

# London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

## Clifden Road Site Consultation 2012



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## 1. Introduction

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames commissioned Snap Surveys to process their Clifden Road Site Consultation 2012. This report contains the research findings.

Snap Surveys certify that this research was conducted in accordance with ISO20252:2006 and ISO 9001:2008.

### 1.1. Methodology

This section outlines how the survey was conducted, who responded and how the results have been analysed.

The consultation took the form of an on-line and paper survey with the aim of residents considering the proposals and registering whether they agree or disagree. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames hosted the survey from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> March, collecting the responses and providing Snap Surveys Ltd with a csv data file on three occasions. Paper questionnaires were returned to Snap Surveys Ltd for data entry. A coding frame for five open ended questions was developed in liaison with LBRuT.

We received 4244 responses in total, the majority were online responses (72%) and of the 11 other responses, one was a Liberal Democrat report and ten were email responses received by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

OVERALL RESPONSE	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Online	3051	(72%)
Paper	1182	(28%)
Other	11	-

Respondents who gave other reasons for agreeing / disagreeing were given the opportunity to write these down. These responses have been coded for some questions and are shown in tables. This report provides a summary of the open comments and a sample of the anonymous comments.

## 2. RESPONDENT COMMENTS

### Q2. Other reasons for supporting the Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school (coded)

6% (159 people) of those agreeing said that there were other reasons for their support, and gave their responses as a free text answer. The data has been coded and is shown in the table below.

Base		159
Q2. Agree with secondary school: Other reasons	Would be able to remain educated within the borough / won't have to travel	50
	No direct link at present to a secondary school / without a secondary RC school	37
	Important to Catholic parents / Christian identity / moral values	32
	Catholic education popular, achieves good results	24
	Catholic primary schools all oversubscribed	11
	Positive for the wider community	5
	As long as includes some provision for non faith children	5
	Value for money	2
	Long-standing commitment	2
	Other	17

A selection of comments are listed below:

"A Catholic education is very important for me as a Catholic parent and allows continuity from primary school."

"A Catholic school would beneficially promote a moral dimension in our children's education"

"A Catholic secondary school will compliment the several Catholic primaries in the borough, students from which now look outside for their secondary schools."

"An in-borough Catholic secondary school will reduce the time and distance that many children have to travel."

"An in-borough secondary school Catholic option would give my children a community of friends who live close by - at the moment my Year 7 daughter takes 2 buses to reach her out of borough Catholic school, and finds it hard to ever see her friends as they are also spread out."

"As well as increasing choice, a Catholic secondary school will help community cohesion by reducing the need for children to travel outside of the borough and local area to attend a school of their choice."

"Catholic children are being forced to travel long distances out of the borough to attend Catholic schools. This is not 'green' and it presents many difficulties to the children."

"Catholic education is popular among non catholic groups. The school may be able to offer non catholic places and this will increase opportunity for all and will enhance inter-community inter-faith dialogue. It is a democratic right that has currently been denied."

"Catholic schools provide excellent education within a sound moral framework."

"Good value for money for taxpayers, and I think that religion is something that young people should be free to explore."

"I think that the proposal of a Catholic secondary school fits well with the council's general duty to promote equality. There are 'inclusive' places available within borough already, but no Catholic secondary places at all, despite there being more than enough Catholic primary places provided."

"It is more financially viable and offers good value for money. Another community school would adversely affect academies and is not currently needed."

"It will ease demand on Catholic secondary schools in other boroughs, particularly Hounslow."

"It will help with the integration in the community of Catholic people, as they can, through the school, meet other families in the area sharing same beliefs and values."

"It would increase the number of borough children maintaining links with their local community by remaining in-borough to complete their education. Like children attending non faith borough schools they will move onto a secondary school with their school contemporaries. Currently, Catholic primary children are 'spread to the wind' when it comes to their secondary education."

"There is no Catholic secondary school in Richmond Borough."

"This is a long-standing commitment by both parties and I feel that it should be honoured."

"Would be great to have a mixed Catholic school option near."

### Q3. Other reasons for not supporting the Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school (coded)

6% (88 people) of those disagreeing said that there were other reasons for their support, and gave their responses as a free text answer. The data has been coded and is shown in the table below.

Base		88
Q3.Disagree with secondary school: Other reasons	Should not be able to exclude majority of children / not be selective / causes division / opposed to faith based education	63
	Taxpayers money should not be spent on funding faith schools	18
	Discriminates against staff	2
	Other	15

A selection of comments are listed below:

"All state-funded schools in the borough should be non-faith community or free schools open to all children."

"Already there are too few good quality secondary school places in the borough, we desperately need an inclusive secondary school."

"Another Catholic secondary school in this borough will result in - more local people having to travel further afield for secondary school provision and more people travelling into Twickenham. I would like to see a more inclusive schools policy catering for people of all-faiths and non-faiths too. I would much rather see a local inclusive secondary school where all children would be welcome to attend and without any particular religious basis, and with a more inclusive culture. This would provide much more flexibility and better support local needs."

"Faith schools divide communities and enable selection of children which a state community school should not do. Faith schools also demand teachers to be in sympathy with their faith which as a teacher has prevented me applying to many schools."

"I am concerned that after the one-off payment made by the church to update the buildings, the church will then rent the building for 125 years at a 'peppercorn rent' whilst the taxpayers will be paying for all of the running costs. I am also concerned that the church will continue to run the governing body whilst taxpayers will be footing the bill."

"I am deeply concerned that there is a greater need for fully inclusive school places than selective ones and worried there will be insufficient money, sites or political will to establish a new community school in time for when school places will have run out. If you showed as much commitment to a community school as to the Catholic one, and prioritised this, many people would be satisfied."

"I am not prepared for my tax money to be used for something which discriminates on the grounds of religion"

"I am opposed to faith-based education."

"I believe that religion has no part to play in the education of children other than as a subject for children to gain knowledge of."

"I believe that the primary reason for catholic parents choosing catholic schools is because of the perception of a better quality of education. If the necessary funds were invested in the remaining education provision there would be limited demand for faith education. This investment could be at the Clifden site or elsewhere."



"I believe that the site should be used for inclusive community schools open to all regardless of religion."

"I believe that the site should be used for what RACC originally intended 4 years ago, as a site offering educational/developmental education and activities for adults with a disability."

"I disagree with the premise that parents should have the right to send their children to a faith-based school. I believe that faith should be inculcated separately though it may be worth mentioning that I am a Christian."

"I do not agree with taxes / public money being used to fund faith schools. I believe that faith and education should be kept separate."

"I do not believe that any additional school places created in the borough should be exclusive to people of one religious faith."

"I do not believe that it is good for a cohesive society to divide children into faith groups or any other kinds of division. I believe in inclusion."

"I think the site is useful for local community as an adult education college. If it becomes a Catholic school, people will be driving in from miles away and it will cease to serve the local community. In addition, faith schools are disastrous given the animosity between groups of different religions."

"I would like more effort and money to be put into the secondary schools already in the Richmond borough"

"Increase in traffic twice as children are dropped off, and the loss of Clifden as an adult education institute."

"Site should be prioritised for access for all Richmond Borough children's education irrespective of faith."

"So many children from outside the borough already attend our schools and the same thing would happen again, apart from being a nightmare for local residents with increased traffic of parents driving their children to school or older children driving themselves."

"Surely discrimination on grounds of religion is not legal in admission to a school that receives state funding in any form?"

"The Archdiocese has submitted their application for a VA school just before the Education Act 2011 comes into force. Under the new Act, councils must invite proposals for Academies or Free Schools before considering a VA school. The Act also states that all new Faith Academies should have 50:50 admissions and I find it offensive that the Archdiocese is trying so hard to avoid that principle."

"The ethos of the school under Catholic management will discriminate against staff and pupils. That is enough to consider a better alternative."

#### **Q4. What other type of school would you prefer to see established at the Clifden Road site**

Respondents who disagreed with the proposal to build a Voluntary aided Catholic school were asked what their preferred type of school for the site would be. 81 respondents said that they preferred an 'Other' type of school and gave their response as a free text answer. A selection of comments is listed below:

"A comprehensive school."

"Any non faith-based school."

"Community secondary school."

"Essentially I might be happy with a faith based academy if it was 100% inclusive."

"Grammar school as that is what's really needed in the borough."

"I do not want my children to be excluded from a good education based upon the faith of their parents. This is simply not fair and discriminatory to use my taxes to pay for something that my children have no opportunity to enjoy the benefits of. Secondary school provision is poor in the borough. All new resources should be used to improve the conditions for the majority of residents rather than a minority that are catholic or pretend to be."

"I do not want to see any more academies in the borough than we have already. Academies are a political vehicle that ultimately will privatise education."

"I do not wish to see a school established on the site. I think it should be a community site with particular emphasis on help for the elderly."

"My preference has been negated by the Education Act 2011."

"Possibly an all boys school to balance the provision for boys in the borough that Waldergrave skews."

"Since the problem of places in Richmond is currently in the primary sector, I would like to see a community primary school established on this site."

"State-funded school INSIDE local authority control and directly funded by the Government."

"The best education should be available to ALL children. Schools should be accountable to the borough, required to employ qualified teachers and not segregated by religion. Have we learnt nothing from the problems in Northern Ireland?"

## Q6. Other reasons for supporting the Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school (coded)

2% of those who agreed with the proposition (51 People) said that there were other reasons, and were given the opportunity to write these down. These responses have been coded and are shown in the table below.

Base		51
Q6. Agree with primary school: Other reasons	Promotes moral dimension	14
	Catholic primary schools oversubscribed	12
	Catholics provide good education	7
	Distance have to travel	5
	Should not be exclusive	5
	Helps smooth transition to secondary	2
	Priority given to Catholic children as more options for non-Catholic children	1
	Other	9

A selection of comments are listed below:

"Catholic schools are all oversubscribed for the simple reason that parents believe they provide better education."

"Catholic schools in general offer a very good standard of education and produce excellent young people with a sense of civic commitment to their local communities."

"Catholic schools provide excellent education within a sound moral framework."

"For some children in the borough, the distance to the existing Catholic school can be off-putting, and contributes significantly to rush hour traffic."

"Helps smooth transition to secondary school."

"It is very difficult for primary aged children to get a place in the Catholic schools near to them. Small children should not have to travel long distances to get to primary school."

"It will help with the integration in the community of Catholic people, as they can, through the school, meet other families in the area sharing same beliefs and values."

"It would be good to have a Catholic school with a mixed intake on this site. Ten community places is probably about right."

"It would provide an even greater sense of community in the area of the secondary school helped with its feeder primary school - and create long-term friendships and firm identity to the pupils."

"Linked primary and secondary schools provide a good transition for pupils. It is also good to have some places open to non-Catholic children, which encourages respect for all individuals."

"Many Catholic families cannot get their children into existing Catholic schools - not enough places."

"More Catholic primary places will alleviate pressure on places at the other non Catholic primaries in the borough."

"More primary places are needed in the borough, however it will be challenging to have a primary school AND a secondary school on the same site. Not only in terms of numbers but in the huge age difference - careful segregation would be needed to keep the two schools separate so younger children are not unduly influenced by older and more worldly children."

"There are waiting lists in all the Catholic primary school in Richmond."

"There aren't enough state school spaces for children in the area to be offered a school that is near to them."

"There is a very fine tradition of high quality Catholic education."

## Q7. Other reasons for not supporting the Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school (coded)

7% of those who disagreed with the proposition (96 People) said that there were other reasons, and were given the opportunity to write these down. These responses have been coded and are shown in the table below.

Base		96
Q7.Disagree with primary school: Other reasons	Faith schools too exclusive / discriminates / do not agree with faith schools / entry should not be based on religion	48
	Taxes should not be used to fund faith schools	9
	Site large enough to support two schools, or big secondary school / secondary needed	6
	Should be for Catholics only	4
	Would guarantee these children a place at the secondary school / unfair	4
	Very few non faith based primary schools	4
	Should be based on catchment area not faith	3
	Other	24

A selection of comments are listed below:

"A new primary school should be all-inclusive, not just for Catholic children."

"A single form school is an inefficient use of taxpayer money. This was one of the reasons (given by council) for expansion of Stanley Primary. Also, at the time of Stanley expansion the council told parents that there was ""no demand for more Catholic places."" The demand was for community places. We, the parents, supported expansion, trusting that the council would (logically) address a need for more community secondary places down the road. If the borough needs more Catholic primary places expand St. James. They have a lovely large site. I am sure they would welcome more students into their flock."

"Deciding access to schools based on religion is divisive, unfair and illogical."

"Education funded by taxes should be secular."

"Faith schools are exclusive, and we should promote inclusivity - everyone living and learning together."

"Families in central Twickenham who don't attend church already struggle to find a primary school place. Putting this proposed VA primary on their doorstep adds insult to injury."

"I believe there is a need for a secondary school, not primary. In an already oversubscribed area in desperate need of more secondary school places it appears to be madness to put in place a school that does not cater to the need of the community but the needs of the Catholic church based in Westminster."

"I do not agree with taxes / public money being used to fund faith schools. I believe that faith and education should be kept separate."

"I do not believe that there should be any state funded primary school places in the borough where the child's religion, race, gender, etc. is a discriminating factor on entry to the school."

"I do not know whether more primary schools are required in the borough. I believe that is the management task of the local authority. I do believe that every child should be in walking distance of a State primary school, as they were when my children started school 30 years ago."

"I do not support the concept of faith schools."

"I don't believe that the site is of sufficient size to accommodate both primary and a secondary school."

"I firmly believe publicly funded schools should be open to all, and not restricted to faith constraints. There are already a large number of Catholic primary schools in Richmond Borough."

"I strongly believe that this site should be used for a 'Free' mixed secondary school only."

"I think a Catholic secondary is more vital."

