

Diocese of Westminster
Proposal to Establish a Voluntary-Aided Primary School

Contact Details

1. Name of proposer: Diocese of Westminster, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN.
2. This proposal is made independently, without other proposers.

Category

3. The proposal is to establish a voluntary-aided secondary school, for pupils aged 4-11.

Consultation

4. All applicable statutory requirements to consult have been complied with.
5. Evidence of consultation:

Persons and groups consulted include:

London Boroughs of Richmond –upon-Thames, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow and Wandsworth, the Royal Boroughs of Kingston upon Thames and Kensington and Chelsea, The Borough of Spelthorne and Surrey County Council.

The Archdiocese of Southwark , The London Diocesan Board for Schools, the Diocese of Southwark Board of Education, the parishes of the Upper Thames Deanery and Mortlake Deanery.

Vince Cable MP, Zac Goldsmith MP

Relevant Trades Unions (ATL, GMB, NAHT, NASUWT, NUT)

The YPLA

Richmond College

All Schools in the Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames

Public meetings were held on 24th January 2012 and 7th February 2012.

The Diocesan Consultation received 1969 responses, and over 93% were in favour of the proposals.

Objectives

6. The objective of the proposal is to create a high-quality Catholic 4-11 primary school to serve children in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and surrounding areas.

Extended Services

7. The site will be leased to Richmond Adult Community College to provide adult education classes on weekday evenings.

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

8. It is proposed that:
 - (a) The school will provide 210 places.
 - (b) The lower and upper age limits of the school will be 4 and 11.
 - (c) No sixth form places will be provided.
 - (d) The school will not provide nursery education.
 - (e) The school will not provide for boarding pupils.
 - (f) The admission number for the school on the opening date will be 30. In 2012/2013, the school will admit 30 children into Reception; in 2013/2014, it will have 30 children into Reception and 30 children in Year 1; and so until 2018/2019, when it will have up to 30 children in all year-groups. The school will admit both boys and girls in all year-groups.

Ethos / Religious Character

9. The school will be founded by and be part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Westminster.
10. Religious education in the school will be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church; and religious worship will be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church; and at all times the school will serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. The proposer intends to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character.

Area or Community that the School Serves

11. The school will serve the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and surrounding areas.

Admission Arrangements

12. The proposed oversubscription criteria to be used for the purposes of admitting children and young people to the school will be as follows:
1. Catholic looked after children and Catholic children who have been adopted (or made subject to residence or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after.
 2. Up to ten community places for children whose parents wish them to have a Catholic education, on the basis of proximity to the school.
 3. Baptised Catholic children, on the basis of proximity to the school.
 4. Other looked after children and children who have been adopted (or made subject to residence or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after.
 5. Baptised children from other eastern Churches.
 6. Other Christian children and children of other faiths.
 7. Any other children.
- a) The attendance of a sibling at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category.
 - b) For categories 3 and 5 a baptismal certificate will be required.
 - c) For category 3, priority will be given within the category to practising Catholics where this practice is confirmed by a priest at the church where the family normally worships, using the standard diocesan priests' reference/declaration form.
 - d) Where the offer of places in any of the categories would still lead to oversubscription, the places up to the admission number will be offered by proximity to the school. In the case of equidistance from the school, random allocation will be used.

In the event of a tie-breaker being needed, an independently-supervised drawing of lots will take place. If twins or triplets are competing for one or two remaining places, the school will admit both/all applicants and exceed the Published Admissions Number. The admission of children with a statement of Special Educational Needs is dealt with by a separate procedure that is administered by the applicant's home Local Authority, to whom all enquiries in that regard should be addressed.

Grammar Schools

13. The school will not be in substitution of a discontinued grammar school and will therefore not be designated as a grammar school.

School with a religious character or particular educational philosophy – parental demand

Evidence of demand in the area is gauged from the facts that:

- Between 2000 and 2007, the number of live births in the borough rose by 21%, from 2,384 to 2,884, and has since (by the end of 2010) risen by a further 4.5%, to 2,992. Richmond Borough's primary schools have been top of the national Key Stage 2 league tables throughout that period. As a result, since the 2004/2005 school year, when there was a considerable amount of spare capacity, demand for places in reception has increased by almost 500 children; with a large leap in numbers in 2007/2008, and which, further exacerbated by the economic downturn, has increased in all subsequent years.
- Demand for Catholic primary school places is very high, as the table below, outlining the number of applications for Reception entry in 2011, shows:

