



# *The Heath & Hampstead Society*

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The Society examines all Planning Applications relating to Hampstead, and assesses them for their impact on conservation and on the local environment.

## **To London Borough of Camden, Development Control Team**

Planning Ref: 2014/7530/P

Address: St Margarets School, 18 Kidderpore Avenue, NW3

Description: Extensions and alterations.

Case Officer: Alex McDougall

Date 31 December 2014

This proposal, for what appear to be minor alterations to the school buildings, is misleading, and lacks essential information.

Comparisons between the Existing and Proposed floor plans show that it is proposed to add classroom accommodation to the school; probably to the extent of two extra classrooms. Rooms shown on the Existing plan as “Dining” and “Library” disappear.

No floor plan for the second floor is presented. Thus the total number of classrooms cannot be assessed, nor can the probable school roll.

We have for many years been extremely concerned over the extent of schoolrun traffic, caused by parents fetching and meeting pupils, at our 33 schools. Some years ago (1999) a strategic schoolrun Plan was agreed with LBH Camden, which included the gradual elimination of schoolrun parking permits (which by now would have been concluded, with no permits valid), and other features to reduce car use, and the unacceptable public dangers and nuisance caused during school hours. Enforcement of this plan appears to have lapsed.

A key element of the Plan was the absolute prevention of further increases in the individual school rolls throughout Hampstead. Without information on the 1999 and current roll numbers, no assessment of proposals such as this one is feasible.

What is clear is that any possibility of roll number increases arising from classroom enlargements must be adamantly opposed. The fact that this application is silent on classroom enlargement and school roll numbers is significant, relying on drawing annotations, and we raise the strongest objection on those grounds.

So far as the actual alteration proposals are concerned, natural light and ventilation to the 2 main basement classrooms is clearly sub-standard, and cannot comply with current Education requirements.

As it stands, we call for refusal to this most unsatisfactory application.