

Mount Pleasant Lane  
London E5 9JG  
020 8806 3128  
Fax :020 8806 0690



117 Stamford Hill  
London N16 5RS  
020 8800 7411  
Fax: 020 8809 1382

*admin@skinnercompanyshackney.sch.uk*

# *The Skinners' Company's School for Girls Business and Enterprise College*

*Head Teacher : Ms J A Wilkins MEd, BEd(Hons), FRSA*

## **Consultation on the future organisation of**

# **The Skinners' Company's School for Girls**

**Consultation period**  
4<sup>th</sup> April to 16 May 2006



school  
achievement award  
Department for Education and Skills



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Specialist Schools Trust  
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



*A Non Denominational Voluntary Aided School*

# **Consultation on the future organisation of The Skinners' Company's School for Girls**

**4<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

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## What is this information about?

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has agreed to support a feasibility study for a new, mixed, non-denominational Academy opening in September 2010 on the site of Woodberry Down Primary School and the land currently occupied by Horton and Sherwood Houses.

The Skinners' Company will be the sponsors of the proposed Academy. The proposed Academy would replace the existing girls' school.

If it is agreed to open a new Academy at Woodberry Down:

The Skinners' Company's School for Girls will stop admitting pupils into Year 7, from September 2007. In July 2008 the Lower School site will close and all students will be taught at the Upper School site at Stamford Hill. The school will be closed on 31 August 2010, the day before the opening of the new mixed Academy on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010. Girls on roll of the school at the point of closure will be offered places in the Academy.

By September 2009 Woodberry Down Primary School would have transferred to its new site next to the Academy to allow work to begin on the new Academy building.

This is your opportunity to let us know what you think about our proposal to stop admitting year 7 pupils to the school, from September 2007 onwards, and to close the school from 2010.

This paper contains:

1. an explanation of the proposal to stop admitting pupils, from September 2007
2. a response form for you to complete and return to us, letting us know your views
3. details of meetings, for parents/carers and the wider community, that will be arranged to help the consultation

The proposal to open an Academy at Woodberry Down is the subject of a separate consultation.

Please send your completed questionnaire to:  
Skinners' Company's School for Girls  
117 Stamford Hill,  
London, N16 5RS  
020 8800 7411

Or e-mail your comments or queries to: [admin@skinnerscompanys.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@skinnerscompanys.hackney.sch.uk)

### **This stage of the consultation will close on 16th May 2006**

If you have specific questions about the proposal please contact the school by telephone on 020 8800 7411 or by email at [admin@skinnerscompanys.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@skinnerscompanys.hackney.sch.uk)

This document and response form is also available online by visiting The Learning Trust website: [www.learningtrust.co.uk](http://www.learningtrust.co.uk)

Copies of the full document will also be available in Turkish and Bengali. This document will be provided in other languages or in large print upon request. The form on the front of the document is included for anyone who would like the document translated into another language.

# 1 The Skinners' Company's School for Girls

The Skinners' Company's School for Girls is a non denominational, voluntary-aided, girls' school located in the north of Hackney. The school was founded by the Skinners' Company in 1890. The school operates on two sites, over a mile apart, with Years 7 to 9 based in the Lower School (Mount Pleasant Lane), and Years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form based in the Upper School (Stamford Hill). The school is part of a sixth form partnership with other secondary schools in the north of the borough. Skinners' School is in its third year as a Specialist Business and Enterprise College with partners such as Linklaters, HSBC, IBM, JP Morgan and Cadbury Schweppes.

There are currently 796 pupils on roll in the following year groups.

School	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 plus
Skinners'	105	109	132	150	139	109	52

*(Annual admission number 150)*

The school serves a highly diverse cultural population. Ninety-two per cent of students are from ethnic minority families and a high proportion (about 70%) speak English as an additional language. There is a high level of mobility in the area, with students arriving and leaving at different stages of their secondary education. There are a significant number of pupils on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) register. The school enables many students to make above average progress (Ofsted report May 2000). The number of students attaining grades A\*-C at GCSE has improved year on year. In 2005, 51% of pupils achieved 5+ grades A\*-C.