"I would prefer to see another non-faith based or free school provided for secondary education; if that does not happen, then a non-faith/free primary school would be a good second option."

"I'm happy for primary places to be provided at the Clifden site, but they must be at an inclusive school open to all, regardless of religion."

"It is not clear that a small primary intake is an effective balance of the options. A small expansion elsewhere would be more manageable in terms of staff."

"The Clifden site is approx. 10,000 square metres in size. This would be ideal for a secondary school but in my opinion it would not be large enough to support 2 schools."

"The severe lack of primary places in Richmond can be solved without using this site. Any new primary places should be for ALL Richmond children NOT faith based."

"The site should only be used by the secondary school, so it can include a sports field. Looking at the A-Z map, the site is much smaller than Waldegrave Girls' School. If there is a primary school, some of the parents will drive their children to and from school, increasing traffic problems in the area."

"There are very few non-faith based primary schools in the borough. Obviously primary places are needed in the borough, but there are plenty of Catholic and faith based primary schools already, with church attendance of varying importance in choosing their intake; this restricts choice for those of different religions or no religion, whereas Catholic/other Christians have free choice across all their local primaries."

"There is no Catholic secondary school in the borough, hence this should be the priority."

"Under pressure, the CofE schools in the borough have slashed their number of reserved places. The proposed school will reserve over 90% for Catholics."

"We have two other Catholic primary schools already."

"We have very good schools and I think it's better to spend the money to keep up their standard or even improve it rather than build new schools and I definitely don't want any Catholic schools."

"Whether or not places are needed should be a matter for LEA planning based on demographics. If places are needed, I strongly believe they should be made available to all, and not selected on a faith basis."

## **Q8. What other type of school would you prefer to see established at the Clifden Road site**

Respondents who disagreed with the proposal to build a Voluntary aided Catholic school were asked what their preferred type of school for the site would be. 97 respondents said that they preferred an 'Other' type of school and gave their response as a free text answer.

A selection of comments are listed below:

"A non faith school for local children."

"A primary school."

"A Richmond Borough managed State primary school open to all children in the borough with those from local area given priority, 20 minute walking distance away."

"All boys school."

"All schools, whether primary or secondary, should have great teaching quality and open to all, e.g. abilities, faiths. etc., not selective."

"An ordinary primary school open to all."

"Catholic admissions policies will ensure at least 90% of places go to Catholics; to avoid segregation in our society I believe church schools should reserve at least 50% of places for non-faith, local places."

"Church of England."

"Community primary school."

"Expansion of existing primary schools in the areas of most need for further places."

"Grammar school."

"I believe it should be a community school, not an Academy."

"I believe that the site should be for secondary school use only."

"I believe that there is enough primary school places but a definite requirement for a mixed secondary school is needed."

"I do not feel that a primary school should be located on the same site as a secondary school."

"I do not think additional Catholic primary places are needed and it will detract from other Catholic primaries in the area."



"I do not think there should be a primary school on the site."

"I don't agree with the principle of academy schools, and believe that state schools should remain within local authority control."

"I don't think the site is large enough for a primary and a secondary school."

"I would prefer it to be left as it is."

"If it has to be an academy it should be non faith."

"If there is need for a new primary school, it would be best to go for a non faith primary school open to children within walking distance."

"LEA-run primary school open to all pupils, regardless of their parents' religious views."

"Non faith-based secondary school."

"Non-faith community school."

"Non-faith school under local authority control if possible."

"Non-faith-based primary school."

"Secondary school."

"Should be kept as for Adult Education."

"State-funded school INSIDE local authority control and directly funded by the Government."

"The 2001 Act allows for new Free Schools, as well as Academies."

"There are no Catholic secondary schools in borough - we don't need primaries."

"There is a greater need for a mixed non faith secondary school for all children in Twickenham, so there is more choice other than a single sex school and all children will get a place at a secondary school."

"There were 250 children this year without a place in a reception class in the borough. Clearly, more primary schools are required. Moreover, these should be available to all rather than those that are, or are pretending to be catholic."

"We have very good schools and I think it's better to spend the money to keep up their standard or even improve it rather than build new schools and I definitely don't want any Catholic schools."

**Q9. Please state any other comments you have about the proposals or the future use of the Clifden Road site**

Respondents were asked to state any other comments they had about the proposals or the future use of the Clifden Road site. These responses have been coded and are shown in the tables below.

**9.1. Agree – Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school**

The following table shows the top 10 responses for respondents who agreed with the proposal to establish a five-form Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school on the site.

Base		893	
Q9. Any other comments you have about the proposals or the future use of the Clifden Road site	Great initiative / brilliant news / agree	795	89%
	No borough catholic secondary school / Catholic secondary school needed	432	48%
	Resident catholic children have to commute outside the Borough / long commute	238	27%
	Don't discriminate against their religion / have a right to a catholic education	98	11%
	Catholic schools oversubscribed as provide better education / better results	79	9%
	Plenty of Catholic primary schools / Catholic primary schools oversubscribed	73	8%
	Will ease burden on non-faith schools	44	5%
	Values taught in catholic school provide children with strong moral compass	37	4%
	The site is in a perfect location	35	4%
	Non Catholics should also be able to attend catholic schools	30	3%

Respondents who agreed with the proposal to establish a five-form Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school gave a selection of comments which are listed below:

"A Catholic school will free up other places in current schools for other faith children."

"A Catholic school will offer both a good educational standard and good value for money for taxpayers in the borough. I strongly support a Catholic school on the Clifden Road site."

"A Catholic secondary school would make a significant difference to the Catholic community, but also to the overall community."

"A secondary school on the Clifden site will make a huge difference to the borough. We do not currently have enough choice or diversity in secondary

education. I think that a Catholic school is an excellent idea as there is provision for primary Catholic education in the borough but no follow on secondary provision. In providing the Catholic secondary school, you will create more choice for everyone. Catholics may choose to go there thus freeing up spaces and choice elsewhere for others. This is an excellent plan for the borough and coming at a time when it is vitally needed."

"A significant number of Catholic families cannot find room for their children in the existing Catholic primary schools. The proposed new primary school would reduce this number."

"A strong Catholic primary school will benefit future generations of Catholics and non-Catholics in the borough."

"A voluntary aided Catholic school is needed in the borough, because, at the moment, all the Catholic children have to travel outside the borough to attend appropriate schools that enable them to retain their faith. At the moment there is great strain and pressure on both parents and children to acquire these places."

"A voluntary aided school relieves the borough from the cost of refurbishment."

"Admission policy should not include distance."

"Adult education needs/ought to be considered. This site has long been an adult education venue."

"All local Catholic primary schools are clearly oversubscribed. St. James' catchment is stated to be as near as 800m. A Catholic secondary school is long overdue as we are only 1 of 2 London boroughs not to have one. It does not seem fair to live and work in the borough and have to travel outside of the borough after such good primary education to find a Catholic secondary school."

"All my friends will go to different schools and I would like to go to the same school as my friends."

"Anything to improve education and faith in Richmond is welcomed. After all, it is for the good of our community."

"As a resident of the borough of Richmond upon Thames I strongly welcome the move towards establishing a Catholic secondary school in the borough as it addresses the unmet needs of many families."

"As a resident of this borough I believe that Catholic families should be given the opportunity to send their children to a Catholic school within the borough as with any other Catholic family in London."

"At present there is no provision for Catholic secondary education within this borough. Catholic children have significant journeys if they want to continue a faith secondary education."

"At present, it is extremely stressful trying to plan for secondary school. With more than one child it is likely that extreme ""school run"" driving will be likely as our strong preference is to continue our children's Catholic education."

"Because I go to a school outside Richmond all my friends are far away. A school in Richmond would allow me to see friends more easily."

"Building a Catholic school in the Richmond Borough would mean that Catholic children in Richmond could choose to be educated within the borough. I think that it would improve the standard of secondary education in Richmond."

"By allowing this provision will enable Richmond based pupils to attend a school of their faith choice in their own borough without having to travel out of it."

"Can't understand why council is so opposed to this Catholic school and faith schools in general."

"Catholic children are having to travel miles to schools in other boroughs. It is fair and desperately needed (a school in their own borough). It will also free up spaces in other areas."

"Catholic parents are obliged to send their children far away from the borough for secondary education"

"Catholic parents should have a choice of an in-borough Catholic secondary school"

"Catholic primary schools in Richmond have proven results, these should be allowed to continue within the LA at secondary level."

"Catholic schools draw from a wider range of the community and are more diverse and inclusive than a distance from school criteria. The Council agrees that it should support minority groups and the provision of Catholic secondary education would demonstrate this and benefit the borough."

"Catholic schools generally have a very high standard of education as well as teaching social and moral responsibility - maybe the whole community would benefit from this."

"Catholic schools within the Richmond area are vastly oversubscribed and the proposal to build Catholic primary and secondary schools on the site is an excellent use of the site."

"Catholic secondary education maintains high standards which would be an asset to the borough. I am not a Catholic, I have no religion."

"Catholic secondary education provisions should be available in the Richmond borough so that a Catholic child can receive a full education within a Catholic environment in the borough that they live in."

"Catholic secondary school is needed in the Borough of Richmond."

"Catholics have no feeder schools in the borough. It seems to be discriminatory and environmentally unsound to make Catholic pupils travel further afield for an education."

"Continue to be used as an educational facility."

"Continuity for children attending Catholic primary schools."

"Currently children leaving Catholic primary schools are forced to commute out of borough to continue their Catholic education. Spaces in out of borough Catholic schools are limited and frequently children in the borough of Richmond are given lowest priority for those places."

"Currently costs the borough to send children to school outside borough and so a school is urgently and desperately needed. A Catholic secondary school will also increase availability elsewhere."

"Distance should not be one of the reasons for getting a place at a Catholic secondary school. Children going to a Richmond Catholic primary school should get an extra chance of getting a place."

"Diversity is equally as important as a single religion at school. Having places open for those who are not Catholic can help educate the wider community about Catholicism."

"Diversity within Richmond should be offered to all and a Catholic school is required to be able to fulfil this."

"Excellent for access."

"Faith schools contribute significantly to higher standards of education. This proposal is long overdue and will be life changing for future generations of LBRUT children."

"Given the number of thriving Catholic primary schools in the borough, children should not have to go outside the borough to continue their education in a Catholic environment."

"Good education makes good citizens, knowledge of the commandments, to love your neighbours is the basis of religious education."

"Good idea - much needed for local RC families with very few options for a RC education for their children in the surrounding areas."

"Good location for primary and secondary for Catholic kids and open to other non or faith kids, not fair on Catholic primary children like me. We all got separated and split up and a lot of travelling! Lost touch with many friends because of this. There needs to be a follow on school here!"

"Good use of public land/building for primary/secondary school."

"Having another Catholic school in the borough will help to have more choice of school with high standards set by Catholic schools."

"I support the provision of a Catholic school in the Borough, as the increase pressure on existing Catholic schools will mean that Richmond Borough children won't be offered places at out of Borough Catholic schools."

"I think Catholic schools have a proven record supplying excellent education as well as moral and spiritual guidance."

"I think diversity and free choice are important and vital in the school system."

"I think that it is only fair that Richmond Council keeps its promise and delivers a Catholic secondary school. I would not choose to send my children to this school, but we are in the catchment area of Orleans Park and Waldegrave and could also secure a place at Twickenham Academy and RPA if their reputation improves. It does not somehow seem fair that I should have the choice of yet another school at the expense of my Catholic friends who struggle to get places at Catholic secondaries outside of the borough."

"I think that this would be very good for the area as a whole."

"I think that your background information puts the case for a Catholic school very well. I would hate to see this site mothballed for several years when it could be filled with children who are desperate for a Catholic secondary school now."

"I think the borough have been promising a Catholic secondary school for over 10 yrs and one of the reasons given for not having one was a lack of site. This is now not a problem. Parents who are not Catholic have more options in the state funded schools available. Catholic children have to travel out of the borough."

"I think there should be less community places available and priority for places in the secondary school should go to Catholic children."

"I think there's a real need for a Catholic secondary school in Richmond. There are already some good Catholic primary schools, so that need is less pressing - however, no objection to another being established."

"I think this would be a wonderful thing for Richmond and really hope these schools are approved."

"I understand that Richmond is only one of 2 London boroughs without provision for Catholic secondary school children and I firmly believe that Catholic children shouldn't have to travel for miles to go to a Catholic secondary school. Also, we don't even have the option to go to another local secondary state school with the current feeder school system so we have no 'local' options."

"I want my children to continue their Catholic education at secondary level."

"I want to go to school with my friends."

"I was at the Oratory until last year and only three of my friends went there too and it took about an hour to get there and I got mugged twice on the way. I liked the school but it would have been good to have had the chance to go to a school with more of my friends."

"I wish I could have gone to a Catholic secondary school in Twickenham instead of having to get on a train at 7.20 in the morning and not get home until 5.30pm."

"I would be delighted to see a better and more diverse offering of secondary schools within the Richmond Borough."

"I would have liked my children not to have travelled so far for school and to have had local friendship groups. At present, they travel to Hammersmith and Holland Park. Catholic education is very important to me and my life and that of my family."

"I would have liked to have been able to go to a school in my borough with more of my friends from primary school."

"I would hope that apart from school use the site would be a centre for community use, not only involving Christian activities, but also for the benefit of the whole borough."

"I would hope that the consideration to open a Catholic secondary school will be viewed in the same light as other faith schools, i.e. Muslim. There seems to be a worryingly discriminatory element to the evaluation of a Catholic secondary school in Richmond Borough that no other faith schools seem to have to contend with."

"I would like there to be good provision for special needs children."

"I would strongly support a Catholic secondary and primary school in the borough, however, given how oversubscribed Catholic schools are in the area, I think they should be kept for Catholic students only."

