

Community Conversations#2 @ Edmund Waller Primary School

Community Conversations is part of the school's work to widen engagement with the parental community, particularly those who are traditionally underrepresented, both within the school walls and outside in the general population. This work also aligns with Lewisham's borough wide mission to [tackle racial inequality](#) within education and the school's own [Equality Objectives](#).

Last week, was the second Community Conversation. The subject for this conversation, chosen by the group, was around Housing. As well as parents, we were also joined by a member of SLT from Rushey Green Primary School.

Q1. What are the key issues related to housing that are affecting you or your community?

Q2. If you could make one change around housing, what would it be?

The group thought about the challenges of social pressures - gentrification, rising costs, lack of availability, in the context of the changes this has on the school's demographic. One parent spoke of her awareness that her son's peer/friendship group was noticeably lacking in diversity. The group discussed the challenges this change in demographic presents the school.

Whilst societal changes were a large factor, the attendees also discussed the day-to-day issues - poor quality housing, families being moved away from their community etc. One parent recounted that it had taken over a year for her housing association to make a repair to her property - despite numerous calls. This led to a real risk to her family.

Although the themes ran the risk of being overwhelming, Emilia, from Citizens UK, spoke about identifying an issue that could be raised with Lewisham - the idea that a child's primary school location should be added a consideration in rehousing was identified.

We will share the date and theme for the next meeting after half term.



Dan Absolom
Deputy Headteacher