## 2 Issues for consideration

### 2.1 Demand for places at girls' schools

There is currently an imbalance of provision in Hackney secondary schools, with more places available for girls than boys. The greater number of girls only places has two negative effects:

- Many parents have to seek places outside the borough for their sons.
- It causes mixed schools to have a larger proportion of boys to girls.

In recent years, the demand for places at the three girls-only, non-denominational schools in Hackney (Clapton, Haggerston and Skinners'), measured by first preferences at secondary transfer, has reduced. This position has been more pronounced for Skinners'. The number of first preferences for the school, since September 2000, is set out below:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>First preferences at secondary transfer</b>	97	73	100	103	78	38	36
<b>Year 7 Admissions each September</b>	138	150	127	150	99	97	

During this period, Hackney parents have been clear about their demand for additional places at mixed, non-denominational schools. For this year's secondary transfer process, 1198 parents living in Hackney expressed a first preference for a place at a mixed, non-denominational Hackney school. The corresponding number for transfer in September 2005 was 1090. At the

present time there are only 600 mixed non-denominational places available in Hackney.

It is anticipated that the number of first preferences for Skinners' School will continue to decline as more mixed places become available through the new academies in Hackney.

## **2.2 The regeneration of Woodberry Down Estate**

Woodberry Down Estate is set to be one of the largest housing regeneration programmes in London. The programme has already started and will take approximately 20 years to complete.

The regeneration of the estate will include the replacement of nearly all the current 1,980 homes on the estate with 4,300 new homes. Such a significant increase will require the development of additional community facilities, including school places.

Parents living at Stamford Hill/Woodberry Down and the surrounding area would like a mixed, non-denominational secondary school. In September 2005, children living in the Stamford Hill and Woodberry Down area transferred to twenty-five different schools.

In order to meet demand for mixed secondary provision in the area, and future demand arising from the regeneration of Woodberry Down Estate, The Skinners' Company's School for Girls, the London Borough of Hackney and the Learning Trust have been considering the potential for a 6 forms of entry (900 places + sixth form) mixed, non-denominational Academy at Woodberry Down. The Skinners' Company is proposing to sponsor this Academy. The London Borough of Hackney and The Learning Trust support this proposal.

The current school sites are unsuitable for the development of a 6 forms of entry Academy.

## **3 Proposal for Consultation**

The Governing Body is proposing that Skinners' Company's School for Girls stops admitting pupils, from September 2007, but will continue to operate until the new Academy is built. The table below shows how the roll will change over this time. In July 2008 the Lower School site will close and all students will be taught at the Upper School site at Stamford Hill. The current school is likely to close on 31 August 2010 and the new Academy will open on 1 September 2010. (In the event that there is a delay to the opening of the Academy the school will close on 31 August 2011.) Any girls remaining on the roll of the school, at the point of closure, will be offered places in the new academy.

Year Group	Sep 2007	Sep 2008	Sep 2009	Sep 2010
<b>7</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>8</b>	105*	0	0	0
<b>9</b>	105	105	0	0
<b>10</b>	107	105	105	0
<b>11</b>	135	107	105	105
<b>Total**</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>105</b>

\*Estimated 2006 Year 7 cohort

\*\* Year 7 to 11 numbers only – there will also be up to 150 students in the sixth form

The Academy will be part of the sixth form partnership with other schools in the north of the borough.

## 4 Staffing

TUPE will apply to those staff who are still employed at Skinners' in the academic year 2009/10. However, staffing will reduce as Skinners' roll declines. During the staff consultation meeting Human Resources and The Learning Trust will be represented.

## 5 Next steps and proposed timetable for the Proposal

The consultation will run from 4th April to 16th May 2006 and will include meetings with key stakeholders (pupils, parents, staff, governors and the local community).

Interpreters (Turkish and Bengali) will be available at the meetings. We will provide interpreters for additional languages at meetings on prior request.

