

THREAT TO CHILDREN'S SCHOOLING IN RICHMOND

SIGN THE PETITION NOW



- Rising pupil numbers mean Richmond needs more secondary schools*
- Sites are rare and money is tight
- Richmond Council has found one site so far**
- **It's offering it to the Catholic Church for a Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school.**

That's not right!

- If you're one of the 90% non-Catholics in the borough, your child won't get in there – even if you live next door
- It will fill with Richmond children who would otherwise go to one of the eight existing Catholic secondaries within 5 miles of the centre of the borough. It won't free-up significant capacity in other borough schools.

If we don't act now, this really will happen

What we want

Sufficient places at high quality inclusive schools open to **all** children, regardless of their parents' religion or beliefs

Sign at: <http://tinyurl.com/riscpetition1> to petition the Council *"to ensure that every state-funded school opening in the borough from now on is inclusive, so that no child can be denied a place in a good local school because of the religion or belief of their parents"*.

Anyone (including under 18s) with a borough home, work or study address can sign. We already have the 1000 signatures necessary to trigger a short Council debate, but need as many as we can to strengthen our case as the campaign progresses.

Who are the “Richmond Inclusive Schools Campaign” supporters?

We’re local people from a wide variety of backgrounds, including Catholics, school governors, parents and ordinary residents who think the Council’s policy is simply wrong. We are not anti-religious or party-political.

The Council’s policy is to turn all its schools into Academies. Why doesn’t that apply to the proposed new Catholic school?

It looks completely inconsistent. We think the reason is that new Academies/Free Schools cannot select more than 50% of pupils on the basis of religion. The Catholic Church doesn’t want that limitation. So the Council has proposed a Voluntary Aided school, where the Church controls the admissions and employment policies. Meanwhile the taxpayer pays all the running costs and most of the capital costs. And in this case the Council is supplying the site, complete with a school building.

Isn’t the Council’s “Linked Schools” system unfair to Catholics?

Parents of children at local Catholic primaries who would be happy to send them to good local secondaries find they are effectively barred, because all but one of the Catholic primaries are outside the Council’s system linking primaries with specific secondaries. That doesn’t seem fair. If inclusive capacity were increased to the right level, the system should be reformed so that Catholics have the same access as everyone else.

And Catholic parents who still want to send their children to a Catholic secondary get priority at all of the eight Catholic secondaries within 5 miles of the centre of Richmond. That’s more than fair as far as the community as a whole is concerned.

**Council data: 300 more children/year by 2015; 500 more by 2018 (compared to 2010)*

*** Purchase of RACC site at Clifden Road, Twickenham*

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www.richmondinclusiveschools.org.uk

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