"I would strongly support the idea that further community places should be made available in the secondary school. Whilst it is true that the current situation is unsustainable in that there is a large number of Catholic primary schools but no secondary."

"If a primary school is included do NOT make it necessary to attend the primary in order to get into the secondary and also do NOT allow a private nursery to feed the primary as is done at St. Elizabeth, Richmond. Personal experience is that one form entry is too small and insular, e.g. St Elizabeth, Richmond."

"If it is not used for a school site it may be sold off for residential development to raise funds, thereby putting even more pressure on school places in the borough from the new dwellings created."

"If the money is there, then why not?"

"If there is a backing from enough people then why should there not be a Catholic school."

"In my opinion it is a disgrace that there is no LA provision at secondary level for Catholic children in LBRUT. At present parents have no choice but to compete in other boroughs for places in Catholic secondary schools, which then puts pressure on those other boroughs. My views are not necessarily restricted to Catholic children though: I feel any faith should have the right to have its own school, available to families who actively practise their faith and for whom therefore, faith is an integral part of their day to day lives. That said, there is a big demand but no provision, at secondary level, for Catholic children in LBRUT."

"In my opinion, the council has already committed and should proceed as intended to meet the aspirations of Catholic (and non-Catholic families) within the borough who expect their children to benefit from a local Catholic secondary education. I simply hope that the council honours their commitment in spite of the anti-faith agenda. Also, the inclusion of a primary school within the site will be of great benefit to East Twickenham residents (myself included) who currently opt for more local alternatives against their best wishes due to the logistics of transporting children to St. James's / St. Elizabeth's. Please support the diversity of the borough and Catholic parents by ensuring that all children have the opportunities that they desire. Thank You."

"Inclusion and diversity go hand in hand, equal opportunities for faith learning is paramount and provides good cultural understanding and avoiding discrimination against all faith groups."

"Is the site big enough to hold a secondary and primary school? I think it is a really good idea to offer a Catholic secondary school to Richmond primary school students as they have to go out of the borough for secondary education."

"It is a real pity that our children have to travel to other boroughs to go to a secondary school just because we cannot offer a Catholic education in our area. That means their friends will tend to live in different areas of London, far from home and longer journeys to and from school."

"It is a well placed site for a school and the Catholic community supports it wholeheartedly."

"It is essential that any faith, with enough support, be allowed to educate in-borough. Having to take several buses or trains to get to a school is not acceptable"

"It is essential that commitments made by councils are honoured."



"It is essential that our secondary school children have green playing fields and other outdoor space to encourage team sports, continue building on the importance of exercise as part of their daily lives, for stress relief, combat obesity problems in our young people and not feel hemmed in by a concrete jungle."

"It is great to see proposals for new schools, both secondary and primary, as there are not enough schools in the Richmond Borough for the amount of children needing school places."

"It is ideal in terms of size and location for both a primary and secondary provision."

"It is not right for the borough not to have even one Catholic secondary school. All London boroughs have at least one secondary catholic school bar two."

"It is the perfect site for the provision of a secondary school which comes at a time when there is an urgent need for Catholic secondary schools within Richmond."

"It is unacceptable to provide Catholic primary schools but make no provision for Catholic secondary education. Why should Catholic children need to travel to other areas to receive their secondary education? We pay our council tax too and should be provided with school places for our children where they will not be taught values which are contradictory to our faith."

"It is unfair that my children have to endure long commutes to attend a Catholic secondary school. We want to remain part of our community and attend a local Catholic school."

"It prevents it being knocked down by the Council and more flats being built."

"It will offer a chance for children to continue their faith education without leaving the Borough as well as creating more overall places."

"It will save money."

"It would be a brilliant idea."

"It would be good to retain the use for adult education; out of school hours."

"It would be very nice to have a Catholic primary and secondary school in Twickenham. There is a high demand for this type of school and keeping the faith."

"It would provide an excellent education for local residents."

"It's clear that there is an imbalance in terms of ratio of Catholic primary schools to places in Catholic secondary schools, therefore this needs to be addressed urgently."

"Maybe open six form early."

"More Catholic secondary education in borough must be a priority."

"More primary school places are needed in the borough. This borough is lacking a secondary Catholic school. Children have to travel outside the borough. I contribute to weekly collections at my church which funds primary Catholic schools, yet my children were unable to get a place at a Catholic primary school due to large intakes and catchment areas. I would like the choice to send my children to a faith school."

"My children attend a local Catholic primary school and my eldest son has to travel some distance to attend a secondary. I would like them to continue their Catholic education by attending a local school in the Richmond Borough. I am supporting this application."

"My children attend St James's Primary and I would like for them to have the chance to continue their Catholic Education within the Borough. Currently their options for a Catholic Secondary firstly involve, a struggle for a place, followed by (if successful) long journeys, with time on busses that could be better spent on study, sports, hobbies and friendships."

"My children attend St. Edmunds Catholic Primary School. They have no natural progression in terms of secondary school. It would be nice to at least have an option of a Catholic secondary school in the borough. Not all children attending a Catholic primary will even have the chance of getting into this school. If the council are keen to promote choice and diversity then this school should go ahead."

"My first choice would be for just secondary but I am not against primary and secondary together."

"My objection to any primary school is based on space available. Good quality play space is a basic entitlement in primary years and I am of the opinion that the footprint is too small. I would have no objection, faith or otherwise, if space was indeed to prove to be available."

"My preferred option overall would be that the school was non-denominational AND the link school status of Teddington and Orleans was removed so that all parents in the borough have an equal chance at all schools."

"Open to a non-Catholic school as well."

"Particularly welcome that some places will be made available to the wider community given the pressure in primary places in the central Twickenham area."

"Perhaps it would surprise you, but as a person of no faith, I actually support this proposal. I think that, adding up all of the factors: 1) The lack of Catholic secondary school in the borough 2) The site is already within the catchment area of two good schools 3) The impact of a community school on the

existing Academies I feel that the site should be used for a Catholic school. This is the fair thing to do."

"Personally I don't want a school at all, but if there is going to be one, then Catholic. I don't want an Orleans type establishment at the end of my road!!"

"Please allow my children to continue their Catholic education locally."

"Presently there is no local school my children can attend as they are in a Catholic non link primary school in a neighbouring borough. I would love to see them in a local Catholic school."

"Priority should be given to a Catholic secondary school with 6th form college"

"Religious education should be given by parents and the church outside of school curriculum. It is unfair to exclude any child whatever their religion from a local school. If there is a shortage of school places and also only one site available, then this MUST be made available to all children. In this day and age it is almost obscene to allow any school to be faith orientated to the exclusion of other children of a different or not of any faith. Faith should not be relevant to school education."

"Richmond is one of the only London boroughs without a Catholic secondary school. It is vital we have one."

"Richmond is the only borough in the vicinity which does not have a Catholic secondary school. Catholic schools tend to be very popular choice by parents and belong to the group of best achieving schools."

"Richmond would benefit from provision of further school places at all levels. Faith schools provide children with the opportunity to be immersed in the pastoral environment that fosters growth at all levels, including spiritual. Kew/Richmond has a strong Catholic community, but limited 1% and to 2% state Catholic education. I believe this would be beneficial to the Catholic and hence broader community."

"School please."

"Schools are the essence of any society, the education of our children is important. Education should be a priority and it should be accessible, affordable and available. Please support this cause for the sake of the future of your children. Remember that some children may never have an opportunity to be able to read or write and may die that way."

"Schools in this borough need to focus on their core business of teaching and learning because they are failing some children within this borough whose parents cannot afford private tutors."

"The addition of a Catholic secondary school and a new Catholic primary school in the London Borough of Richmond can only benefit the children and their families, both in ways of diversity and positive opportunities in bringing families together."

"The admission criteria for a Catholic Secondary School should give some consideration to those children who attend one of the Catholic Primary Schools in the LB of Richmond. As stated in the Consultation Document, distance should not be taken into account for the admission criteria. No more than 10 places per year should be allocated in the Secondary School for non-Catholic children if it is over-subscribed with Catholic applicants."

"The borough needs to provide more diversity in school provision particularly at secondary level."

"The Borough of Richmond is the only borough in London without a secondary Catholic school. The young Catholic children of the borough need a secondary school to continue their education.."

"The building on the site is an iconic one for the borough and is part of our architectural heritage. It was purpose built as a school and, although in need of internal modernisation, is ideal for educational purposes. Although I can sympathise with the argument of non Catholics, as one of the few boroughs without a Catholic secondary school it is time for this need to be addressed, it is actually long overdue."

"The Catholic secondary schools that are open to our children are currently oversubscribed and in most cases a long way to travel, it would be great to have a Catholic secondary school in our borough. We need it."

"The Clifden Road site is approximately 10,000 square metres in size. It would be ideal for a single secondary school, however it simply would not be large enough for 2 schools."

"The Clifden site is ideally placed for this initiative and will put a superb site to much better use than it currently has. I know the site well having taught there for some time ."

"The continued use of the site for educational purposes would reinstate its original use as a secondary school and would meet the needs for the large number of children who have to go out of borough (as my own children had to) for a Catholic school. The establishment of a primary school as well would ensure natural progression at age 11 years."

"The link system denies children from some Catholic primary schools in the borough access to some of the better secondary schools in the borough. Additionally, Catholic children in the borough have to commute for approx. an hour should they wish to continue with a Catholic education outside of the borough."

"The opportunity for a Catholic secondary school is fantastic. We wish to educate our son in the Catholic faith and we have no schools in the area that we can send him to. We really want our children to continue their education in the Borough of Richmond."

"The parish school linked to my parish, i.e. St. James, is always oversubscribed."

"The proposal to open a Catholic secondary school in London Borough of Richmond is superb. I strongly support this proposal and believe it is a long time overdue. Richmond Council should support Catholic taxpayers in their desire to have the option within the borough to educate their children in a Catholic faith based school up to age of 18."

"The proposal will increase choice for parents in borough and will free up places for other children. This is an economic solution meeting the demand across the borough."

"The proposal will meet the basic needs for a faith and free education to our children without them having to travel outside the borough and leaving no choice to parents other than to move outside the borough or pay for a private faith education."

"The proposed school should also have a sixth form."

"The quality and diversity of education is one of the strengths of any community. Richmond has a strong primary school presence, but its secondary schools are weak. The introduction of a new faith based school will help towards the strength and diversity of education within the borough."

"The selection criteria for entry needs to be VERY carefully monitored, it will be oversubscribed and some local children could be overlooked."

"The site is ideal for a school, having been one in the past, it has sufficient space."

"The site should be used for a school open to all children of the borough regardless of their, or their parents' religion. Religion should have no place in modern government of anything, let alone education."

"The two schools will support each other and the local area."

"There are a lot of children travelling long distances out of the borough to access Catholic secondary schools. I believe the creation of a Richmond Catholic school, in addition to offering them local education, would open up a lot of places in existing schools."

"There are enough non-faith secondary schools in the borough."

"There are no Catholic secondary schools in borough. While Gunnersbury offers a limited number of places and there is a school in Wandsworth - some considerable distance away - the other Catholic schools are either oversubscribed or too far away."

"There are not enough Catholic secondary schools in the Richmond Borough."

"There is a distinct shortage of both primary and secondary schools in the borough, which makes it increasingly difficult for parents who have to travel (often against traffic) long distances to get these children to school, which is unfair and unhealthy, causing anxiety as rushing."

"There is a long-standing promise of such an educational establishment made to the Catholic community."

"There is a need for a Catholic secondary school in the area. There is very little choice for boys who want to continue a Catholic education."

"There is a need for a Catholic secondary school, almost all of the Catholic children of the borough need to transfer in order to continue their education. I believe Richmond remains one of the very few boroughs without a Catholic secondary school."

"There is a need for more school places in the borough, thereby avoiding transport and traffic problems. Denominational schools, the most part, produce best educational results and RC schools perform above average throughout the UK."

"There is no mixed Catholic secondary school in Richmond Borough and, as our children are at a Catholic primary school, we would like them to continue their Catholic education into secondary."

"There is not enough space for a primary and secondary school together. Secondary school children need space. Nor is there sufficient road access for parents to drop off primary school children."

"This is a perfectly positioned site, in central Twickenham, for a Catholic secondary school. Catholic children within the borough are currently not catered for."

"This is a wonderful site as it is easily accessible for the whole of the borough. The proposals indicate that children from every parish in Richmond will be eligible to attend this school - what a wonderful good news story. It is much needed, much wanted and has been promised for a very long time. I am very pleased that you are keeping your election promises. Not to do so would be a missed opportunity."

"This is an area with a very strong Catholic community and thriving Catholic churches. Primary provision for Catholic children is excellent but there's a real lack of options for them at secondary level. The new school will meet a genuine need."

"This is an economically viable way for Richmond to gain another secondary school. It will reduce travelling time for students wishing to attend a Catholic secondary school. Faith schools already exist in the borough so don't see why there should be such opposition to a faith school per se (in fact, will free up places at oversubscribed schools such as Teddington)."

"This is an excellent opportunity. My children will not be able to continue in their Catholic education unless this school goes ahead as we live too far away from our closest secondary - St. Marks."

"This is brilliant news and needs to happen now."

"This school would be a great opportunity to enable our children to continue in their Catholic education in an in-borough school."

"This would allow our children to continue their Catholic education within the Borough of Richmond."

"This would be an excellent addition to the borough's schools and would clearly fill a very obvious gap in the current education offerings. There is a strong demand for such a new school and I very much hope the proposal goes ahead."

"Too small, should have a 6th form."

"Unless all schools are to be secular, then it is important that children at Catholic primary schools can feed into a local Catholic secondary school, rather than having to travel all over London."

