

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST PROPOSED ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

This is an updated Freedom of Information request relating to the London Borough of Richmond's education policy and plans as adopted by the Council Cabinet on 6 December and laid out in the White Paper "Provision of High Quality Places in Education" and the associated paper "Choice and diversity: a policy paper for Education and Children's Services 2010".

### INFORMATION REQUESTED

1. What are the detailed supply and demand data on which the Council has determined that *"the equivalent of two secondary schools (including one Roman Catholic) will be needed by about 2015 to meet the demand for places"* (ref Choice & Diversity Policy paper – Dec 2010).

**Answer: we regularly update our forecasts of secondary school rolls, based upon recruitment and retention rates. Please see attached forecasts. However, the forecasts are largely based on the increased rolls coming through RuT primary schools and take no account of the likely diminution of the number of out-borough children able to gain admission to the eight schools or of other factors such as the possible conversion of all the schools to academy status. The forecasts are regularly revised and will next be revised in September/October once the actual Year 7 numbers for 2011/2012 will be known.**

2. How has the in-borough demand for places at a specifically Catholic secondary been derived, bearing in mind that:
  - Catholics comprise 10% of the population in the Westminster and Southwark Catholic Dioceses according to <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/country/spcgb1.html>
  - a number that has remained essentially static for at least the past 10 years and is in line with other sources of data, such as the British Social Attitudes Survey (9.3%). There are no data to indicate that the number in Richmond is significantly higher or lower than 10%, or that it is likely to change significantly in the foreseeable future.
  - The number of practising Catholics is significantly lower: according to the Church Census (2005) the estimated proportion of the borough's population attending a Catholic church on a typical Sunday is about 3%.
  - The children at borough Catholic primaries include those whose parents are non-Catholics/non-practising Catholics, residents of other boroughs, Catholics who would prefer inclusive schooling at secondary level, and those whose parents plan for private schooling at secondary level?

**Answer: the demand for Catholic secondary education within the borough has been gauged by: the numbers transferring from in-borough Catholic primary schools to out-borough Catholic secondary schools; and the views of local Catholic parents.**

3. How do the forecasts develop over the subsequent 5, 10 and 20 years?

**Answer: the forecasts extend up to 2020, but the number of unknown and unquantifiable factors that may affect roll retention and recruitment in that period mean that it would be difficult to extend them that far forward.**

4. To what extent do these calculations take into account the existing provisions in surrounding boroughs, especially the provision of Catholic schooling, bearing in mind

that, according to the 2010 School Census (<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml>), the borough is currently a substantial “net importer” of children at secondary level.

**Answer: as per 3 above, it is difficult to factor in any speculative trends that may occur as a result of changes to neighbouring councils’ provision.**

5. What assumptions have been made in the calculations in terms of the future operation of the Linked Schools system and the impact of dropping or changing it?

**Answer: as per 3 above, it is difficult to factor into the forecasts any speculative trends that may occur as a result of as-yet unproposed changes to admission arrangements of the schools in the borough.**

6. What will be the effect on the calculations of:

- a. The proposed “Richmond Free School”, bearing in mind that it aims to appeal in particular to parents who would otherwise have sent their children to private schools at secondary level, thus, if it goes ahead, increasing the number of borough children in the state sector, at the same time as increasing the number of places at inclusive schools.

**Answer: it would be imprudent to take any account of a proposal that has not yet been formally submitted to the DfE, let alone assessed or approved by the Secretary of State.**

- b. The proposed incorporation of 6th forms into borough secondaries?

**Answer: although indications, e.g. the results of the recent survey, indicate that it is likely that the establishment of sixth forms would increase in-borough demand for places in the eight schools, a detailed proposal has not yet been produced. At this stage, it would therefore be imprudent to try to factor into the forecasts any effect upon Year 7 numbers that sixth forms might bring.**

- c. A go-ahead for the major new secondary in North Kingston, which is currently at the advanced planning stage, pending funding, and is planned to open in September 2015?

**Answer: as per 4 above.**

- d. Any other new secondary school capacity in neighbouring boroughs or other Free Schools in Richmond?

**Answer: As per answers above.**

7. What account has been taken of the failure of the borough’s previous Catholic secondary school (St Edward the Confessor) in the decision to plan a new Catholic secondary?

**Answer: None. We do not feel that the closure of a school 35 years ago has any bearing on the creation of a 21<sup>st</sup> century school.**

8. What type of school (Free School, Academy, Voluntary Aided....) is any new Catholic secondary planned to be?

**Answer: that has not yet been decided.**

9. If a second school (in addition to the Catholic school) is planned in order to meet the demand, what type of school is that planned to be?

**Answer: as per the Council's previous answer to this question, we have plans for a community secondary school in order to meet the forecast shortage of places.**

10. When does the Council plan to finalise sites and complete financial arrangements for the Catholic school, and any other new secondary school and/or expansion/rationalisation of existing facilities? At roughly what date will this information be made public?

**Answer: We hope to make an announcement by the end of September 2011 at the latest and possibly well before then.**

Updated 16 May 2011

*Acting in the capacity of a borough resident and on behalf of the Richmond Inclusive Schools Campaign*

**Richmond upon Thames local authority  
Actual and estimated Year 7 rolls**

	<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Year 7 roll</b>
<b>Actual rolls</b>	2006/07	1,408
	2007/08	1,325
	2008/09	1,309
	2009/10	1,376
	2010/11	1,380
<b>Estimated rolls</b>	2011/12	1,430
	2012/13	1,520
	2013/14	1,540
	2014/15	1,650
	2015/16	1,672
	2016/17	1,754
	2017/18	1,785
	2018/19	1,861
	2019/20	1,866
	2020/21	1,871

## Take-up of Richmond secondary school places by pupils transferring from Richmond Catholic primary schools

Source: School Census

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

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

Response to FOI supplementary question – 10 June 2011