

Application for consent to propose a Catholic secondary school in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Section 10 Application Form

APPLICATION FORM FOR Proposers (other than Local Authorities) TO APPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, FOR AGREEMENT TO PUBLISH PROPOSALS FOR A NEW FOUNDATION, STATUTORY TRUST (foundation school with a statutory foundation), FOUNDATION SPECIAL (with or without a Trust) OR VOLUNTARY TRUST SCHOOL UNDER SECTION 10 OF THE EDUCATION AND INSPECTIONS ACT 2006

Please complete all sections and submit to School Organisation & Operations Team mailbox at school.organisationproposals@education.gsi.gov.uk (or by post: School Organisation & Operations Team, DfE, 2F Area D, Mowden Hall, Darlington, DL3 9BG).

1. Details of proposer and proposed school including:
Title of Proposing Body: The Diocese of Westminster
Local Authority area: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Site details (e.g. single/split site, freehold/leasehold tenure): The Council has agreed to purchase this four-acre site. It is proposed that most of the site is to be leased to the Diocese of Westminster at a peppercorn rate for a period of 125 years for the purpose of conducting a Catholic maintained secondary school. The site consists of large buildings originally built as a girls' grammar school, and currently owned and occupied by Richmond Adult and Community College, together with playing fields and parking spaces.
Postal address: Richmond Adult and Community College, Clifden Road, Twickenham TW1 4LT
Age range: 11 - 18 years: secondary school with five forms of entry.
Category (Foundation/Foundation Special/Voluntary Aided/Voluntary Controlled): Voluntary Aided

Proposed opening date:

1st September 2013.

Religious category (if any):

The proposed school will be a Catholic school within the Trusteeship of the Diocese of Westminster.

Ethos:

As a Catholic school the proposed school will be established to support parents in their responsibility for their children's education. The goal of Catholic education is to draw out the potential in each person to the full, in a community which recognises Christ as our guide and inspiration. The spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of pupils will be fostered within a Catholic environment. Teaching and learning will be organised in a structured way in accordance with government guidelines and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Community cohesion will be a core value of this ethos, together with an appreciation of the enriching features of ethnic and cultural diversity.

Secondary Schools only - Proposed specialism (if any):

n/a: As with all Catholic schools the school will have as its primary specialism Religious Education. At present there are no proposals for a secondary specialisation, subject to local consultation.

2. If the proposed school is to be a foundation school with a statutory foundation (i.e. "Statutory Trust School"), information on the proposed foundation and current plans for membership:

n/a

3. Brief details of main reason for the proposed new school e.g. amalgamation/reorganisation, falling roles/surplus places, BSF/PCF, headteacher(s) retiring, new housing development or population growth:

The main reason for the proposed new school is that there has been parental demand for a new Catholic secondary school in the area for some time. Richmond is one of only two London Boroughs in which there is no Catholic secondary school. The Catholic Church (Archdioceses of Southwark and Westminster) operate six high-quality primary schools in the Borough, with a total between them of nine forms of entry (270 pupils per year). Catholics make up approximately 14% of the Borough's population. Population growth in West London and the increasing popularity of the Catholic secondary schools in other London Boroughs has meant that Catholic parents are finding it more difficult to secure a place in a Catholic school out of the Borough. As a result many are taking places in local community schools, adding to the pressure in the area for community places. The new school will both reduce the pressure on community school places in the Borough and enable local children, who currently have to travel long distances to access a Catholic school, to be educated nearer to home. Pupil numbers have risen considerably in this area

of London over the past few years and are predicted to rise steeply over the next few years. This school will cater for these children. The demand for secondary school places is particularly high in the Twickenham area where the school will be situated. The proposed site is close to central Twickenham and well served by public transport. There will be clear environmental benefits in allowing so many more children to attend a secondary school of their parents choice closer to their homes.

4. Will the school replace an existing school or schools? If so, provide details of the closing school(s), (e.g. Postal address; Number of Pupils; Age range; Category) and proposed date for closure:

n/a

5. Statement on how the school will contribute to raising standards, including how it is proposed it will network with other schools in the area:

The proposed school will be part of a network of 216 schools in the Diocese of Westminster, including 49 schools and colleges catering for secondary age pupils. 36% of Catholic maintained secondary schools in the Diocese are judged outstanding by OFSTED and 82% are good or outstanding (corresponding national figures for all schools are 18% & 60%). There are no Catholic maintained schools in the Diocese judged inadequate. The six Catholic primary schools in the Borough are all good or outstanding. This background of academic excellence will be built on and replicated in the proposed school. The Diocese has an established track record of partnership with local authorities, as do the Catholic schools with other local schools. The Diocese is also in discussion with St Mary's University College with a view to a formal link between the University College and the new school. These links will ensure the proposed school will be well placed to deliver high quality education for children of secondary school age in the area. It will work with parents, governors and the wider community to serve the local area, engaging actively with other schools and the communities from which pupils are drawn. The proposed school, whilst giving priority to Catholic children in its oversubscription criteria, will be open to pupils of all denominations and cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

6. Evidence of levels of parental demand for this school:

The Archdioceses of Westminster and Southwark have been receiving a steady stream of letters from parents living in Richmond asking for a Catholic secondary school in the Borough. Previous Consultation exercises during this period (see Q.7 below) have all confirmed this high level of demand. In March of this year petition of over 1,100 names was presented to the Council earlier this year, calling for the Council to work with the Catholic Church in the creation of a new secondary school (enclosed). A more recent e-petition set up by local parents in favour of the new school gathered over 1600 signatures within one week of opening and at the time of writing stands at 1860 (copy of website enclosed).

<http://www.richmond.gov.uk/epetitions?mgf=moEPetitionDisplay.aspx&ID=48&RPID=8650146&HPID=8650148>

7. Views of local community: evidence of informal or statutory consultation, copies of consultation documents, notes of meetings and feedback received (please list any documents attached):

Both the Diocese and the Borough have carried out a number of local consultation exercises, all of which have consistently shown widespread support for a new Catholic secondary school. In 2001 a statutory consultation on the expansion of St James Catholic Primary School elicited a strong aspiration that Catholic secondary places should also be provided in the Borough. The Diocese carried out a specific consultation exercise in 2004 as part of the process of updating its School Organisation Plan – this confirmed the widespread support (consultation document enclosed). At around the same time the borough undertook statutory consultation of its School Organisation Plan including a proposal for a Catholic Secondary school, with similar results (extract of adopted S.O.P. enclosed). The Diocese held further consultation meetings in connection with a 'basic need' bid for capital funding to the DfES in 2005, again eliciting a high level of support (although the bid was ultimately unsuccessful). Throughout this period the Borough and the two Dioceses have worked closely together to explore every avenue to realise this long-standing aspiration. The current Conservative administration in Richmond was elected on a local manifesto which included a promise "to encourage" a local Catholic secondary school.

Following the first petition mentioned above, a debate took place in the April 2011 Council meeting at which both Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors expressed support for this proposal (extract of minutes enclosed). The Council approached the Diocese of Westminster with the offer of the school site, and the two Dioceses are working to raise the money required to carry out the necessary capital works on site.

Since news of the Council's proposed acquisition of the site has become public, a group has been formed which opposes in principle schools with a religious character. An e-petition started by this group has gathered less support than that set up by parents in favour of the school (see Q.6 above). This is despite the fact that former has been open for signatures for twice as long as the latter.

Further full informal and statutory consultations will be held as part of the process of publishing proposals for the new school.

8. Contact details:

Name: Paul Barber

Tel No: 020 7798 9005

E-mail: paulbarber@rcdow.org.uk

Address: Diocese of Westminster Education Service,
Vaughan House,
46 Francis St,
SW1P 1QN

Date: 16th September 2011



ePetition details

Catholic School for Richmond

- [Log in or register and sign the ePetition](#)
- [View ePetition responses](#)
- [Browse all current ePetitions](#)

We, the undersigned, petition the council to support the creation of a new Catholic Secondary School within the Borough.

We support the continuing efforts of the council to bring a Catholic Secondary School to Richmond. A Catholic Secondary School in Richmond would give our children the opportunity to receive continuity of education within their local community. Currently Catholic children leave the authority to continue their education at age 11. Due to rising pupil numbers across London, children from Richmond are already finding obtaining a place at a Catholic Secondary School difficult.

Started by: kevin coakley (Friends of Catholic Secondary Education in Richmond)

On reaching 1000 signatures or more a full council debate will be held.

This ePetition runs from 05/09/2011 to 05/12/2011.

1959 people have signed this ePetition



Archdiocese of Westminster
Education Service

Dedicated to Lifelong Growth of the Whole Person in Faith

Chairman: The Right Reverend George Stack

Proposed Catholic Maintained Secondary School in the London Borough of Richmond

Consultation for Revision of Diocesan School Organisation Plan

It will soon be time to update the Diocesan School Organisation Plan. The last Plan was adopted last year after extensive consultation. This time, in addition to the general consultation, there are a number of specific local issues on which we would like to consult interested parties specifically. One of those issues is the perceived need for a new Catholic Maintained Secondary School.