"Use of the site as a Catholic secondary school would fill a very much needed void in the current secondary educational spectrum. Catholic children of secondary school age are currently at a strong disadvantage to those of other faiths or even those in mainstream state education."

"Very important for the community in general."

"We all went to a Catholic school as children, and all my children went to a Catholic school. I think it is the best start in life that any child can receive."

"We are fully supportive of the proposal for a Catholic secondary and primary school in the borough, especially a mixed sex one where our youth are taught in an environment with a strong moral and religious framework. There is a total lack of mixed sex Catholic secondary schools in the borough and the primary schools are vastly oversubscribed."

"We are without a secondary school within the Borough of Richmond which results in our children going out of the borough to access Catholic secondary education."

"We have had to take up places in other borough Catholic schools for our children. We have had primary Catholic places in borough but then some families find themselves living too far from outer borough Catholic schools to obtain a place so the child finds itself having lost their friendships they have forged over their early years, this is very disruptive."

"We have urgent need of school places in the borough and the evidence is strong that church schools provide some of the best educational opportunities for our young people."

"We lack secondary schools in the borough!!!"

"We need a Catholic secondary school, as there is currently no choice for our children."

"We need a Catholic secondary school, we do not have link school. It is a real problem, especially for boys."

"We need a new secondary school in Twickenham to cope with the bulge classes coming through the primaries. I would welcome a Catholic secondary school as it would cost the taxpayer less; the Catholic Church would ensure it offers a good education; and I think it is unfair that there is no secondary provision for Catholics in Richmond."

"What a fantastic opportunity to add to Richmond's school provision. A Catholic school on this site will not only give the borough more secondary places, but do so without any negative impact on any of the already established schools."

"Whatever schools occupy the site should be strongly encouraged to be inclusive of people from the local area, allow some use of facilities and invite participation in community activities."

"With increasing numbers of children in London and specifically in Richmond, more education sites are needed and given that there are not enough Catholic schools in the borough, I think this is a must."

"With regards to the Catholic Primary School - anyone that lives in Central Twickenham no longer gets into St James Primary School which is pretty devastating when have been a practicing Catholic all your life and you want to be able to give your children the same education with the same Catholic values that was instilled in me at both my primary and secondary school which were both in the Hounslow Borough. Richmond Borough is the only borough in London without a secondary Catholic school, making those children commute outside the borough for schooling. Having a Catholic secondary school in the Borough can only be a good thing for house prices, showing diversity and offering equal opportunities for all."

"With the amount of successful Catholic primary schools in the borough it is vital to have continuing provision for their education and not have our children going out of borough."

"With the number of Catholic primary schools in the borough, it is clear that a state Catholic secondary school in the borough would provide continuity of religious education, plus continuity of the huge contribution these pupils make to the borough. I am, however, aware that with the presence of a very successful all girls state secondary school in the borough, it could be argued that an all boys state secondary is also a consideration."

"Words cannot express how good it would be to have a local Catholic school for our children to attend."



## 9.2. Disagree – Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school

The following table shows the top 10 responses for respondents who disagreed with the proposal to establish a five-form Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school on the site.

Base		763	
Q9. Any other comments you have about the proposals or the future use of the Clifden Road site	Against decision	683	90%
	Opposed to faith based state funded schools	355	47%
	Lack of secondary school places	196	26%
	Taxpayers money should not be spent funding a school for the minority / state funded schools should be inclusive	131	17%
	Faith schools are divisive and discriminatory	121	16%
	School places should be based only on address / local children should get priority	48	6%
	Want an Academy/ free school / Science Academy	45	6%
	Do not remove link school status / outcome not known if abolished / link school comments	33	4%
	Not enough schools for boys	30	4%
	Religion should be taught in church or other religious building not school	27	4%

Respondents who disagreed with the proposal to establish a five-form Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school gave a selection of comments which are listed below:

"A Catholic school is likely to draw pupils from across the borough and thus increase traffic congestion in the area. A local inclusive school would not. There are also not enough secondary school places or choice (particularly for boys). I would prefer a secondary CoE inclusive school or a Free School on the Clifden Road site."

"A Catholic school will cater for pupils from outside the borough. If a secondary is to be built it should be for Richmond students. A secondary school isn't needed - plenty of spaces at Shene School and at Whitton School."

"A child should not be denied a place at a local school because of the religion of the parents. State money should not be used to provide education for particular religious groups."

"A community school could also provide much needed facilities for shared use for Twickenham residents - e.g. indoor sports provision, drama/performance space, arts workshops - to fill a gap in leisure provision for the town and to compensate for the loss to the town involved in the sale of this property"

"A faith based school is divisive and discriminatory, but the real issue is that there are only 3 good secondary schools in the borough - Orleans, Teddington, Waldegrave, and being Jewish and having a boy, leaves few options, especially if you are unable to move close to these schools in order to gain a place."

"A new secondary and primary school on the Clifden Road site should be open to all children in the borough, not just to Catholics. As non-Catholic parents living within the borough, we would have no chance of our children attending the proposed state-funded secondary school and this doesn't seem at all right."

"A Trust has expressed an interest in establishing an Academy on the site and this would be a better use of the site. It is much better to establish a school open to all rather than a school open to only a small proportion of the borough's population."

"A typical waste of borough money to buy back a site it used to own that it sold for peanuts to then give it away again.....well done Cllr True...good to see that basic economics is alive and well in the borough.....NOT."

"A VA school goes against government policy. The site should first be considered for an Academy or Free School with inclusive admissions (as the law states)."

"All our current secondary schools are oversubscribed, and numbers of primary school children feeding through continue to rise. There is clear need for an additional secondary school and few sites available. We live in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society."

"Another primary and secondary school is desperately needed in the local area but it shouldn't be a faith school. Local children should have priority to children who don't live in the borough."

"Another secondary school is a good idea, but this should be open to all not just a special interest group. It's a ridiculous idea, at a time of projected extra demand on places, to propose a new school only open to a narrow section of the community."

"Any school on the site should be an inclusive school, for all children not just those whose parents are Catholics."

"Any secondary school opening in Richmond Borough should have an inclusive admissions policy and not discriminate based on faith of parents."

"As a borough with some of the highest rated non faith-based primary schools in England, it is important that the borough also offer non faith-based

secondary schools with similar high educational standards and opportunities. Using the available Clifden Road site for a Catholic secondary school, even with spaces for non-Catholic children is a far too limiting use of the available space. This is not an anti-Catholic position, simply a local extension of the excellent non faith-based situation at the primary school level in Richmond!"

"As a Governor of a local secondary school I fully endorse the need for more secondary places. However, I believe that faith schools, particularly for minority faiths, are deeply divisive. I am firmly of the view that Christian tradition is fundamental to our history and culture and should form a more central part of secondary education but not by means of faith schools. I understand that the Clifden Road site is the only realistic site for a new school in the Borough and there is little chance of a new community school being funded. However, there is a proposal for a free school and I believe it would be far preferable to give this proposal every chance to progress on this site. Incidentally the questions on the next page are intrusive and divisive. Their only purpose would seem to be to give more weight to the views of some elements of the population than others."

"As a parent who has just experienced their child getting into secondary school, I feel very strongly that there are not enough places available in this borough. A new non-faith school would greatly help this situation. A Catholic site would only help a very small minority of the community."

"As link arrangements are being removed from all primaries there will no longer be a need for Catholic children to go out of borough. If a faith based education is required there is more than enough provision just outside the borough boundaries, whereas there will not be enough general secondary places within 2 years. Creating a faith school, particularly with the entry guidelines proposed by the Diocese, will not address this issue at all."

"As more and more people continue to move into the borough to access the local schools it is an act of astonishing folly to commit limited public resources to a school which will only serve a narrow sectarian interest. For instance, at the time of writing it would seem as if it is a done deal that Twickenham Film Studios will be sold off for residential development. This will be a development of considerable size that can only further increase the pressure on those local schools that have a more open admissions policy than the one being considered for the Clifden Road site."

"As taxpayers in the borough funds should not be used for such a discriminatory approach to education We need education for all, not faith based decisions."

"As we are seeing many parents moving out of the area due to lack of secondary school places, especially for boys, I feel that it is necessary to use this site for a non-faith based secondary school. Used as a Catholic school would still not ensure that many children would get a secondary school place,

as would be open mainly to Catholic primary students from in and outside the borough, who would also have the ability to apply to the other local schools. The local children, however wouldn't be able to readily be accepted to enrol if it were to become a Catholic school, essentially closing them out of what could be their closest local school in an already oversubscribed area."

"Below is the response to this consultation from the Governing Body of Stanley Primary School, Teddington: The establishment of an exclusive secondary school on the site will reduce choice for our families, many of whom live in the local area around Clifden Road. Parental choice is already limited at Stanley, by the continuation of Waldegrave as a single sex school, and will be limited still further by the proposed abolition of the link school criteria. The council has acknowledged that planning for secondary school places is complex, and that there are many unknowns. In the area local to Stanley School, the council's predictions (submitted to Overview and Scrutiny on 21st November) are for spare capacity of only 15-30 places between now and 2020. This is not a big enough margin for error; our families may be left without ANY places local to them. Under these circumstances, opening a local school which will exclude the vast majority of our children is unacceptable to us. Borough Primary schools have been approached by another provider who would like to open a school on the site. Why does the consultation document refer to only one option for the use of Clifden Road, when, clearly, there are others? This is very misleading, and suggests that the council has already made its decision, and is not presenting all the facts to residents. Conclusion: An exclusive school on the Clifden Road site is against the interests of families at Stanley School, and cannot be supported by governors. The consultation appears to us to be biased and incomplete, taking into account, and heavily promoting only the Council's well-documented preference, and excluding other options for the site."

"Boys are being discriminated against in this borough at secondary school level. Girls have more choices with the option of Waldegrave as a non-selective option. This site should be a boys school which would balance the communities in the other secondary schools in the borough."

"Building a Catholic school discriminates against children who are in the borough and want to access secondary education. It would be a shame if Richmond supported such a proposal so soon after expanding 3 primary schools in the St. Margaret and Twickenham area."

"Catholic children have a far greater choice of secondary schools than the other children as they can choose either their local school or schools in other boroughs. This cannot be right in a fair society."

"Catholic education should not be paid for by taxpayers. If parents wish to give their children a Catholic education, let them pay for it themselves. We need secular schools open to all, and not a system that closes itself off to many (and in so many ways)."

"Catholic families have the choice of non-faith based schools or Catholic schools. Non-religious families do not have such a choice. Religion can be practiced outside of school. I see no reason to favour a small minority when there is a clear need for more secondary school places for borough children."

"Community funding should be directed to community projects with no restrictions for users based on religious faith."

"Education and access to education should be provided regardless of faith. Religious indoctrination should not be provided by the state in the classroom."

"Exclusive schools are socially divisive. This school should be an Academy or Free School. I have examined the Diocese's proposal and the figures regarding current Catholic numbers appear to be VERY dubious."

"Faith schools, regardless of their proposed intent, are a threat to diversity, unbiased education and free-thought. If parents wish to impose their beliefs on their children they can, but that is not the job of a school, at any age. Children should not be taught or inferred upon them, religious beliefs which have no place in an education establishment; it interferes with their knowledge and understanding of science and comparative religious studies."

"Given the issues relating to lack of spaces in the borough primary schools over the last few years, can the council please ensure that they have conducted forward capacity planning for the secondary level schools so that those of us just starting primary schools will have access to a place at one of the local secondary schools. Building a five form Catholic only school will not accommodate the, at least, 8 bulge classes in the non faith primary school reception level this year."

"Given the length of time it took to identify and acquire this site and the difficulty of acquiring further sites for new schools, you should aim for flexibility in the use of the site. A VA school, Catholic or other, does not give any flexibility and hands over to one group a guarantee of places not available to anyone outside that group. Given all the uncertainties around future demand and supply, this is an excessively risky approach."

"Given the overall shortage of, and pressure on, both primary and secondary school places within the borough, the priority should be to offer quality and convenient education to all, vs. discriminating on the basis of faith. By only offering one third of places to 'non-faith pupils' very few local pupils would benefit from the school but we would see an increase in pupils and parents commuting in from all over the borough. Surely this cannot be fair or the right environmental choice."

"Government policy (and indeed legislation) promotes Academies. Why has an Academy not been the first option considered for the site?"

"Great site for a school but not at the exclusion of students based upon faith."

"Happy for a Catholic school to be in the borough, but it should be open to ALL children in Richmond. I live on Clifden Road and think a school on the road is fine but strong traffic control would need to be in place."

"Having grown up in apartheid South Africa, it leaves me somewhat bewildered to see the council considering a proposal for a school that would (i) serve a small minority of local people at the expense of the majority; and (ii) where children would be excluded and discriminated against on the basis of their parents' religious beliefs. Please don't go down this route, it will have long-term negative consequences for all of us."

"Having grown up in Glasgow I have first hand experience of the division and hatred caused by faith-based education. In my opinion there is no place in a modern society (or Twickenham for that matter) for schools that teach children to exclude others based on their religious beliefs. If someone were to suggest that faith-based workplaces should be introduced the idea would be seen as ridiculous. Why then is it acceptable in our education system? Good quality, inclusive education that prepares children for the real world should be the priority in Richmond. Children that are taught to get along with others and tolerate different points of view will make far better future citizens for our borough and beyond."

"I absolutely disagree with creating an exclusive school when there are not enough school places across the borough anyway."

"I agree that extra school places are needed in the borough but any school should be open to all children, no matter what the children's parents believe. Children should be educated together. Segregation by religion cannot help to bring the community together. Richmond Borough is made up of many different people from different backgrounds. State funded schools should represent the community they are built in and therefore be open to all."

