

Diocese of Westminster
Proposal to Establish a Voluntary-Aided Secondary 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 11-18.

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 including St Catherine's Independent School

All Catholic Secondary Schools in the London Boroughs of Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Borough of Spelthorne, Surrey

Public meetings were held on 24th January 2012 and 7th February 2012. The Diocesan Consultation received 1969 responses, and over 95% were in favour of the proposals.

Objectives

6. The objective of the proposal is to create a high-quality Catholic 11-18 secondary school to serve children and young people 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 1,050 places, including 750 places for children aged 11-16.
 - b) The lower and upper age limits of the school will be 11 and 18.
 - c) 300 sixth form places will be provided for young people aged 16-18.
 - 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 150. In 2013/2014, the school will admit 150 children into Year 7; in 2014/2015, it will have 150 children in Year 7 and 150 children in Year 8; and so until 2017/2018, when it will have 150 children in all 11-16 year-groups. In 2018/2019, 150 children will be admitted into Year 12; and in 2019/2020 150 young people will be admitted into Year 13, at which point the school will have pupils 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. Community places for children attending the new Richmond Primary School and holding a community place at that school.
 3. Baptised Catholic children from practising Catholic families who are resident in the parishes of Our Lady Queen of Peace, East Sheen; Sacred Heart, Teddington; St Edmund, Whitton; St Elizabeth, Richmond; St Francis de Sales, Hampton; St James, Twickenham; St Margaret, East Twickenham; St Mary Magdalen, Mortlake; St Osmund, Barnes; St Theodore, Hampton; St Thomas Aquinas, Ham and St Winefride, Kew.
 4. Baptised Catholic children who are resident in the parishes listed in criterion 3 above.
 5. Other baptised Catholic children.
 6. Other looked after children and children who have been adopted (or made subject to residence or special guardianship orders) immediately following being looked after.
 7. Children from other Christian traditions and from other faiths. Priority will be given to members of the Eastern Christian (including Orthodox) Churches.
 8. 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) Where the number of applicants under criteria 3 or 4 exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated in the ratio Diocese of Westminster: Diocese of Southwark = 6:4. and if the number still exceeds the places available, they will be ranked by random allocation.
 - c) Where the offer of places in any of the criteria other than 3 or 4 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.
 - (a) 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. The school will admit both boys and girls in all year-groups.

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

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

- At secondary level, Richmond upon Thames is one of only two boroughs in London that does not have a Catholic secondary school. As a result, baptised and practising Catholic children whose parents want them to be educated in Catholic schools have to look outside the borough. The table below shows that each year between 86 and 89% of such pupils transfer to Catholic secondary school places outside the borough, and a minority transfer to other secondary schools, either within or outside the borough:

School	Year 6 Primary school rolls				Other secondary schools				Year 6 pupils transferring to Catholic secondary schools			
	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Sep 2007	Sep 2008	Sep 2009	Sep 2010	Sep 2007	Sep 2008	Sep 2009	Sep 2010
Sacred Heart	28	30	27	29	2	1	7	7	26	29	20	22
St Edmund's	58	60	59	59	3	3	3	2	55	57	56	57
St Elizabeth's School	28	30	32	33	4	5	4	1	24	25	28	32
St James's	55	59	81	83	12	5	4	15	43	54	77	68
St Mary Magdalen's	24	20	25	25	4	9	8	7	20	11	17	18
St Osmund's	22	26	27	26	4	1	2	4	18	25	25	22
Total	215	225	251	255	29	24	28	36	186	201	223	219

School	Year 6 Primary school rolls				Other secondary schools				% of Year 6 pupils transferring to Catholic secondary schools			
	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Sep 2007	Sep 2008	Sep 2009	Sep 2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sacred Heart	100%	100%	100%	100%	7%	3%	26%	24%	93%	97%	74%	76%
St Edmund's	100%	100%	100%	100%	5%	5%	5%	3%	95%	95%	95%	97%
St Elizabeth's School	100%	100%	100%	100%	14%	17%	13%	3%	86%	83%	88%	97%
St James's	100%	100%	100%	100%	22%	8%	5%	18%	78%	92%	95%	82%
St Mary Magdalen's	100%	100%	100%	100%	17%	45%	32%	28%	83%	55%	68%	72%
St Osmund's	100%	100%	100%	100%	18%	4%	7%	15%	82%	96%	93%	85%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	13%	11%	11%	14%	87%	89%	89%	86%

- A petition signed by over 1,100 local Catholic parents and which requested the establishment of a Catholic secondary school within the borough was submitted to the full [Council of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames at its meeting on 5 April 2011](#).
- An e-petition run on the Council's website in late 2011 gained 3556 signatures in favour of a new school.

Sixth Form Education

15. The provision of a sixth form at the proposed school will:
- (a) Provide educational opportunities at least on a par with the sixth forms of Catholic secondary schools in surrounding areas;
 - (b) Increase participation among local Catholic young people;
 - (c) Increase the choice and diversity of post-16 education available to local young people, particularly those from Catholic families who would like to spend their entire school career within local Catholic schools.

Early Years Provision

16. The school will not contain any early years 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 virtue of being the only Catholic secondary school in the area and by building on the achievements of the six high-performing state-maintained Catholic primary schools within Richmond Borough.
 - (b) Be part of the local family of schools, and in doing so work with other local schools 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 continue their education within Richmond Borough, rather than have to attend Catholic secondary schools outside the borough (as per the data given in 14, above); and will collaborate with other local schools, particularly the

six Catholic primary schools in the borough, 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 for an annual payment of a peppercorn rent to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Implementation

23. In 2013/2014, the school will admit 150 children into Year 7; in 2014/2015, it will have 150 children in Year 7 and 150 children in Year 8; and so until 2017/2018, when it will have 150 children in all 11-16 year-groups. In 2018/2019, 150 children will be admitted into Year 12; and in 2019/2020 150 young people will be admitted into Year 12 and 150 young people will be admitted into Year 13, at which point the school will have pupils 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: £5,000,000-8,000,000. The proposers 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 39 secondaries, 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.