



5th November 2013

Mr Jeremy Rodell
Richmond Inclusive Schools Campaign
8 Morley Road
Twickenham TW1 2HF

Dear Mr Rodell

Thank you for your letter dated 24th September 2013 and the attached thorough report entitled *Faith-based Discrimination in Richmond Primary School Offers 2013*.

Catholic schools across the Diocese of Southwark are encouraged to work very closely with community schools. The Diocese covers an area across 14 local authorities and in each instance we work with local authorities to ensure adequate places for all pupils, ideally in the schools of their and their parents' choices. If there is strong demand for Catholic primary school places in Richmond, then our more general Diocesan Place Planning Policy allows for schools to take temporary or permanent expansions where space allows. Indeed all three Catholic primary schools have taken bulge classes to meet local demand for additional places. Each additional place created at a Catholic school frees up a place at a local community school. We monitor pupil demand closely and work in partnership with local authorities to try to meet all demand. This year we have experienced very low levels of admissions appeals which indicate that we are getting closer to a situation where all pupils wanting to attend our schools are being catered for. We can look particularly at the Mortlake and Sheen area you mention in your report as these fall within our Diocese and are covered by our place planning data.

In the 2012-13 census of our Diocesan schools, just under 30% of pupils in our schools are not Catholic while 49% of staff working in our schools are not Catholic. We encourage pupils of other Christian denominations, other faith traditions and those pupils without faith to participate in any aspect of school life that is possible from their own beliefs and in accordance with Canon Law.

The Supplementary Form allows for information to be collected on Baptism and frequency of mass attendance and this information can be used for determining admissions priority where there is oversubscription at a school.

I hope you find this response helpful and if demand for places in Catholic schools in an area is high we can look, with the local authority, at a range of ways to expand these schools.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Bamford', written in a cursive style.

Dr Anne Bamford
Director of Education