"I already have to drive my son to primary school, passing 3 state schools en route - 2 of which are faith schools and all of which are within walking distance of our home. I do not want to drive/pollute, I want to teach my children the values of a healthy, active lifestyle and, as a long-term council taxpayer in this borough, feel disappointed and let down by the borough, that we cannot attend a local school just because our family does not attend a church regularly. I am even more worried about what will happen in the future as we are out of catchment for our primary school's linked secondary school. I do not want to be forced to work full-time to pay for a secondary education."

"I am a Catholic - However, I do not believe in segregating children on the basis of religion and belief. I think the mix of culture and religious background within a school would be of benefit to all children and families."

"I am a Catholic, a Richmond Borough resident, have a child of primary school age, and received Catholic education. However I think that any new school(s) at Clifden Road should NOT be faith-based. The projected increasing shortage of secondary school places for me means that the Council should provide an additional community school that is non-faith."

"I am a resident of Richmond, lived here for 34 years - secondary school places are always difficult to acquire and any new schools must be open to all people in the borough irrespective of religious beliefs."

"I am also concerned about the impact on traffic flow and parking in the area of a school attracting a large proportion of non local pupils."

"I am concerned that in closing this site you are severely limiting the choices of adult education available in the borough. This used to be a thriving centre for adult education with a good mix of courses."

"I am concerned that the council appears to have made its decision before the consultation instead of waiting to see the results of the consultation. I strongly believe an additional secondary school is needed in the area, but one which would give residents of Richmond Borough a choice in the education of their children and not one which the majority of Twickenham residents would be excluded from."

"I am concerned that the Local Authority is partly in favour of establishing a faith-based school for reasons of cost - i.e., it will cost them less as the Diocese will cover such a large part of the cost. I also feel very strongly that the school should be a local school for local people."

"I am concerned that with two schools on the site there will be not be enough playground and PE/games space for the children. I have concerns about the local transport infrastructure: The cycle route that runs around the the centre next to the railway is already difficult because it is used as a rat run by motorists. Will parking for teachers, etc. be on site as the area is already full of cars. A school or schools will have two distinct traffic times each day unlike the present adult college usage."

"I am happy for this site to be used for secondary (and primary) education but I object to pupils being refused admission solely because of their parents' religious faith (or lack of it). I do not think it should include sixth forms as this is much better catered for by the nearby Richmond College."

"I am in favour of a new secondary school in the borough, but it should not be faith based."

"I am most strongly against any faith school on this site, AND totally opposed to this site being given away, for a peppercorn rent, to any organisation"

whatsoever. The council has no authority to give away ratepayers property to anyone. I want to know the basis on which any official or councillor told the Catholic Church that the council would provide a faith school. I have lived in Richmond for 25 years and have never heard of this offer until this scandal erupted. The Catholic church had a secondary school in Richmond, it failed its pupils and had to give it up. Why should it be GIVEN another opportunity to fail our children?"

"I am strongly against faith schools."

"I believe that a new taxpayer funded school in the borough should be open to all children, not just or even mainly Catholics. If we all pay for this school, all our children should be allowed to go to it."

"I believe that a single faith school is divisive and we should not encourage ghettos of any sort."

"I believe that all secondary aged children in the borough lack places and a new non faith-based secondary school is urgently needed. It is unfair for non-Catholic children to be excluded from a new school option."

"I believe that all state schools should be inclusive. All children should be able to attend a school local to them preferably within walking distance of their home."

"I believe that any new secondary school in the borough should be accessible to all pupils regardless of their faith. Catholic children have the choice of several good schools close by in other boroughs. Children, particularly boys, living in West Twickenham, currently have very limited options and a slim chance of getting a place in the popular, oversubscribed schools."

"I believe that this site should be used to establish a Local Authority controlled secondary school, as it was before becoming an adult education site."

"I believe that Twickenham needs another co-ed and non-faith based secondary school which is open to all in the local area. At the moment there isn't enough choice or places in Twickenham. Many parents feel anxious about the prospect of their children having no other option but to attend Twickenham Academy which up to now is a school with poor results and reputation. It is a great shame that we have so many excellent primary schools in Twickenham but the secondary schools fall short. I believe our children deserve better than that. I would be extremely disappointed and angry if the Clifden site was to be turned into a Catholic school."

"I have a feeling Lord True is too influenced by his own religious beliefs in his desire to see a faith school in the borough. Faith is a matter for the individual, not the state."



"Just want a good school for local children of all faiths."

"Keep religion out of education."

"Living on Grove Avenue I am in the middle of many catchment areas, but have signed both my girls up to private school (already) as I'm confident I will not get a place in the locals. A faith free primary and secondary school would be perfect for me and many others."

"Make it open to everyone regardless of prejudice."

"Numbers of children in the borough are rising and there is a dearth of suitable land. It therefore seems perverse to propose schools on the Clifden Road site that are not available to all children in the borough."

"On the council's own admission they have a commitment to a Catholic secondary school. They should have made no such commitment without prior consultation. There is no need for a Catholic school of any form at all in this borough including the ones that already exist."

"Opening a Catholic primary school is restricting access to the school for families who support a different faith or no faith at all. Given the lack of school places available in the borough, it is important that a new school is available to all families in the borough."

"Primary and secondary school places are in high demand across the borough, and I do not believe new places created should be restricted to children of specific faiths. Building a faith school of any denomination on this site will do nothing towards solving the wider issue of not enough school places in the borough."

"Pupil numbers are rising and there is a lack of secondary schools in the area"

"Setting up a VA Catholic school is contrary to Government policy. The site should firstly be considered for an Academy."

"Should be a free mixed secondary school."

"St James is already too selective. This is the 21st century and schools should be free for all. Sundays and home are for religious teaching."

"The borough desperately needs to improve its secondary schools in line with the high quality of primaries - excluding thousands of potential students now in local primaries can't be the best way to achieve that."

"The borough has paid for the site - it seems to me that it should meet general demand rather than demand from one section of our community, who aren't actually any different. I don't like the idea that we should define people by religion, race, etc. We all need to live and work together."

"The borough is a net importer of pupils from other boroughs to its secondary schools with approximately 37% of Richmond upon Thames secondary school pupils resident in other local authorities. We can't fill the places we have with those pupils from the borough, why spend more money on schools that are not required?"

"The borough is definitely in need of more good quality secondary schools, which should be available to pupils of any faith. With the links policy being abolished, many parents who moved into the borough and made important decisions in their lives based on the secondary school their children would attend will be let down. I strongly believe that good quality secondary education should be available to all children, regardless of their faith."

"The borough needs more secondary places, a new school on this site should not be a faith based school, and should have an equal to all admissions policy."

"The borough needs to enable the provision of high quality secular education, based on science not faith. We need education fit for the 21st century."

"The loss of adult education facilities will be greatly missed and Parkshot is too far for many people to get to easily and also probably too small."

"The most oversubscribed school in the whole area is Tiffin Girls, there is a real gap in the provision in grammar school places. Please use the Clifden site for a grammar school so brighter Twickenham children can get local tailored education."

"The recent academic results highlight the urgent need for a state, i.e multi faith, secondary school in the area. The primary schools are excellent and plentiful, after that we have little choice but to pay privately. I would prefer that the resources of the council and my taxes are put towards filling a gaping hole in the borough's educational needs else we will continue to see an exodus from the area."

"The removal of the link school criteria will mean that children from all primary schools will be considered under the same rules for the secondary schools. There should not be a privilege accorded to certain faiths."

"The restriction on school places based on religious beliefs is outdated. It should be open to all children within the local community."

"The site should be an all inclusive school. Even though my children attend St. Marys Church of England School, they are inclusive and all children living near the school have a high chance of securing a place. This is not what this proposal offers, as it is strongly designed for one faith alone and this is not acceptable when the need is for all children, not just those that are Catholic."

"The site should be for a secondary school. Regardless of whether this is another faith based school or not it should be open to all children regardless of faith or ethnicity. Given that more than 90% of children eligible for secondary school are not Catholic, making this site a Catholic only school is ludicrous - if purely based on pure logic alone."

"The site should be used as a Community Academy or Free School to give equal access to all children within the catchment area. The Catholic population locally are only a small minority and have more than adequate options for a Catholic education locally if they so wish. My council tax should not be used to fund Catholic education, which giving them the site will amount to. I have 2 children at a local primary school (Years 6 and 4) so I am well aware of the local secondary school provision. I resent the fact that choice for my 8 year old's secondary education might be circumscribed by his not being Catholic. Equal opportunity and access for all local children please."

"The site should be used for a school for all Twickenham children."

"The site should be used to strengthen education generally in the borough, not to strengthen education for Catholics alone."

"The site should retain its current usage."

"The site was previously used for adult community education - this should be reflected in any new school that is there - i.e. education available for all. The proposed loss of link system will open up more secondary school places for those attending."

"There is a shortage of good quality secondary school places within Richmond Borough, and this problem will only increase with time. Given that this seems to be the only possible site for a new secondary school in the area, it is not fair to offer it to the Catholic Church for a Catholic school. It should be used for a secondary school open to all, regardless of faith."

"We really need secondary school places above all else, to have a non faith based one opens it to all children."

"We should be concentrating on raising the standards of education and the standards of education facilities for all children of this borough not just the select few from inside and outside the borough with a religious affiliation."

"We should be moving towards a society in which children are not segregated according to religion, and towards a society in which religious segregation is not funded in any way by the Government."

"We will need additional good quality secondary school places in the borough over the next few years, open to all children in the borough. A good Free School or Academy in this central position would be an enormous step forward to deliver this."

"With the increasing number of primary school children in Twickenham we desperately need a senior school. A new senior school should be open to children in the area regardless of beliefs. Twickenham families do not want to be forced to attend the Twickenham Academy and need to have a choice."

"With the increasing shortage of school places in the borough, I believe any additional secondary school has to be fully inclusive and open to all."

"Would like the site to be used for Secondary Free School."

### 9.3. Agree – Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school

The following table shows the top 10 responses for respondents who agreed with the proposal to establish a one-form Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school on the site.

Base		744	
Q9. Any other comments you have about the proposals or the future use of the Clifden Road site	Great initiative / brilliant news / agree	661	89%
	No borough catholic secondary school / Catholic secondary school needed	352	47%
	Resident catholic children have to commute outside the Borough / long commute	194	26%
	Don't discriminate against their religion / have a right to a catholic education	87	12%
	Catholic schools oversubscribed as provide better education / better results	73	10%
	Plenty of Catholic primary schools / Catholic primary schools oversubscribed	48	6%
	Will ease burden on non-faith schools	37	5%
	The site is in a perfect location	34	5%
	Values taught in catholic school provide children with strong moral compass	33	4%
	Non catholics should also be able to attend catholic schools	26	3%

Respondents who agreed with the proposal to establish a one-form Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school gave a selection of comments which are listed below:

"A Catholic school will free up other places in current schools for other faith children."

"A Catholic school will offer both a good educational standard and good value for money for taxpayers in the borough. I strongly support a Catholic school on the Clifden Road site."

"A significant number of Catholic families cannot find room for their children in the existing Catholic primary schools. The proposed new primary school would reduce this number."

"A strong Catholic primary school will benefit future generations of Catholics and non-Catholics in the borough."

"A voluntary aided school relieves the borough from the cost of refurbishment."

"Admission policy should not include distance."

"Adult education needs/ought to be considered. This site has long been an adult education venue."

"All Catholic schools are oversubscribed for a reason: They provide excellent education and parents know that and want it for their children"

"All local Catholic primary schools are clearly oversubscribed. St. James' catchment is stated to be as near as 800m. A Catholic secondary school is long overdue as we are only 1 of 2 London boroughs not to have one. It does not seem fair to live and work in the borough and have to travel outside of the borough after such good primary education to find a Catholic secondary school."

"All my friends will go to different schools and I would like to go to the same school as my friends."

"All my three children had to travel to another borough to attend Catholic school, one more than an hour each way which of course did not help their ability to complete homework or attend extracurricular activities. I hope that other Catholic children and their parents will not have to go through this and hope that the borough will open a Catholic primary and secondary school."

"Almost 90% of Catholic children in Richmond Catholic primary schools transfer each year to Catholic secondary schools in other boroughs - 975 Catholic children out of Richmond."

"Although my child is only 2, there is already hysteria amongst fellow parents about primary school places in Richmond upon Thames. The two best primary schools near us are church schools (one C of E, one Catholic) and while I am not religious myself I do believe that many of the values taught in Catholic schools help to hold together our society and provide children with a strong moral compass."

"As a Borough taxpayer, I would like to see this site used as a Catholic school as I understand the Catholic community will be responsible for the refurbishment costs and be partly responsible for the school's budget on-going. I would also like to see more diversity in the Borough's secondary schools and I do not believe that Catholic children should have to travel outside of the Borough to receive a Catholic education."

"As a Catholic and member of the Richmond community, I'm really concerned that our children have to go to other boroughs to attend Catholic schools. Moreover, that people of our community need to leave the Borough of Richmond due to the lack of schools for their children."

"At the moment, there is no Catholic secondary school available in the Richmond-Upon-Thames Borough, therefore a good option for Catholic families in the borough."

"Being a Catholic I look forward to have the chance to get a place for my child within the borough. Moving out of the borough would be seriously considered."

"Better education standard in a Roman Catholic school. A strong need for a RC school for RC residents in area."

"Both my children had to travel outside the borough to obtain a Catholic secondary education."

"Catholic parents are obliged to send their children far away from the borough for secondary education"

"Catholic parents should have a choice of an in-borough Catholic secondary school"

"Catholic primary schools in Richmond have proven results, these should be allowed to continue within the LA at secondary level."

"Catholic primary, but the largest need is for a Catholic secondary school - much needed in LBRUT."

"Catholic schools draw from a wider range of the community and are more diverse and inclusive than a distance from school criteria. The Council agrees that it should support minority groups and the provision of Catholic secondary education would demonstrate this and benefit the borough."

