



### **Future Structure of Queen Emma School**

At its General Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025, the Governing Body took the decision to consult on moving Queen Emma to a 1-form entry basis (1FE) from September 2026. In accordance with DfE procedures, the Governing Body consulted with neighbouring schools and local authorities, and with Queen Emma staff and parents. The results of that consultation were shared with the Governing Body and at a special meeting held on 16 March 2026 the Governing Body took the unanimous decision to move Queen Emma to 1FE.

This decision was taken after careful consideration and extensive discussion. Governors looked at all possible options, including either maintaining the current structure or moving to a mixed age-group model across both schools. However, the governors concluded that the school's future is best assured by a move to 1FE.

Like all the Queen Emma community, we are enormously proud of our school and of our teachers; thanks to them, Queen Emma offers the children life-affirming opportunities and huge educational benefits. It is a wonderful school, and we want it to continue and to flourish even in the current difficult national circumstances of financial pressures on schools and falling rolls. We feel this is by far the best way to serve the children's interests while keeping in line with the changes in local demand.

It is important to note that, although this arrangement is known technically as a 'permanent' move, this term is used merely to differentiate it from a temporary move to 1FE, such as has already been introduced twice at Queen Emma. Moving to 1FE enables the school to adjust to the current drop in the local school-age population, but it also makes it easy for the school to return to 2FE as soon as local conditions permit. This remain the governors' ultimate aim and hope for the school.

The Governing Body will shortly be communicating with the office of the Schools Adjudicator at the DfE, outlining the context and rationale for the decision and communicating the responses to the consultation.



The governors are very grateful to all those who responded to the consultation and whose comments helped inform their decision.

Dr Sean Lang

Chair of the Governing Body

On behalf of all Governors