School	Admission Number	Total applications
Sacred Heart	30	139
St James's	90	307
St Edmund's	60	166
St Elizabeth's	30	141
St Mary Magdalen's	30	119
St Osmund's	30	123
Total	270	995

- The three schools on the Surrey side of the Thames have been able to increase the supply of demand by accommodating a 'shared form of entry' between them. (This strategy groups three schools to provide the seven extra classrooms needed for a full form of entry between them. The children admitted each year stay in the school for the full seven years of primary provision and do not move, but each year the school admitting the additional class rotates.) However, no such provision exists on the Middlesex side and the number of applications, especially for St James's indicates that there is unmet demand from local Catholic parents.

Sixth Form Education

14. The school will not have a sixth form.

Early Years Provision

15. The school will not contain any nursery provision.

Specialisms

17. The school will not have a specialism.

Effects on Standards and Contributions to School Improvement

18. The school will:

(a) Contribute to the diversity and quality of education in the area by meeting demand for Catholic education in the area and by building on the achievements of.

(b) Be part of the local family of schools, and in doing so work with other local schools, particularly the six high-performing state-maintained Catholic primary schools within Richmond Borough and the proposed Catholic secondary school, to raise attainment.

19. The school will be part of the local area-based ('quindrat') arrangements, specifically within the St Margarets, Twickenham and Teddington quindrat, for protecting children and preventing them from developing difficult and/or challenging behaviours; and in so doing work with other schools, agencies and lead professionals in order to meet the requirements of the six strands of the Every Child Matters agenda.

Community Cohesion

20. The school will play a prominent role in its local community – both geographical and faith-based – through the local arrangements described in 19, above; will enable local Catholic children to be educated within a local Catholic school, rather than have to attend community schools; and will collaborate with other local schools, particularly the other six Catholic primary schools in the borough and the proposed Catholic secondary school, to help to increase standards.

Single sex or co-educational school

21. The school will be co-educational in all year-groups.

Location

22. The school will:

(a) Be situated at Clifden Road, Twickenham, TW1 4LT.

(b) Occupy a single site.

- (c) Be easily accessible, being a five minute walk from Twickenham railway station and the H22, 33, 267, 281, 290 and 490 bus routes.
- (d) Be on a site whose freehold is owned by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, but which is designated for educational use.
- (e) Have right of tenure through a 125-year lease, containing no clauses that could obstruct the school's governing body or headteacher in the exercise of any of their statutory functions.
- (f) Be on a site that is not currently occupied by another school; and which
- (g) Will be leased with an annual payment of a peppercorn rent to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Implementation

23. In 2013/2014, the school will admit 30 children into Reception; in 2014/2015, it will have 30 children into Reception and 30 children in Year 1; and so until 2019/2020, when it will have up to 30 children in all year-groups. The school will admit both boys and girls in all year-groups.

Project Costs

24. The estimated capital costs required to convert the existing buildings and add new facilities on the site are approx: £1,500,000. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will meet those costs.

Travel

26. It is anticipated that all children to be admitted will be able to travel to and from school either by walking or by public transport. If the journey involves public transport other than the use of London buses, on which travel is free for schoolchildren resident within Greater London, then an application for home to school travel assistance can be made to the child's home local authority. Residents of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames can view their home local authority's home to school travel policy at: http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/education_and_learning/pupil_and_student_finance/home_to_school_travel_grants.htm.

Curriculum

27. The school will meet the general curriculum requirements of Section 78 of the Education Act 2002.

Voluntary-aided Schools

28. The school's governing body will be able and willing to carry out its obligations under Schedule 3 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Staff

29. The staffing structure for the new school will be established by the Head Teacher and the Governing Body following appointment. The promoters will provide guidance and assistance as required.

Special Educational Benefits

30. The governing body and leadership team of the new school will work with diocesan and local authority colleagues to provide suitable facilities for any designated group or groups.
31. The school will abide by the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and will admit any child with a statement of special educational needs that names the school unless to do so would not be compatible with the effective education of other pupils in the school and would not be an inefficient use of resources.

Relevant Experience of Proposer

32. The Diocese of Westminster provides 216 schools, including 163 primaries, within London, Hertfordshire and Surrey and therefore has great experience of involvement in the improvement of educational standards.

Planning Permission

33. The Diocese of Westminster and its consultants will work with the local planning authority to develop, replace and adapt aspects of the existing site and to promote change as required. An application for planning consent will be submitted as appropriate.