"Catholic schools have been providing education of the highest standards and they have been providing pupils with a very solid ethical grounding. No doubt these are two very good reasons to use the Clifden Road Site for a Catholic secondary school and a Catholic primary school."

"Catholic schools in the surrounding areas are heavily oversubscribed, and there are many children who do not get into their preferred choice of a Catholic school."

"Catholic schools needed."

"Catholics have no feeder schools in the borough. It seems to be discriminatory and environmentally unsound to make Catholic pupils travel further afield for an education."

"Children should have the right to attend a Catholic school to continue in their faith."

"Diversity is equally as important as a single religion at school. Having places open for those who are not Catholic can help educate the wider community about Catholicism."

"Diversity within Richmond should be offered to all and a Catholic school is required to be able to fulfil this."

"Every child that has a Catholic primary education should have the right of a Catholic secondary education. Catholic schools, such as The London Oratory and Cardinal Vaughan are hugely oversubscribed and Richmond Borough children miss out on places."

"Families deserve the choice to send their children to a school where their faith will be nurtured and developed."

"For many years Catholic children have been forced to travel outside the borough to receive a Catholic education. This is not fair on the children from neighbouring boroughs, many of whom are disadvantaged by this position."

"Good location for primary and secondary for Catholic kids and open to other non or faith kids, not fair on Catholic primary children like me. We all got separated and split up and a lot of travelling! Lost touch with many friends because of this. There needs to be a follow on school here!"

"Good use of public land/building for primary/secondary school."

"Great location."

"Having another Catholic school in the borough will help to have more choice of school with high standards set by Catholic schools."

"How great that a Catholic secondary school will offer places to children across the borough - not just from those living immediately in the Clifden Road area. I note that each and every parish in Richmond will have an opportunity to attend this school - that has to be great for children of all faiths as it will, no doubt free up places in community schools across the borough too."

"I agree with the need for a primary school but only if the secondary school includes a sixth form. If space is an issue, I think the sixth form should take priority."

"I also believe that there should be a sixth form for boys (Catholic)."

"I am not Catholic, but I am a parent and understand and support Catholic parents wish for a Catholic secondary."

"I am sure the opening of such a school would be extremely beneficial to the future generations of children being educated in this borough."



"I am the Chair of Governors of St James's Catholic Primary School and, having spoken widely with fellow governors and families of children who attend St James's can confirm the long held need and wish to provide a Catholic secondary school in Richmond. This is important to enable families to continue the academic and spiritual development of their children from primary through to secondary level within the borough. Today, Catholic children are literally scattered far and wide to many different schools, often outside of the borough due to the lack of a Catholic secondary school in the Borough. I am very proud of the outstanding rating and development of young people that St James's and other Catholic primary schools in the borough and across the country more widely deliver. I believe it is fair and reasonable to request and expect that this continuity of education should be provided through to secondary level at a local, borough school. In addition, the proposed Catholic schools for the Clifden Road site will be voluntary aided showing the additional contribution that parents and families make to the education of their children through the state sector. Finally, places at alternate Catholic secondary schools outside of the borough are becoming more difficult to secure due to demand in their localities, which is a further argument for this provision to be met locally in Richmond."

"I believe it is wrong that currently so many Catholic children have to travel so far to continue their Catholic education at secondary level. The provision of a Catholic Secondary School in Richmond is long overdue and will be welcomed by hundreds of young people."

"I feel there is a need for the proposal facility of Catholic primary and secondary schools in the borough."

"I feel there is a real need for a Catholic secondary school in the borough as currently nearly 1000 children have to travel out of the borough to go to school. I have 2 boys in a borough Catholic primary school and would like their education to continue in a Richmond Borough secondary school."

"I feel this is very positive, it recognises the diverse faiths within the borough. There is not much for Catholic people within Richmond."

"If the linked schools policy goes and the Clifden site is another non-denominational school, all this will mean is that residents in Central Twickenham get yet another school to choose from."

"In 5 years time I will find it impossible to get my children into a Catholic school - please continue to support my children's education."

"It is great to see proposals for new schools, both secondary and primary, as there are not enough schools in the Richmond Borough for the amount of children needing school places."

"It is ideal in terms of size and location for both a primary and secondary provision."

"It is imperative that a Catholic secondary school is established in the borough of Richmond, one of the only London boroughs without one. In the current circumstances, children of 11 and older are made to travel large distances early in the dark mornings in order to continue with a Catholic education. Alternatively they attend non Catholic state schools within the borough putting additional pressure on already over-subscribed secondary schools."

"It is important for all children to have equal opportunity. At present, Catholic children in Richmond are denied access to Catholic education at secondary level."

"It is important for children to have a choice of gaining a faith based education and Catholic children are not being represented."

"It would be good to retain the use for adult education; out of school hours."

"It would be very nice to have a Catholic primary and secondary school in Twickenham. There is a high demand for this type of school and keeping the faith."

"It would provide an excellent education for local residents."

"It's clear that there is an imbalance in terms of ratio of Catholic primary schools to places in Catholic secondary schools, therefore this needs to be addressed urgently."

"My children did not have the chance of an in-borough Catholic secondary school and I think this choice should be available."

"My children had to travel long distances to school to get a Catholic education. Now my grandchildren have the same disadvantages - a waste of time and a handicap for their social life as they have no local friends."

"Places in Catholic schools are in high demand by both Catholics and non-Catholics because of the high standards offered."

"Please continue to show your support for this school. I want my children to be able to continue to have a Catholic education and to be part of the Richmond community."

"Presently there is no local school my children can attend as they are in a Catholic non link primary school in a neighbouring borough. I would love to see them in a local Catholic school."

"The building would be perfectly suitable as use for a school and would fulfil the long standing need for a Catholic school in Richmond."

"The Catholic secondary schools that are open to our children are currently oversubscribed and in most cases a long way to travel, it would be great to have a Catholic secondary school in our borough. We need it."

"The Clifden site is ideally placed for this initiative and will put a superb site to much better use than it currently has. I know the site well having taught there for some time."

"The construction of a new state funded Catholic secondary school is absolutely necessary for Richmond Catholics who currently have no option to continue their children's education, and are forced to either leave the borough, or for those that can afford it, to have to pay for education. A state funded Catholic school would be of huge benefit to the community and to all those parents seeking to extend the superb primary Catholic education provided by Richmond Borough."

"The continued use of the site for educational purposes would reinstate its original use as a secondary school and would meet the needs for the large number of children who have to go out of borough (as my own children had to) for a Catholic school. The establishment of a primary school as well would ensure natural progression at age 11 years."

"The council has an obligation to provide education for its residents. Currently there are enough children leaving the borough to obtain a Catholic secondary education to warrant a school being provided locally."

"There are a number of very good Catholic primary schools in the borough but no secondary Catholic schools, which forces parents to send their children far away outside the borough."

"There is no Catholic secondary school in the borough whatsoever for the children coming out of primary Catholic school, so I think they deserve to have the right of this option."

"There is no mixed Catholic secondary school in Richmond Borough and, as our children are at a Catholic primary school, we would like them to continue their Catholic education into secondary."

"This is long overdue. There is no Catholic secondary school in the area and it's about time that was changed."

"This is probably the only chance to have a Catholic school in borough - please continue to support it. My children would love to be able to continue their education in a Catholic school in the borough that they live in."

"This is really important to us as a community. This will transform our lives and that of our children, and our children's children."

"This will free up places in other secondary schools and provide a Catholic education for the Catholic children in the borough."

"This would allow our children to continue their Catholic education within the Borough of Richmond."

"We have a number of Catholic primary schools in the borough. It is illogical that we shouldn't make provision for those children at 12 when they move on to secondary level."

"We have a terrible inequality within our current provision for education in Richmond as there is no Catholic secondary school. I strongly believe that this inequality should be redressed as a matter of justice and fairness for borough residents. Thank you."

"We have long been without provision of a Catholic secondary school. We have a strong Catholic community in the borough and this school would be well supported."

"Will benefit the community."

"With increasing numbers of children in London and specifically in Richmond, more education sites are needed and given that there are not enough Catholic schools in the borough, I think this is a must."

"With regards to the Catholic Primary School - anyone that lives in Central Twickenham no longer gets into St James Primary School which is pretty devastating when have been a practicing Catholic all your life and you want to be able to give your children the same education with the same Catholic values that was instilled in me at both my primary and secondary school which were both in the Hounslow Borough. Richmond Borough is the only borough in London without a secondary Catholic school, making those children commute outside the borough for schooling. Having a Catholic secondary school in the Borough can only be a good thing for house prices, showing diversity and offering equal opportunities for all."

"Words cannot express how good it would be to have a local Catholic school for our children to attend."

## 9.4. Disagree – Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school

The following table shows the top 10 responses for respondents who disagreed with the proposal to establish a one-form Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school on the site.

Base		795	
Q9. Any other comments you have about the proposals or the future use of the Clifden Road site	Against decision	663	83%
	Opposed to faith based state funded schools	342	43%
	Lack of secondary school places	187	24%
	Taxpayers money should not be spent funding a school for the minority / state funded schools should be inclusive	131	16%
	Faith schools are divisive and discriminatory	121	15%
	Great initiative / brilliant news / agree	55	7%
	School places should be based only on address / local children should get priority	48	6%
	Want an Academy/ free school / Science Academy	45	6%
	Do not remove link school status / outcome not known if abolished / link school comments	32	4%
	No borough catholic secondary school / Catholic secondary school needed	30	4%

Respondents who disagreed with the proposal to establish a one-form Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school gave a selection of comments which are listed below:

"A Catholic school is likely to draw pupils from across the borough and thus increase traffic congestion in the area. A local inclusive school would not. There are also not enough secondary school places or choice (particularly for boys). I would prefer a secondary CoE inclusive school or a Free School on the Clifden Road site."

"A Catholic school will cater for pupils from outside the borough. If a secondary is to be built it should be for Richmond students. A secondary school isn't needed - plenty of spaces at Shene School and at Whitton School."

"A Catholic school will not be open to all. As a parent I would not have sent my children to a Catholic primary or secondary. Parents of faith can practise their faith out of school. A non-Catholic child cannot avoid all aspects of the Catholic faith within a school, as its very ethos is to promote that faith. My taxes (local and national) should provide schools for all."

"A Catholic school would keep more children local. I am concerned that the site is very small for a modern secondary school and therefore do not think a primary school should be included. I also think the funding suggestions are

too low and the school may prove to be under-resourced and have poor facilities."

"A Catholic secondary school is the only option."

"A child should not be denied a place at a local school because of the religion of the parents. State money should not be used to provide education for particular religious groups."

"A community school could also provide much needed facilities for shared use for Twickenham residents - e.g. indoor sports provision, drama/performance space, arts workshops - to fill a gap in leisure provision for the town and to compensate for the loss to the town involved in the sale of this property"

"A new secondary and primary school on the Clifden Road site should be open to all children in the borough, not just to Catholics. As non-Catholic parents living within the borough, we would have no chance of our children attending the proposed state-funded secondary school and this doesn't seem at all right."

"A primary school will inhibit the growth of the secondary."

"A school open to children of all faiths should be made available to our children in the area. This reflects the community as a whole and not simply the God-fearing minority."

"A secondary school is needed , but not a faith school."

"As link arrangements are being removed from all primaries there will no longer be a need for Catholic children to go out of borough. If a faith based education is required there is more than enough provision just outside the borough boundaries, whereas there will not be enough general secondary places within 2 years. Creating a faith school, particularly with the entry guidelines proposed by the Diocese, will not address this issue at all."

"As more and more people continue to move into the borough to access the local schools it is an act of astonishing folly to commit limited public resources to a school which will only serve a narrow sectarian interest. For instance, at the time of writing it would seem as if it is a done deal that Twickenham Film Studios will be sold off for residential development. This will be a development of considerable size that can only further increase the pressure on those local schools that have a more open admissions policy than the one being considered for the Clifden Road site."

"As taxpayers in the borough funds should not be used for such a discriminatory approach to education. We need education for all, not faith based decisions."

"Catholic children have a far greater choice of secondary schools than the other children as they can choose either their local school or schools in other boroughs. This cannot be right in a fair society."

"Catholic education should not be paid for by taxpayers. If parents wish to give their children a Catholic education, let them pay for it themselves. We need secular schools open to all, and not a system that closes itself off to many (and in so many ways)."

"Catholic families have the choice of non-faith based schools or Catholic schools. Non-religious families do not have such a choice. Religion can be practiced outside of school. I see no reason to favour a small minority when there is a clear need for more secondary school places for borough children."

"Community funding should be directed to community projects with no restrictions for users based on religious faith."

"Current proposal is unjustified and undemocratically being implemented. Inclusive policies are required. Excluding the vast majority of children in the borough is indefensible. The site needs to be used as a secondary school open to all."

"Discrimination of any description is wrong. Offering places to children based on the faith of their parents is utterly unacceptable. There would be uproar if a school were established that did not allow any children whose parents were Catholic. There is no difference between these two scenarios!!"

"Due to the lack of school places within schools in Twickenham, to restrict places by faith seems wholly inappropriate. Under this scenario, schools should be inclusive, and the idea of faith should be taught, via humanities."

"Education and access to education should be provided regardless of faith. Religious indoctrination should not be provided by the state in the classroom."

"I am also concerned about the impact on traffic flow and parking in the area of a school attracting a large proportion of non local pupils."

"I am astonished that the Council can support the idea of creating state schools that discriminate on the basis of the religion (or lack of religion) of parents. I am amazed that it is even legal. I can't imagine any other state activity where religious discrimination is allowed. In this instance religious discrimination is being encouraged."

