire-damaged environment. It would also have left children without adequate play space. Our temporary Goldfinch site is safe, spacious and keeps our community together.

Q: Will the cost exceed the legal threshold for full procurement (~£5.3m)?

A: At this stage, project managers do not expect costs to exceed this threshold.

2. Funding & insurance

Summary

Insurance continues to fund reinstatement works. There is no dispute regarding scope or cost, and no emergency government funding is available for incidents of this nature.

Q: Is there any dispute with insurers?

A: No. There is no dispute regarding scope or cost.

Q: Could emergency government funding have enabled earlier repairs?

A: No. Emergency government funding is not available for this type of incident.

Q: What is the current insurance position?

A: The insurer continues to fund reinstatement works.

3. Accountability, governance & communication

Summary

The school continues to apply pressure on all external stakeholders. Governance oversight is strong, with fortnightly meetings and regular escalation. Some questions require borough-level responses.

Leadership & accountability

Q: What influence does the school have over insurers and contractors?

A: We advocate strongly for progress, but decisions relating to structural safety, scope of works and timelines are mandated by insurers and their appointed contractors.

Q: What actions has the school taken to accelerate progress?

A: The Executive Head and Chair of Governors have escalated concerns, attended meetings, and issued formal correspondence. Lambeth councillors have also applied pressure.

Q: What outcomes have these actions achieved?

A: They have contributed to the recently confirmed start date and programme.

Q: Who is ultimately responsible for progressing the rebuild?

A: The project is managed as a complex insurance claim by external loss adjusters, structural engineers, consultants and Lambeth's risk team.

Governance

Q: How often is the Governing Board reviewing progress?

A: Fortnightly meetings take place with the Council, loss adjusters and contractors. Updates are shared at every governing body meeting, including extraordinary meetings when required.

Q: How is the Governing Board holding external organisations to account?

A: Through regular challenge, escalation and requests for alternative approaches where delays occur.

Q: Has the viability of the school been raised with Lambeth or the DfE?

A: The Borough has publicly stated it has no plans to close Julian's. The school remains viable.

Q: Has the school sought independent legal or project management advice?

A: We are exploring this as the project moves into procurement. Legal advice is costly, so we are seeking confirmation from loss adjusters on whether this can be funded.

Communication

Q: Could parents receive more regular updates?

A: We will continue to update families, though it is challenging when there is little movement.

Q: Could a rebuild progress tracker be published?

A: Yes – once Lambeth provides the interim timeline.

Q: Will responses to Parent Forum questions be published?

A: Yes – this document is part of that commitment.

Q: Could Lambeth representatives attend future meetings?

A: We will continue to invite Lambeth Council, insurers and project teams.

Q: Could a parent reference group be established?

A: The school is stretched and cannot sustain an additional layer, but we will draw on community support where helpful (e.g., during the move back to Streatham).

Q: Can events be scheduled to support working parents?

A: We aim to make events accessible, though it is not always possible to meet all needs.

4. Future of Julian's School

Summary

The school remains viable. Finances are under pressure due to reduced pupil numbers, but the school, governors and Lambeth are working closely together. Outcomes remain strong.

School sustainability

Q: What impact have reduced pupil numbers had?

A: Schools are funded per pupil, so reduced numbers affect income. Governors must set a balanced budget, and all options are being considered. There are no plans for mixed-age classes.

Q: Is the school at risk of closure?

A: No. The school continues to operate successfully from the Goldfinch site.

Q: What is being done to protect long-term viability?

A: We are working closely with Lambeth's finance team and external advisers. Positive PR and word-of-mouth are vital.

Admissions & marketing

Q: How is the school attracting new families?

A: Through open days, tours, proactive marketing to nurseries and community organisations, a new Instagram page, a marketing video and a website upgrade.

Q: Can parents help promote the school?

A: Yes — parent advocacy has been invaluable.

5. Impact on children & families

Summary

Educational outcomes remain strong. Wellbeing is monitored closely, and additional support is available. The school recognises the impact on families and has put extensive measures in place.

Educational impact

Q: Has relocation affected learning?

A: No discernible difference. Outcomes remain strong across EYFS, phonics, KS2 and Greater Depth measures.

Q: Is attainment monitored across sites?

A: Yes — no difference identified.

Q: Can lost curriculum time be recovered?

A: No. Teacher directed time is capped nationally.

Wellbeing & support

Q: How is wellbeing being monitored?

A: Through teachers, learning mentors, inclusion team and external partners such as Hero Self and Lambeth Mental Health Support Team.

Q: Are families contacted proactively?

A: Yes – where concerns arise, we work collaboratively with families.

Q: Could the Mental Health Support Team provide ongoing monitoring?

A: They provide parent-led interventions and workshops. Bespoke support is available via referral.

Family impact

Q: How is the school supporting families facing increased pressures?

A: Through extended club hours, inclusion coffee mornings, workshops, transport coordination and ongoing pastoral support.

6. Coaches, transport & daily logistics

Summary

Transport will continue next year. Timings prioritise younger pupils. Improvements have been requested from Lambeth but not yet actioned.

Coach provision

Q: Will the coach service continue?

A: Yes – with 7:55am and 8:40am departures.

Q: Will siblings travel together?

A: Yes – allocations will be shared before summer.

Timings & logistics

Q: Could timings be adjusted to reduce fatigue?

A: Timings already prioritise younger pupils.

Q: Could a later coach support after-school clubs?

A: We have requested this and hope to confirm soon.

Safety & road management

Q: What risk assessments are in place?

A: Each bus has two adults plus the driver (three on DD).

Q: Are improvements to road layout planned?

A: We have requested multiple changes from Lambeth, including marked coach bays and extended School Street hours. None have been actioned yet, though we understand changes are now being considered.

Attendance

Q: Can lateness be reviewed where delays are caused by traffic?

A: Attendance remains strong (95.8%). Independently travelling pupils may be marked late; coach pupils are not.

Alternative provision

Q: Can families request temporary transfer to West Norwood?

A: No. Movement between sites is not permitted under current admissions policy. Any change would require a formal consultation and would not take effect until 2028.

Q: Can more be done to support after-school activities near Streatham?

A: The school does not have facilities in Streatham. Lambeth has committed to exploring options.

7. Planning for the return to Leigham Court Road

Summary

The building is projected to be completed by Easter 2027. This will allow for a smooth transition with minimal disruption.

Q: How will the transition be managed?

A: We will plan to move over the Easter period if possible and subject to the building being complete and ready for occupation at this time. Volunteers may be invited if needed.

8. The rebuilt school

Summary

Enhancements are planned, including significant outdoor improvements funded by Trees for Cities and the PTFA, though currently paused due to reinstatement works.

9. Temporary site environment

Summary

Facilities are monitored and maintained. Additional cleaning measures are under review.