
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 June 2019 22:41
To: Planning
Subject: Comment on Planning Application 2019/2375/P

Planning Application 2019/2375/P
Hampstead Police Station , 26 Rossllyn Hill, London, NW3 1PD
Change of use (for Abacus Belsize Primary School)

Dear Planning Officers:

We are Abacus parents, and we wholeheartedly support this wonderful school and its move to the old police station.

First of all let me address for my side the main concern of those who oppose to this: we don't own a car (same as at least half of the Abacus families) and just like we currently do, we would walk to school. If for some families the distance will be too much to walk - there are always scooters and bicycles. Even if we did own a car, I definitely wouldn't use it for school run. Why would I choose traffic and parking issues over a nice healthy walk while chatting with my kids? Most Abacus parents share my view on this.

I hear arguments from those who oppose to this school moving to the old Hampstead police station such as 'Hampstead doesn't need another school'. This doesn't seem to consider the fact that Abacus already exists - it was created to give a state school to Belsize children who were otherwise falling in a 'black hole', being either outside the catchment area or too far from the any state (and non-religious) schools in Hampstead. This school is desperately needed by Belsize children.

If there was another option for the school to move in the very heart of Belsize Park, then of course we would support it (who would say no to a school around the corner?) but despite the long search, no available building in Belsize Park was deemed fit for purpose. The Hampstead old police station is the only option (and it is very close anyway!). With the lease of the current temporary location in Kings Cross expiring in a couple of years, the school runs the risk of being closed if the police station move gets rejected. All children will again end up in the black hole, and will be scattered around Camden school far from home - increasing rather than reducing traffic and pollution around Camden!

We simply can't let an outstanding school like Abacus close! With such enthusiastic teachers, positive atmosphere, happy children and great learning experiences - is shaping our children to become good men and women in the future society; this is what a school should be like and should be an example for every school!

How good this school is, is proved by the fact that for 30 places this year Abacus received 170 applications, all based on the positive feedback from existing Abacus children and parents. Allowing such school to close would be damaging for all.

I find the arguments of the opponents honestly quite selfish, with no consideration for the fact that this is for children, our future! This would be the best use for a building like the old police station to be kept in the hands of the public.

Thank you for your attention

Best regards,