"I am concerned that although the local authority is increasing primary space in the borough this will eventually mean more secondary places are needed. If this site is used for a Catholic school children outside the borough may apply for it while children within the borough may be unable to find suitable secondary places."

"I am concerned that in closing this site you are severely limiting the choices of adult education available in the borough. This used to be a thriving centre for adult education with a good mix of courses."

"I believe that all secondary aged children in the borough lack places and a new non faith-based secondary school is urgently needed. It is unfair for non-Catholic children to be excluded from a new school option."

"I believe that any new secondary school in the borough should be accessible to all pupils regardless of their faith. Catholic children have the choice of several good schools close by in other boroughs. Children, particularly boys, living in West Twickenham, currently have very limited options and a slim chance of getting a place in the popular, oversubscribed schools."

"I believe that any schools funded by taxpayers should be open to all taxpayers' children, i.e. should not be selective on a religious or other basis"

"I believe that with the shortage of school places that exists in this borough, any new schools should be all-inclusive. Additionally, I believe children should commute as short a distance as possible to their school."

"I believe the FREE school proposal to be both exciting and inclusive to the WHOLE community and truly believe it well worth a place in Richmond Upon Thames. These FREE schools have good reputations and would also provide another option for boys in the West Twickenham area who currently only have the Whitton Academy School to choose from. This school has a poor academic reputation and, as such, is a bad position for a borough/area to be, considering the high cost of local housing."

"I believe the LA is failing the secondary age children in the borough and that in the given economic climate this is only going to be much worse - non-excluding secondary schools should be created at the utmost urgency."

"I disagree with faith-based schools. Also, there is enormous pressure for school places in the borough, so any new schools must be open to everyone."

"I do not believe that local authorities should provide/support state faith based schools - there should be a clear separation between provision of schooling and religion."

"I feel that opening a Catholic school is complete discrimination of my children. They deserve a place in a good local school and it has nothing to do with their religion. Schools should not discriminate any children, no matter who their parents are, what their religion is."

"I feel that there are a number of excellent uses the Clifden Road site could be used for. One of the best uses would be a primary and/or secondary school. However, I feel that a school, with places open to all children of the borough regardless of faith, is the only fair and inclusive option. Selection of any amount based on faith is unfair and against what I believe this council should be working for; equality and fairness for all."



"I feel very strongly that in the current era we should be encouraging tolerance and understanding of all faiths by having children of all faiths educated together. I am very much against this 'voluntary segregation'."

"I find it bemusing that with the limited schooling options available for a growing population in this area, that the next school project is limited to a small part of the population, based on the faith of the parents of the children. Please reconsider."

"I find the concept of faith based schools far too exclusive and I've an issue with the idea that the council want to save money for the benefit of a minority. I'm sure I'm not the only resident who'll be happy for the council to spend our taxes on a school that the entire borough can benefit from rather supposedly save money by providing an educational benefit for a minority."

"I firmly believe that any such schools receiving taxpayers' money should be fully inclusive and should not exclude pupils from the community on the basis of their parents religious beliefs. I fail to understand why the council feels that it is fair to spend such an extravagant sum of money on a site merely to give it away on an almost free rent to the Catholic Church, who are known to be very well off. If the Catholic church wants to set up a school, let it do so at its own expense. A school on this site should be inclusive to the greater community. My strength of opinion on this is sufficient for it to alter my future voting behaviour."

"I firmly believe there is a need for more secondary school places - open to all."

"I firmly support a new school being introduced at the Clifden Road site and that this should be non-denominational. Though the proposal for the Catholic school does have provision for non-Catholics, they are far too few and far down the line. Any school on this site should have all places available to all."

"I strongly support a Free School at secondary level on this site."

"I strongly think that all state education should be secular. Faith schools are divisive. I strongly object to my taxes being used to support any faith schools."

"I think it is an absolute disgrace that we are even considering a faith-specific school. In these hard times if the money is to be spent it should be on things for the people of the local area as a whole and not a specific group. This entire process is a waste of public funds and time, resources which we can ill-afford to fritter away on the whims of a few."

"I wish the council to provide non-faith, all inclusive education facilities in this borough."

"It should be a Catholic academy, in line with government policy."

"It should be a school open to ALL children."

"No new state-funded school in the borough should apply admission policies that discriminate against local children on the basis of the religion or belief of their parents. The Diocesan proposal is for two new schools, both of which will apply such policies. This is simply wrong, regardless of whether the church or any other body is running them. Furthermore, the state should not provide specialist education facilities to any particular special interest or religious group. Children from Catholic families are welcome in all non-religious schools. If their parents feel the need to give them separate 'Catholic' education - which can only undermine societal cohesion - this should not be the responsibility of the state and its taxpayers."

"No state school should be a faith school."

"Non-faith based secondary provision in the borough is not as good as it should be. The priority of the council should be to provide excellent secondary school places for children of all residents. The borough should promote social cohesion and the mixing of children from all backgrounds. This proposal should be dismissed, just as it would (quite rightly) if the proposal were for an atheist school - even though there are more families of no faith in the borough than active Catholic families. Faith based schools are, by nature, discriminatory and the borough should not allow this site to be used in this manner. This is the 21st Century and the borough should be working to promote a cohesive and mutually respectful future, not pandering to the narrow interests of specific religious groups."

"Non-faith-based Academy or Non-faith-based Free School are equally attractive options to me for my children."

"Opening a Catholic primary school is restricting access to the school for families who support a different faith or no faith at all. Given the lack of school places available in the borough, it is important that a new school is available to all families in the borough."

"Our borough should be focused on providing excellent new schools that are open to all children regardless of their faith."

"Placing a primary school on this site will prevent future expansion of the secondary school."

"Please do not restrict entry to any new school(s) based on faith. It's grossly unfair, especially as the taxpayer will be paying the running costs."

"Please do not use my taxes to encourage the mixing of religion and education."

"Please ensure that a faith free school is built on this site. As a parent of two children in the area and a taxpayer I would be disgusted to see a school being built that could potentially exclude my children."

"Please use the site for the local community. Please don't make it a special place for Catholics only."

"Primary and secondary school places are in high demand across the borough, and I do not believe new places created should be restricted to children of specific faiths. Building a faith school of any denomination on this site will do nothing towards solving the wider issue of not enough school places in the borough."

"Prime site should be used for the benefit of all and not just for Catholic minority. Catholic school would pull students in from outside the borough while borough children in Twickenham have insufficient access to good secondary schools."

"Pupil numbers are rising in the borough so it's great that a new secondary school is being planned. However I think it's unfair and prejudicial against most children in this borough if it is to be a Catholic school, giving priority to children with Catholic parents. Especially if it teaches the same homophobic and anti-contraception/pro AIDS messages to our next generation as the Pope and Catholic Church do."

"Richmond needs inclusive, open, good quality schools. In this way, we as taxpayers are supporting the creation of a strong and local community. Further segregation and partition is not needed and taxpayers should not be asked to support faith schools with such a small footprint in the community."

"School places should be available for all and not based on religious affiliation. Everybody's child has a right to a place in a new school. I DO think it is a good idea to use the site as a new school, but please it would be wholly unfair to discriminate."

"Schools in this borough are all oversubscribed - e.g. Teddington School which is in the adjacent area of the proposed school. I am aware that many borough junior school students are having difficulty getting local places in local secondary schools close to their homes. I object to the council subsidising a school that will predominately recruit from outside the borough. The ethos of the school will discriminate against gay students."

"Setting up a VA Catholic school is contrary to Government policy. The site should firstly be considered for an Academy."

"Should be a free mixed secondary school."

"The borough is a net importer of pupils from other boroughs to its secondary schools with approximately 37% of Richmond upon Thames secondary school pupils resident in other local authorities. We can't fill the places we have with those pupils from the borough, why spend more money on schools that are not required?"

"The borough needs more secondary places, a new school on this site should not be a faith based school, and should have an equal to all admissions policy."

"The Borough of Richmond is the only borough in London without a secondary Catholic school. The young Catholic children of the borough need a secondary school to continue their education.."

"The Clifden Road site is approximately 10,000 square metres in size. It would be ideal for a single secondary school, however it simply would not be large enough for 2 schools."

"The places for schools (primary or secondary) in our area are limited enough without restricting it to only allow one group of people to attend."

"The recent academic results highlight the urgent need for a state, i.e multi faith, secondary school in the area. The primary schools are excellent and plentiful, after that we have little choice but to pay privately. I would prefer that the resources of the council and my taxes are put towards filling a gaping hole in the borough's educational needs else we will continue to see an exodus from the area."

"The removal of the link school criteria will mean that children from all primary schools will be considered under the same rules for the secondary schools. There should not be a privilege accorded to certain faiths."

"The restriction on school places based on religious beliefs is outdated. It should be open to all children within the local community."

"The school should be inclusive rather than exclusive."

"The school should try and serve the local community as far as possible. It should seek to minimize reduce noise and pollution. Therefore it should give preference to people who live nearby, and encourage those who would not have to commute longer distances."

""The site should retain its current usage."

"The site was previously used for adult community education - this should be reflected in any new school that is there - i.e. education available for all. The proposed loss of link system will open up more secondary school places for those attending."

"The six Catholic primary schools urgently need a secondary school for their pupils."

""There are more school places needed in the borough, there is already not enough and this is only going to get worse. Consequently I believe all places should be open to all, otherwise the system becomes exclusive and unfair."

"There is a severe lack of places available at both primary and secondary schools in the borough. I object to having to consider paying for private education for my child."

"Twickenham is a multi-faith international community town and it needs a secondary school to reflect that balance and diversity, something for the whole community to be proud of."

"We are currently facing a major problem across the borough and throughout London with regard to general school places, restricting input in any basis is unfair."

"We are in desperate need of another secondary school in the borough and a Catholic school would only provide places to a very small proportion of the borough. It is plain and simple that this is a wrong move."

"We are in desperate need of more local secondary school places, but it should be a community school with places equally available to all children regardless of faith."

"We just need more decent secondary schools for our children."

"We live in an inclusive society and I feel that providing a Catholic secondary is against the whole ethos of inclusivity."

"With removal of link school status Catholic children will have the same options as other children in the borough."

"With the council's plan to remove the link between local primary and secondary schools I am concerned that my children may not get a place in their closest secondary school without the use of the Clifden site as an all inclusive school."

"Would like the site to be used for Secondary Free School."

#### **Q14. Other connection to Richmond upon Thames**

Respondents (101) were given the opportunity to list their 'Other' connection to Richmond upon Thames. A selection of comments are listed below:

"Born in Richmond upon Thames"

"Children attend school in borough"

"Church membership and attendance"

"Close family live there."

"Connected with Isleworth Blue School"

"Councillor for Whitton Ward"

"Family connections"

"Family home"

"Former LBRuT employee"

"Friends in area"

"Governor in one of its primary schools."

"Grandparent"

"Have lived there and still own a property in the borough"

"I am a Governor for the Vineyard School"

"I go there and shop. I attend meetings there, and have had a long association with Richmond since my own school days"

"I grew up in Twickenham and have relatives and friends who are still residents"

"I have a local business"

"I live in Kingston and know many people from Richmond who will be affected by this decision"

"I live just across the boundary and regularly use local services"

"I lived in Richmond for eighteen years (till last year) but I moved over to Camden as I am now at university."

"I lived in the borough for almost 40 years and brought my children up there. They are now grown up and have their own children. I hope that they will not have to send their children out of the borough like we did."

"I went to college there"

"Leisure."

"Live in Borough of Richmond Upon Thames"

"Live in Hounslow"

"Live in Isleworth"

"Live in neighbouring borough"

"Lived here all my life!"

"Magistrate in Richmond"

"Moving to the borough"

"MP"

"My child goes to school there. My husband works in Richmond College as a full-time teacher"

"My godchildren live and go to school there"

"Neighbour"

"Neighbouring borough, friends in Richmond"

"Parish Secretary for St Thomas Aquinas Church in Ham"

"Recently moved to Wandsworth after 16 years living in Richmond"

"School"

"Used to live in borough"

### **Q18. Other disability**

Respondents (2) were given the opportunity to list their 'Other' disability.

"Chronic severe Rheumatoid Arthritis"

"ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome)."



### Q19. Other religion / belief

Respondents (42) were given the opportunity to list their 'Other' religion / belief. A selection of comments are listed below:

"Agnostic."

"Animist"

"Atheist."

"Atheist. Athiesm is a belief, not the absence of a belief."

"Catholic, Jewish, Church of England"

"Christian/High Church"

"Greek Orthodox"

"Hindu-Jain"

"Holistic"

"Humanism"

"Humanist"

"Humanist, and you can't even credit it with a listing"

"I believe in God."

"I believe in one God"

"I believe in people. I do have beliefs but they are humane not religious"

"I have my own spiritual beliefs but am not part of any religion."

"I have no religion"

"Jain"

"Jehovah's Witness."

"Jewish by descent - it is my culture not my belief"

"No names"

"No specific religious beliefs."

"Non practising Catholic"

"None faith."

"Orthodox Serbian"

"Pagan"

"Polytheist"

"Protestant Reformed Christian"

"Secular Humanist"

"Spiritual."

"Too complicated to explain in a little box"

"Unitarian"

"What has my 'belief' got to do with educating children!"

"Zoroastrian"

## Q20. Any other White background

Respondents (208) were given the opportunity to list 'Any other White background'. A selection of comments are listed below"

"American born of British heritage"

"American though my husband is English"

"American"

"American, by birth"

"American/Mixed"

"Anglo-Egyptian"

"Arab/British"

"Argentinian"

"Australian"

"Austrian"

"Belgian / Italian"

"Belgium"

"Born in South Africa, but British Citizen"

"Brazilian"

"British + Other"

"British/Irish."