Background

For some years there has been pressure from the Catholic community in Richmond (on both sides of the river) for the provision of a maintained secondary school in the borough. In 2001, the diocese and the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames (the LEA) carried out an extensive consultation exercise about the enlargement of St James Primary School. The results of that consultation exercise were not only strong support for the expansion of our primary provision in the Borough, but there was an equally strong aspiration that this additional provision would lead to Catholic provision in the secondary sector in the Borough.

Following the 2001 consultation, we entered into dialogue with the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames and the Archdiocese of Southwark about this aspiration. After consultation, both the LEA and the Diocese put the lack of voluntary aided Catholic secondary places and the perceived need for a Catholic secondary school into their respective School Organisation Plans.

During the consultation period, leading to the adoption of these plans last year, the Diocese had preliminary talks with the London South Learning and Skills Council, who expressed their support in broad terms.

In 2003, the LEA submitted a Pathfinder Application for PFI Credits to the DFES to improve the secondary schools in the Borough. This bid included the possibility of a Catholic maintained secondary school, but the application was ultimately unsuccessful.

The current position

For a new school to come about, much needs to happen. A site would need to be found, and finance will be needed to build the school. Neither of these has yet been found

In July 2004 the Deputy Leader of Richmond Council hosted a reception to gather the support of the Catholic community in advance of a further application for government funding. This is essential if funding is to be secured.

Consultation

At this stage, we wish to hear views of all interested parties on the possibility of a new Catholic maintained secondary school in Richmond. We want to make sure that any proposals could be brought forward for the benefit of the whole of the Catholic community. In particular we would like to know:

- Does the lack of a Catholic maintained secondary school in Richmond continue to cause difficulty for parents?
- Is the principle of a new secondary school in Richmond supported by the wider Catholic community?
- Are there any particular features which any proposed school should have?
- What effect might any new school have on existing Catholic provision?
- If a school is needed, how can any proposals be developed in partnership with all existing Catholic schools.

We would particularly like to hear from:

- Parents in the Catholic community;
- Parishes;
- Existing schools and colleges that might be affected by or interested in any proposals;
- Other members of the Catholic community.

Please send any responses (individual or collective) no later than 28th May 2005 to:

Paul Barber
Director of Education
Vaughan House
46 Francis Street
London SW1P 1QN
Tel: 020 7798 9005
Fax: 020 7798 9013
E-mail: paulbarber@rcdow.org.uk
Website: www.rcdow.org.uk/education

November 2004

My ref: ADM/SOC/SOP

Your ref:

Direct Dial: 020 8891 7500
Contact: Matthew Paul
E-mail: m.paul@richmond.gov.uk

RECEIVED 26 APR 2004

23 April 2004

Dear Colleague,

School Organisation Plan September 2003 – August 2006

I attach a copy of the Richmond Upon Thames School Organisation Plan, which, in accordance with statutory requirements, sets out the LEA's plans to secure sufficient provision to promote educational attainment.

I apologise for the delay in sending you the final version.

Yours sincerely,

M. E. Paul

Matthew Paul,
Principal Admissions & Student Support Officer / Secretary to Richmond upon Thames SOC

- 3.10 The LEA and governing bodies are required by law to comply with a parent's expression of preference for a school. The School Admissions Code of Practice (Annex A.25) states: "LEAs have a general statutory duty, in relation to admissions as well as other matters, to have regard to the principle that pupils are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents "so far as that would be compatible with the provision of efficient education and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure."
- 3.11 Parents have the right of appeal if they cannot gain a place at the preferred school. Legislation relating to the requirement to limit KS1 classes to 30 or less from September 2001 has decreased the number of successful appeals made by parents. The Admissions Code of Practice further states (in Annex A.29): "...the duty under Section 86(2) to comply with parental preference does not apply where: to admit the child would 'prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources', ...[or] where to admit would be incompatible with the duty to meet infant class size limits, because the admission would require measures to be taken to comply with those limits which would cause prejudice to efficient education or efficient use of resources." Parents of children with statements of special educational need or disabilities have a separate route for appeal to the independent Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal.
- 3.12 The link school policy provides for children attending a link primary school to have priority of admission – after children in public care, those with statements of special educational need that specify their parents' preferred school and those with siblings in attendance at the time of entry to the preferred school – to the schools with the strongest history of transferring children. Links between schools are formed when at least 25% of leavers or 15 pupils transfer and they can be lost when this figure is lower. The policy is reviewed each year in consultation with school governors and neighbouring authorities. Policies such as the Linked School Policy also enable a high percentage of parents' preferences to be met. Richmond borough strives to meet even more first preferences by allowing popular over-subscribed schools to expand, illustrated by the current increases being made to some schools' Standard Admission Numbers. It was for this reason that the secondary schools' SANs were increased in 1995 despite the fact that in several schools the combined SAN for all school years would then exceed the capacity and, in some instances, by a significant amount.
- 3.13 At initial allocations for primary/secondary transfer in September 2002, 84.14% of in-borough applicants were successful in gaining the school of their first preference. This compares with 88.71% in 2001, 89.16% in 2000 and 91.21% in 1999. The LEA constantly re-evaluates its policies and practice to enable a higher number of parents' preferences to be met in the future.

