

Catholic kids prioritised if school oversubscribed

Sir - Can I just set the record straight on a couple of things in regards to the new Catholic school?

There is a lot of misinformation and myths being stated as facts, and although I understand the Catholic community not wanting to get involved in rows and arguments, and so staying diplomatically silent, I really do have to challenge some of the things written in your

paper last week.

The Catholic community respect the laws of the land.

If the council decision is judged to be unlawful then we will have to deal with that, but to state as fact that the school is unlawful is just plain wrong.

Mr Gove's intervention is welcomed as it gives an indication of the intent of the law. The school will be open to all.

The priority given to local Catholic families is only if the school is oversubscribed and given that there will continue to be sibling links at other Catholic schools for a good few years yet, there is no reason to believe that those who would like a Catholic education for their children should be put off applying.

The new free school for Twickenham has already established an alternative

preferred site in Teddington, the council is continuing the feasibility study into another school at Richmond College.

There is good news here to be had for all and I for one am looking forward to attending the open day with my Catholic and non-Catholic friends on Saturday morning.

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