The Skinners' Company's School for Girls welcomes views from all stakeholders on the proposal set out in this paper. All views expressed during this consultation will be considered by the Governing Body at their meeting on 22 May 2006

## 6 Consultation Meetings

<b>Audience</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
Parents' morning	03 May 2006	Upper School Stamford Hill	9:30-11.30am
Parents' afternoon	10 May 2006	Lower School Mount Pleasant Lane	2:30-4.30pm
Parents' evening	09 May 2006	Lower School Mount Pleasant Lane	6:00-8.00pm
Wider community	03 May 2006	Upper School Stamford Hill	6:00-8.00pm

The meetings set out above will be arranged as a 'drop-in', where people can arrive at any time within the hours advertised and speak individually to staff.

Separate meetings will be arranged for pupils at the school, the Governing Body, staff at the school and Unions.

## 7 Who will be consulted?

We aim to consult with as many people and interested groups as possible. The list below provides a summary of the main groups.

- Pupils on roll at Skinners' School
- Parents and carers of pupils
- Staff and Governors of Skinners' School
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Hackney Schools and other schools within 3 miles
- Trade Unions
- Hackney School Governors Association (HASGA)
- Neighbouring LEAs
- Hackney Councillors
- Hackney Council

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hackney MPs</li> <li>▪ Learning &amp; Skills Council (London East)</li> <li>▪ Local community groups and business partners</li> <li>▪ London Diocesan Board for Schools</li> <li>▪ Westminster Diocese Education</li> </ul> | <p>Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interlink network for Jewish Community</li> <li>▪ Other faith groups</li> <li>▪ Woodberry Down Regeneration Team</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## 7 Decision Making Process

Date	Action
4th April to 16th May 2006	Consultation period including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulation of consultation papers to stakeholders</li> <li>• Meetings with key stakeholders</li> </ul>
22 May 2006	Governing Body of The Skimmers' Company's School for Girls considers the responses to the consultation

### ***If the Governing Body decides to publish a statutory notice***

1 <sup>st</sup> June 2006	Publication of statutory notice
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2006 to 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2006	Statutory six week period for comments and objections to the proposal
September 2006	The School Organisation Committee meets to consider the proposal

# Consultation Response Form

## The future organisation of The Skinners' Company's School for Girls

Please return to Skinners' Company's School for Girls by 16th May at:

117 Stamford Hill,  
London  
N16 5RS

Or by e-mail to [admin@skinnerscompanys.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@skinnerscompanys.hackney.sch.uk)

Name of person  
responding

*Interest in The Skinners' Company's School for Girls (please tick boxes as appropriate)*

Pupil at the school

Parent/carer of a pupil at the school

Member of staff at the school

Governor at the school

Other (please specify) .....

### Please comment on the proposal

Proposal to stop admitting year 7 pupils to Skinners' School, from September 2007 and to close the school on 31 August 2010. The new Academy would open on 1 September 2010

Agree

Disagree

### Please comment on the proposal outlined in the paper

**Comments continued**

You may respond electronically, if you have access to the internet.  
Visit [www.skinnercompany.hackney.sch.uk](http://www.skinnercompany.hackney.sch.uk)

**Thank you for completing this response form**

## Monitoring Form

Monitoring equality information in our consultation process is important to the Skinners' Company, to promote equality. The information you provide will help us to build on successful actions, and identify the needs of those experiencing inequality .

**This information will not be used in a way which allows individuals to be identified.**

The categories used are similar to those used in schools. We comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. We are aware of the sensitive nature of this information and assure you that it will not be used for any other purpose.

We would therefore ask you to help us by completing this monitoring form.

Main category	Extended category	Please tick ✓
White	White British	
	Any Other White background	
Mixed	White and Black Caribbean	
	White and Black African	
	White and Asian	
	Any Other Mixed Background	
Asian	Indian	
	Pakistani	
	Bangladeshi	
	Asian British	
	Any Other Asian Background	
Black	Caribbean	
	African	
	Black British	
	Any Other Black Background	
Chinese	Chinese	
Any other ethnic group	Kurdish	
	Vietnamese	
	Orthodox Jewish	
	Turkish/Turkish Cypriot	
	Greek/Greek Cypriot	
	Irish	
	Any Other Ethnic Group	

Religion	Please specify	
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