Over and under-subscription and gender analysis

- 3.14 Appendix 6 shows the current roll and capacity and demonstrates either surplus places or overcrowding in each secondary school and gender analysis. Appendix 7 shows the breakdown of secondary pupils by age. The Authority is also working with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and local schools in the Ham & Petersham area to address a surplus of school places in this area.

Denominational Provision

- 3.15 The voluntary aided Church of England secondary school in Richmond upon Thames was oversubscribed for the academic year 2002-03. The school intake has adjusted from approximately 20% in-borough resident children the previous year to almost 50% in-borough resident children.
- 3.16 The Council, in conjunction with the Roman Catholic dioceses of Westminster and Southwark, is committed to providing a new Roman Catholic co-educational secondary school in the borough.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

MINUTES

At a meeting of the Council of the **LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES** held at the Municipal Offices, Twickenham at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 5 April 2011

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Councillor Marlow, in the Chair.

Councillor Palmer (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Acton, Allen, Arbour, Avon, Blakemore, Bond, Bouchier, Butler, Cardy, Chappell, Churchill, Coombs, Day, Eady, Elengorn, Elliott, Elloy, Evans, Fleming, Gibbons, Harborne, Harrison, Councillor Paul Hodgins, Jaeger, Jones, Khosa, Knight, Langhorne, Lee-Parsons, Linnette, Martin, Mathias, Miller, Montague, Morris, Naylor, Nicholson, O'Malley, Percival, Pollesche, Porter, Roberts, Salvoni, Samuel, Stockley, Thornton, Treble, True, Urquhart and Williams

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burford and Head.

The meeting opened with prayers led by the Reverend Jeff Hopkin-Williams

98. MINUTES

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 1 March 2011 were taken as read and approved as a correct record. The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 1 March 2011 were approved as a correct record, subject to the amendment of the start time of the meeting to read 7.52pm.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 3 - Petitions

Councillor Roberts declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of the fact that he was the parent of a pupil at a Catholic Primary school.

Councillor Elliott declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of being a governor at St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School.

Member Question 5b

The Mayor, Councillor Marlow, declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of the fact that he was the Council's representative on RELATE.

100. PETITIONS

In accordance with the Petition Scheme, the Council received a petition with more than 1000 signatures, triggering a debate. The petition had been submitted by Mr Anthony Kennedy on behalf of residents and requested the establishment of a Catholic Secondary School in the Borough.

Mr Kennedy introduced the petition by outlining its context. He explained that there were six Catholic Primary Schools in the borough, but that Richmond was

one of only two boroughs in London without a Catholic Secondary School. He stated that this caused many Catholic families to send their children to schools outside of the borough at the age of eleven. He concluded that there was sufficient demand within the borough to justify the creation of a Catholic Secondary School. Mr Kennedy stated that a Catholic school would also help to build community cohesion and would provide a strong moral ethos for young people. Intake would not be based on the academic ability or socio-economic background of pupils. Mr Kennedy emphasised the importance of freedom of choice for local families, which he believed would be provided by the creation of a Catholic Secondary School.

Councillor Elliott spoke in support of the petition, which he believed was of particular relevance to his ward, as Whitton contained a sizeable Catholic community. He informed the Council that he was a former pupil and now governor of St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School in Whitton. He highlighted the issues of long travel times and separation from former school friends which had affected him when he had attended a Catholic Secondary School outside of the borough. Councillor Elliott reiterated that there was a community demand for a Catholic Secondary School and emphasised the importance of parental choice in schools.