"Canadian"

"Caucasian"

"Colombian"

"Colonial"

"Danish / British"

"Danish"

"Does this really matter"

"Dutch"

"Dutch/Irish/English/Who knows what else. I appreciate that questions about ethnicity are well-meaning, but we really need to get past them. We are all mixed-race."

"English / Irish heritage"

"English"

"EU"

"European"

"Finnish"

"French and English"

"French"

"German"

"Greek"

"Half Polish and Half British"

"Irish/Scottish"

"Israeli"

"Italian"

"Italo-Mexican"

"Latin American"

"Latino"

"Lebanese"

"Maltese"

"Mediterranean"

"Meti"

"Mexican"

"Mixed European"

"New Zealander"

"North American"

"Norwegian"

"NZ"

"Polish"

"Portuguese"

"Scandinavian"

"South African"

"South American"

"Spanish"

"Swedish"

"Trinidad"

"Turkish"

"UK & US"

"USA"

"West European"

"Western European"

"White European"

## Q20. Any other Asian background

Respondents (14) were given the opportunity to list 'Any other Asian background'. A selection of comments are listed below:

"Anglo Indian"

"Australian."

"Baluchi"

"Canadian Filipino"

"Filipino"

"Kenyan"

"Persian"

"Sri Lankan"

"Tamil"

## Q20. Any other Mixed background

Respondents (31) were given the opportunity to list 'Any other Mixed background'. A selection of comments are listed below:

"Bit of everything really"

"British and small part Palestinian"

"British Middle eastern"

"Chinese and Indian"

"English and South American Indian"

"English with Caribbean/Brazilian families"

"European / South American"

"European/Chinese"

"Half British/ Half Egyptian"

"Latin"

"Maltese Scottish."

"Mauritian/ Filipino"

"Portuguese and German"

"Portuguese, German and South African Coloured"

"South African Coloured"

"South American."

"Spanish/ English/ Irish"

"White and Chinese"

"White and Hispanic"

"White and Latin."

"White and Mixed Caribbean"

"White British and Jewish"

"White/African/Caribbean"

"White/Chinese"

**Q20. Any other Black or Black British**

No replies.



## Q20. Any other Ethnic background

Respondents (39) were given the opportunity to list 'Any other Ethnic background'. A selection of comments are listed below:

"Anglo-Indian."  
"Arabic."  
"Balinese."  
"Burmese"  
"Filipino"  
"Greek Cypriot"  
"Homosapiens"  
"Human"  
"Irish"  
"Japanese"  
"Latin American"  
"Malaysian."  
"Mestizo"  
"Mexican"  
"None of your business"  
"Pacific Islander."  
"Peruvian"  
"Philippine."  
"Portuguese"  
"Prefer not to say"  
"Seychellouise"  
"South American."  
"Spanish."  
"White/Burmese."

## Q21. Other sexual orientation

Respondents (11) were given the opportunity to list their 'Other sexual orientation'

"Devoted Catholic following in full obedience the command of God."

"I'd rather not."

"In what way does this make any difference to my opinion on whether we have a new faith-based secondary school?"

"Married."

"No sexual feelings."

"None."

"Normal."

"Really? How is this relevant?"

"Religious sister, vow of celibacy."

"Single."

"Too young."

## **Submission from the Liberal Democrat Councillor group on the consultation on the use of the Clifden Road site, Twickenham.**

### **1. Background**

This is the first site suitable for a secondary school which has become available on the Middlesex side of the river, at an affordable cost to the Council, for a number of years. The justification for purchasing the site was to meet the demand for more secondary school places, which the borough will face in a few years' time. This was made clear in the report recommending the Cabinet to agree ( July 2011 ) the Council's purchase of the Clifden Road site. The executive summary in section 1.3 of the report stated:- *"This site would provide an ideal location for further school place provision in Twickenham to meet the increasing local demand for school places."*

The education context in section 3.11 of the report detailed the rise in the borough's birth rate over the last 10 years. In section 3.12 it stated:- *".....the opportunity to purchase a site that would enable further additional school place provision, particularly in the Twickenham area, would be a considerable benefit in educational terms."*

The Cabinet report in section 3.13 pointed out that *"Richmond upon Thames is one of only two boroughs in London that does not have a state Catholic secondary school."* Indeed the provision of such a school in the borough has been the an objective of both Liberal Democrat and Conservative administrations for a number of years. However the report went on to state that *"It must be stressed however that this Council level support does not represent a decision to provide this type of school at the Clifden site."*

The location of the site is of particular importance in the context of secondary places generally as the Twickenham/Teddington area has seen the greatest demand for extra primary places in the borough. All the primary schools in this area, which had room for expansion, have or are being expanded. The area already contains three high performing secondary schools, which are all well over subscribed. Ten extra places per year were added to Teddington School at the time of its rebuilding. That leaves two other secondaries, (i) the Hampton Academy which, now that it has reduced its intake, will probably have a full year 7 this September; and (ii) the Twickenham Academy, the only school with spare capacity. If more provision is not supplied, shortage of supply of secondary school places will begin to occur on the Twickenham side of the river in September 2015.

The foundation of this submission is that the site is key to the necessary provision of new secondary school places on the Middlesex side of the Borough, and that this is in line with the justifications laid down in para 3.12 of the Cabinet report for the purchase of the Clifden Road site.

The submission looks at the factors which influence the estimation of projected secondary school places numbers, the potential and timing of building a new

community secondary school in the area, the affect the provision of a Catholic secondary school will have on reducing the demand for places at our community secondary schools and finally alternative uses for the site.

## **2. Increase in the provision of secondary school places**

The consultation document plays down the need for new secondary school provision post 2016, which after all was the purpose of obtaining the site. It is difficult to be exact on the projected numbers of places required because there are a large number of unknowns. Some of the major ones are considered below:-

- **The removal of the Linked school system.**

If this is removed as recommended in the Cabinet report of the 15<sup>th</sup> March, this will allow Children from the Surrey side of the river in Ham to obtain places at Teddington School ahead of children from west and north Teddington, Strawberry Hill, and Fulwell, who would currently expect to get places. ( NB. Primary schools on the Surrey side were not linked to secondary schools on the Middlesex side of the River, so children at these schools had great difficulty obtaining places at popular Middlesex secondary schools ). The vacant places created in Grey Court will probably go to children from the borough of Kingston, as that borough soon will have a very severe shortage of secondary school places.

Similarly children from Central Kingston will also be closer to Teddington School than many children in our borough who currently get places at Teddington School.

**Summary:- Removal of the “Linked Schools” scheme could exacerbate the need for a new school on the Twickenham side of the river compared to those shown in the consultation document.**

- **The size and timing of a new secondary school in Kingston.**

The size and timing of a new school in Kingston is very tentative. The borough of Kingston hope to obtain PFI credits for their new school. Currently PFI schemes are not popular with the Treasury, so alternative funding might be required. The

Government currently has a high demand for capital for free schools and primary places, it is therefore uncertain if Kingston will obtain the full amount they require from the Government to build the size of new school they need on the small site available. It is likely therefore that the assumptions in the consultation document for the number of new places available in north Kingston are too high.

**Summary:- The reduction of out of borough pupils at Grey Court is likely to be less than estimated. The predicted demand for borough secondary school places contained in the consultation document is therefore an underestimate.**

- **The provision of one or more free schools.**

The consultation document assumes the provision of two FREE schools with 11 to 19 provision and of about 50 pupils per year group. The academic performance of very small secondary school is poor compared to other secondary schools. There are 67 maintained secondary schools with cohorts below 75 across the country. The proportion of children achieving the English Baccalaureate is Richmond, in England and in this group of small schools is shown below.

Area	Percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate
Richmond	16
National	15
Small secondary schools	8.6

This is a significant difference, especially if you look at the list of small schools and note that it contains some high achieving schools which are ex grammar and private schools that have converted to academy status.

The results for 5 or more A\*-C including English and Mathematics is shown below.

Area	Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C inc English and Mathematics
Richmond	63
National	58
Small secondary schools	49

These results are not surprising as small schools are harder to run financially and it is more difficult to arrange a wide curriculum.

**Summary:- Some parents, because of concern over performance, will probably be reluctant to put their children into small secondary free schools, therefore such schools are unlikely to provide the stable long term solution to the shortage of secondary school places assumed in the consultation documents.**

- **Number of out of Borough Children**

The assumption of a move from a percentage of out of borough children of 32% in 2011 to just 12% by 2018 in the consultation documents is extremely optimistic, when one considers the position of our secondary schools in relation to the borough boundaries, and that our neighbouring boroughs have seen similar if not greater increases in the demand for school places. It should be remembered that for our schools, which are currently oversubscribed, the out of borough children obtain places because they live closer than children in the other linked schools.

An example of another over optimistic assumption is that the free schools will only have 5 out of borough children between them. Considering that one of the possible sites on the Twickenham side is only 385m from the borough boundary and that one of the possible sponsors is very likely to attract pupils from all over south west London, the assumption is very optimistic .

**Summary:- The demand for out of borough places is difficult to estimate. Even with the removal of the “Linked School” system, we are unlikely to see the reductions claimed in the consultation document, and therefore will need more places that have been estimated.**

### **3. Provision of a new secondary school.**

The consultation shows that the administration is hoping to provide to provide a 5 new form entry community Academy in September 2016. This school would need to be provided in the Teddington - Twickenham area. If no other new schools are provided, then this school should have a minimal affect on existing schools and will meet the estimated shortage of places. If, as assumed in the consultation, one free school is provided in the area and if the new North Kingston school is built as planned, then for the first 2 years there may be an oversupply of places. This, as already considered above, is unlikely to occur in full. We therefore agree that a new secondary school is required in the area from 2016.

What has to be considered is the likelihood of being able to find, during the next 18 months, a suitable site and the necessary capital funding for its purchase and then to be able to build the new school, so that it can be opened in September 2016.

**Summary:- Until a location and the funding for purchasing the site for a new school are announced, it should be assumed that the only site available for a community secondary school is that at Clifden Road.**

#### **4. Will the provision of a Catholic secondary school on the site help reduce the expected shortage of places at secondary level?**

Currently children transfer from our borough Catholic primary schools to a variety of good Catholic state and private secondary schools in neighbouring boroughs. Some of these such as Gumley House and Sacred Heart are less than one mile from the borough boundary, while Gunnersbury and St Paul's are less than 2 miles. They also transfer to state and private Grammar schools in neighbouring boroughs, and a few attend our borough secondary schools.

Some of the neighbouring Catholic secondary schools have admissions policies based on a proportion of places being offered to the various local deaneries, while others are based on distance from the school. Therefore at some schools, even though there is an increased demand for places in our neighbouring boroughs, the number attending from Richmond is fixed

This year the number of reception class places at our Catholic Primary schools is 300. The total in our current Y5, who would be eligible to join a new 150 intake Catholic secondary school in September 2013 is 251. Some parents will still choose existing high performing Catholic, private or state schools instead of a new one. Depending on the new school's admission policy ( i.e. places could be allocated to neighbouring RC deaneries ), there could, in the first few years, be room for a few places for children of a non Roman catholic background.

The percentage of RC children who transfer to our borough secondary schools from RC primary schools is about 10%, of which 40% are girls going to Waldegrave school. For the first few years, because of the strong performance of some of our borough secondary schools, this numbers may not change very much.

**Summary:- The number of places freed up in our borough secondary schools by the provision of a new Roman Catholic secondary school on the Clifden Road site is relatively small, ( 60% of 10% of 250 ), about 15, compared to 150 new places created. This does not meet the stated justification for the purchase of the site, which was to tackle the future increase demand for places. The site should therefore not be used for a VA Roman Catholic secondary school.**

#### **5. Alternative uses for the Clifden Road site**

As already stated it is difficult to predict the demand for secondary school places during a time of increasing pupil numbers, and changing transfer patterns. If we initially ignore the effect of removing the linked school scheme, and a possible

new school in North Kingston, we are likely to be short of about 129 places on the Twickenham side of the borough in 2016, 169 in 2017 and 224 in 2018. These are very conservative estimates and do not take into account the potential extra demand for example if new places were created at our most popular secondary schools.

The removal of the linked scheme could, as stated in section 2, result in an increase in the number of school places required. A free school ( of 50 places per year ) will reduce the number, but there is no guarantee that one with secondary school places will obtain Government funding, and that it will only have a very small number of out of borough pupils.

We consider that a new 5 forms of entry ( 150 places ) school is required by 2016, on top of the one new form of entry already planned for Christ's school. The administration has announced that they are unwilling to use the spare space at the other borough secondary schools for 11 to 16 accommodation; instead they planned to use the space for post 16 provision.

We therefore propose that the Clifden Road site should be reserved for a new 5 form entry community school to be opened in 2016. The school would have to be an Academy. The Council would have to find a suitable sponsor and then apply to the Government for capital for converting the buildings back to a school. The timescale is not excessive if one considers the problems our neighbouring borough of Kingston have had trying to build the new school in North Kingston, when they already had a site available.

**Summary:- A community 5 form entry Academy would fully meet the justification given for the purchase of the Clifden Road site**

*( A compromise solution could result from this proposal if the chosen sponsor was a Catholic organisation, such as a Catholic based University. They could then have either a fully open admissions policy or a 50% Catholic policy. If this attracted a significant number of children from RC primary schools, we would then have find a site for another new school, but we would have at least obtained a couple of extra years to find a site. )*

## **6. Conclusions**

- We consider there is a need for 5 form entry community school in the Twickenham/Teddington area from 2016, and that the Clifden road site should be used for this purpose and that this would satisfy the justification used to purchase the site.
- We do not consider that the proposal from the diocese of Westminster and Southwark to set up a VA secondary school on the Clifden Road site will significantly decrease the demand for community secondary school in the borough and therefore does not meet the justifications for the purchase of the site as specified in the Cabinet report of the 21st July 2011.



