

**14 Arkwright Road
London NW3 6BG**

Patrick Marfleet
Planning Solutions Team
Camden Council
5 Pancras Square
London N1C 4AG

20th October, 2015

Re Planning Application 2015/5374/P

Dear Mr Marfleet,

I am writing as the Chair of Arkwright Road Residents' Association to object to the above planning application to extend St Christopher's School to provide additional teaching space.

There are currently 55 schools in NW3 and the area has a pupil population of more than 11,500 (up from 9,000 in 2005 and 7,000 in 2000) - way beyond the number of children who actually live in NW3 and higher than the local population of both adults and children. Camden has admitted that it has enough school places in the Borough for at least the next ten years and the expansion of independent schools such as St Christopher's is mainly to cater for children from outside the immediate area and, indeed, the Borough. As a result, large numbers of children are travelling by private car into NW3 twice a day and the impact on congestion, illegal parking and pollution over a wide area is huge. Pollution levels are way above European guidelines and local residents are now 'hostages' to school run traffic for large parts of each week day during term time.

School travel plans are barely worth the paper they are written on as Camden has no effective way of monitoring whether schools are complying with their plans and, if they are not, of forcing them to do so. Furthermore, in those instances where Camden has permitted extra school space to be built on condition that pupil numbers do not increase, such planning constraints have been totally ignored. Devonshire House in Arkwright Road is a case in point: in February 2013, planning application 2012/3910/P was approved by Camden Council on the basis that the school would not increase the capacity beyond the existing 581 pupils. The Independent School Inspectorate Report dated January 2014 shows that for the academic year starting September 2013 the pupil numbers had already reached 647 and, to this day, Camden has been unable (or unwilling) to make Devonshire House comply with this very clear planning constraint.

It is for these many reasons that the residents of Arkwright Road would ask that this application from St Christopher's is declined and that the building is not permitted even on condition of no rise in pupil numbers.

Yours sincerely

Siobhan E Ezra