Councillor Eady also spoke in support of the petition. He stated that the previous administration had recognised the demand for a Catholic Secondary School in the borough and had discussed this with the Archdiocese. However, lack of funding and a suitable location had proved insurmountable at the time. Councillor Eady stated that each year approximately 270 Richmond children transferred outside of the borough for secondary education but that in 2010 only 38 children had transferred in from elsewhere. This would need to be considered if a Catholic Secondary School were created. Councillor Eady expressed some concerns about the likelihood of securing funding for a Catholic Secondary School from the government and the archdiocese given the current economic environment.

The Leader of the Council, Lord True, welcomed the petition and the fact that it had received cross-party support. He supported the provision of a Catholic Secondary School and stated that this would not jeopardise plans to meet the full secondary school needs of the borough. It was noted that final responsibility for the realisation of a new school rested with the Archdiocese, however, the Council would continue to work with the Archdiocese in an attempt to identify funding and a suitable location. The Council would also make representations to the coalition government on the need for funding. Though acknowledging that there were many obstacles, Lord True hoped to be able to make further announcements on the progress of this matter within the following months.

101. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

a) In accordance with notice given, Mrs Julie Hill asked the Chairman of the Planning Committee:

"Could you please describe the route and provide an audit trail of Minutes and from the point of writing to publication?"

Councillor Linnette replied in the following terms:

"Planning committee minutes are produced as follows: the Clerk drafts a set of minutes from rough notes taken at the time of the meeting; the Clerk makes this draft available to other officers who were present at the meeting, who might

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8th of March 2011.

The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols

The Archbishop of Westminster,

Archbishops House,

Ambrosden Avenue,

London SW1P 1QJ



The Most Reverend Peter Smith

The Archbishop of Southwark,

Archbishops House,

150 St. Georges Road,

London SE1 6HX

Dear Archbishop Nichols and Archbishop Smith,

I write this open letter to you jointly as the Catholic father of two children, a boy aged nine years and a girl aged five years, who, for the time being at least, have the privilege of attending what is an excellent Catholic primary school, the St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School in Richmond. In the case of you Archbishop Smith, I write also as someone who, like you, was born in Battersea and went to school at Clapham College.

The concern which provokes this letter, and which is shared by many other Catholic families in this Borough, is what will become of our children's Catholic education once they reach secondary school age. As you will be aware, Richmond is alone among the London boroughs in not having any Catholic secondary school. This is despite the undoubted demand which there is for such a school. Should there be any doubt about this, I enclose with this letter a petition, signed by 1105 Richmond Borough residents, which I have collected at local Catholic primary schools and parish churches. The majority of the signatures are those of Catholic parents concerned about the lack of Catholic secondary school provision for their children.

As you may also be aware, Richmond Council has, in the last few months, announced plans to build two new secondary schools in the Borough and has declared publicly its wish that one of these should be a Catholic school. There have been many public declarations of such "plans" and "wishes" on many occasions over the years, only for them to fade away and come to nothing, usually falling on the twin obstacles of lack of money and the lack of any "suitable" site in the Borough.

The issues of finance and that of a suitable site are undoubtedly real and difficult issues, perhaps now more than ever. However, I believe that if the necessary will and determination is there to build a Catholic school in Richmond, then with imagination and commitment, there is no reason why these are issues which should be allowed, yet again, to block the establishment of such a school. It is with this belief that I, together with Catholic parents across the Borough, respectfully call on you both now to publicly declare your support and commitment to just such a project, with the intention of seeing the building of a Catholic secondary school in Richmond within a period of five years; and, to work constructively and imaginatively, both with each other and with Richmond Council, to secure this objective.

In the interim, and on behalf of those parents whose children will reach secondary school age before any such school is built, I also ask that you jointly and urgently contact the admission authorities of the various Catholic secondary schools within your respective Archdioceses to remind them of the lack of Catholic secondary educational provision within this Borough, and to ask that in drafting their admission arrangements they recognise this, and, that in so doing, they give special consideration to, and make special provision for, the children of Catholic families here.

The reason I ask this is that the ever rising demand for Catholic education generally, coupled with the routine use of a distance tiebreaker by schools, increasingly results in Catholic children in the Borough of Richmond being disadvantaged when it comes to Catholic school admissions. Particularly disadvantaged are those families who live in the centre most parts of the Borough, such as Ham. In these "black holes" of Catholic education the families there find themselves surrounded by out of borough Catholic secondary schools but living too far away to secure a place for their children at most (and on occasions any) of them.

Yours faithfully



Anthony Kennedy

cc: Lord Nicholas True, Leader Richmond Council,

The Editor, Richmond & Twickenham Times.