



**The Diocese of Westminster
in partnership with
The Archdiocese of Southwark**



**Pre-Statutory Consultation on a proposal to establish a
Catholic Secondary School (for pupils aged 11 – 18 years) and a
Catholic Primary School (for pupils aged 3 – 11)**

**On the site currently occupied by Richmond Adult Education College,
Clifden Road, Twickenham TW1 4LT
([See Google Map](#))**

Period of Consultation: 20 January 2012 to 17 February 2012

BACKGROUND

For many years, the Catholic community within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has campaigned for a Catholic secondary school in the Borough. Catholic parents and carers have been pleased to send their primary school aged children to one of the popular and successful Catholic primary schools that serve the community but, at the point of secondary transfer, they have been compelled to send their children to schools outside of the Borough, and sometimes outside of the state education system completely, in order to secure a place in a Catholic Secondary School.

Within the Council, successive administrations have recognised that the absence of a Catholic Secondary School from the family of local schools has diminished the diversity of choice afforded to their residents. They have resolved to address this inequality at the earliest opportunity but, a lack of demonstrable need for additional secondary school places and lack of a site within the Borough have prevented affirmative action.

In recent years, demand for Catholic primary school places in the borough has also increased and our evidence indicates that more places should be provided to meet that demand.

SECRETARY OF STATE APPROVAL TO PUBLISH PROPOSALS

Having established the need for additional capacity in the Secondary Sector, the Diocese of Westminster applied to the Secretary of State for Education seeking consent under section 10 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, to promote within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames:

- a new 11 - 18 Catholic Voluntary Aided Secondary School, and
- a new 3 - 11 Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School.

On 20 December 2011, the Secretary of State consented to the application of the Diocese of Westminster to promote the new schools. His consent enables the Diocese of Westminster to officially commence the informal and formal consultation phases that are required under the Act. However, the final decision on the establishment of any new schools proposed by the Diocese will rest with the Local Authority.

STAGE 1 – THE INFORMAL (PRE-STATUTORY) CONSULTATION PHASE

Before publishing statutory proposals to establish a new voluntary aided school, the promoter (the Diocese of Westminster) is required to consult with a range of interested parties (individuals and organisations) and seek their comments. The comments and feedback received during this phase are then presented to the promoter, for its consideration. At this point the Diocese decides whether or not to publish statutory proposals.

All comments received during this consultation will be collated and analysed and a report will then be presented to the promoters for their consideration.

If you would like to comment on this proposal, you are invited to complete the response form at the end of this document or register your comments online at www.rcdow.org.uk/richmondconsult

During Stage 1, the Diocese of Westminster, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Southwark, will be hosting two drop-in sessions, at which you can discuss the proposals with the promoters, as follows:

- Tuesday 24 January 2012 at St James Catholic Primary School, Stanley Road, Twickenham, between 16:00 and 19:00.
- Tuesday 7 February 2012 at St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School, Queens Road, Richmond, between 16:00 and 19:00.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Having considered the comments received during the Stage 1 process, the promoters must decide whether or not to publish Statutory Proposals. If the decision is to proceed, a formal notice will be published in the local paper inviting interested parties to register their comments with the decision makers – The Local Council. Further information will be made available if the application progresses into Stage 2.

The London Borough of Richmond are also running their own consultation about the establishment of a Catholic school on the Clifden Road site. The Borough's consultation will run until 16 March and can be accessed online at: www.richmond.gov.uk

ADMISSIONS POLICIES

It is proposed that the admission policies of the new schools have the following features:

- There will be **up to 150 community places** available for local children whose parents wish them to have a Catholic education. This will be achieved by allocating up to one-third of the places in the primary school solely based on distance from the school (i.e. ten places per year). These children would then have priority in accessing the secondary school at year.
- The next priority will be Catholic children, followed by other children whose parents wish them to have a Catholic education.
- Within all categories priority will be given to children resident in one of the Catholic Parishes within the London Borough of Richmond.
- In the case of the secondary school, it is intended that the schools serve the whole of the borough, so the oversubscription criteria will not be based solely on distance but will seek to distribute the places equitably across all of the parishes in the Borough.
- Additional priority will also be given to siblings and children with specific medical, pastoral or social needs.
- Both schools will give priority to looked after (and former looked after) children as required by the Admissions Code and Diocesan Guidance.

Further details about how the admissions policy is to be formulated is available at:

www.rcdow.org.uk/education/richmondconsult

SHARED SITE BENEFITS

The Diocese of Westminster consider that, in order to maximise the beneficial education opportunities of the proposed site, it would be advantageous for both the primary and secondary phase schools to be administered by one organisation.

Maintained Catholic primary schools in Richmond

- 1 St Edmund's
- 2 St James's
- 3 Sacred Heart
- 4 St Elizabeth's
- 5 St Mary Magdalen's
- 6 St Osmund's

● New school site

Maintained Catholic secondary schools in other boroughs

- 8 St Mark's (mixed)
- 9 Gumley House (girls)
- 10 Gunnersbury (boys)
- 11 Sacred Heart (girls)
- 12 Cardinal Vaughan (boys)
- 13 The London Oratory (boys)
- 14 St John Bosco (mixed)
- 15 Wimbledon College (boys)
- 16 Ursuline (girls)
- 17 Holy Cross (girls)
- 18 Richard Challoner (boys)
- 19 St Paul's (mixed)



Map showing the proposed new schools in relation to existing Catholic maintained schools

RESPONSE FORM

Pre-statutory consultation concerning the option to establish a Catholic Secondary School (for pupils aged 11 – 18 years) and a Catholic Primary School (for pupils aged 3 – 11 years) on the Clifden Road Site in Twickenham. 20 January 2012 to 17 February 2012

You can make your response below or alternatively you may do so online at www.rcdow.org.uk/richmondconsult

The following is my personal response to this informal consultation.

First name:	
Last Name:	

Please tick all of the following that apply

- I am a Resident in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
- I work in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
- I have one or more children of compulsory school age
- I am a Catholic

For each of the following questions, please answer either Yes or No

Question 1: Is the addition of a Catholic Secondary School to the family of Borough schools desirable?

- Yes
- No

Question 2: Should the Diocese of Westminster promote a Catholic Secondary School and thereby extend the diversity of choices available to residents of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames?

- Yes
- No

Question 3: Should the Diocese of Westminster also promote a Catholic Primary School to share the Clifden Road site in order to maximise educational potential?

- Yes
- No

Do you have any suggestions for the names of the proposed schools?

--

(Continues)

I would like to submit the following additional comment:

Consultation Response Options:

- You can register your comments and access additional information online at:
 - www.rcdow.org.uk/education/richmondconsult

- Alternatively completed Response Forms or Personal Letters can be:
 - Posted to: Richmond Catholic School Consultation, Diocese of Westminster Education Service, Vaughan house, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN
 - Handed in to the school reception at any of the Catholic Primary Schools in Richmond

- The London Borough of Richmond are also running a parallel consultation about establishing a Catholic school on the Clifden Road site which can be accessed online at:
 - www.richmond.gov.uk