

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Clifden Road Site Consultation 2012 – Summary of findings



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1. Introduction

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames commissioned Snap Surveys to undertake an independent analysis of the responses to the 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. Background and objectives

During March 2012, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames undertook a consultation exercise, designed to consult (primarily) adult residents for their views on the Council's proposal to use the Clifden Road site to accommodate a new five-form Catholic secondary school and a one-form Catholic primary school.

1.2. Methodology

This section outlines how the survey was conducted, who responded and how the results were 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 (LBRuT) hosted the survey on their website from 20th January to 16th March, collecting the responses and providing Snap Surveys Ltd with a csv data file on three occasions during that time. Paper questionnaires were returned directly by post paid envelope to Snap Surveys Ltd for data entry. A coding frame to analyse the data for the five open ended questions was developed in liaison with LBRuT.

We received 4244 responses in total, of which the majority were online responses (72%), 1,182 used the paper version of the response form; 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	-

The principal contacts for the survey were Barbara Gray and Matthew Paul at LBRuT and Margaret Reed at Snap Surveys.

1.3. Analysis of results

Figures in this report are generally calculated as a proportion of respondents who answered each question – that is, excluding No Reply. Percentages in a particular chart will not always add up to 100%. This may be due to rounding, or because each respondent is allowed to give more than one answer to the question.

2. Respondent Profile

2.1. Introduction

The consultation was open to residents and non-residents. As such, this is not a representative sample survey. The following tables outline the key demographic subgroups (base numbers in the tables are all respondents, all parents etc that have answered the relevant question)

2.2. Parents and Non Parents

Just over three quarters (77%) of the sample were parents, with the majority of these having children of primary school age.

		Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Are you a parent? (Base: All respondents - 4,064)	Yes	3138	77%
	No	926	23%
How old are your children? (Base: All parents - 3,138)	Under 5 years old	1132	36%
	5-7 years old	1293	42%
	8-11 years old	1171	38%
	12-16 years old	598	19%
	Over 16 years old	668	21%

The vast majority respondents who were also parents had children who attended a primary school in the borough (86%). 65% of the parents stated their children attended a faith school.

		Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Which type of school do they attend? (Base: All parents 2,312)	Primary in borough	1981	86%
	Primary outside borough	76	3%
	Secondary in borough	333	14%
	Secondary outside borough	431	19%
Are the schools faith or	Faith	1522	65%

non-faith ? (Base: All parents – 2,336)	Non faith	984	42%
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2.3. Area of residence

The majority of respondents (90%) live in Richmond, with 19% working and 5% studying in the borough. 7% (293 respondents) claimed another connection with the borough and of these around 100 respondents gave varying descriptions of their connection with Richmond that ranged from being grandparents with grand children living or at school in the borough to, being a local governor or owning a local business.

		Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Do you? (All respondents – 3,997)	Live in Richmond	3608	90%
	Work in Richmond	773	19%
	Study in Richmond	214	5%
	Other connection	293	7%

2.4. Age group & gender

The age group with the largest representation was those aged 35-44 (38%) followed by those aged 45-54 (24%)

		Number of responses	Percentage of responses
What was your age at your last birthday? (Base: All respondents – 4,118)	Under 18	224	5%
	18-24	148	4%
	25-34	416	10%
	35-44	1582	38%
	45-54	974	24%
	55-64	359	9%
	65-74	282	7%
	75+	133	3%

The majority of respondents at 60% were female.

		Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Are you? (All respondents – 4,063)	Male	1617	40%
	Female	2446	60%

2.5. Disability

3% of respondents said that they were disabled. Of these, nearly half (49%) said that they have a physical disability and 25% of people who answered yes to this question had a long-standing illness.

		Number of responses	Percentage of responses
I consider myself to have a disability (All respondents – 3,845)	Yes	97	3%
	No	3748	98%
Type of disability (Base: Respondents with a disability - 87)	Physical impairment	43	49%
	Long-standing illness	22	25%
	Sensory impairment	16	18%
	Mental health condition	10	12%
	Learning disability	5	6%
	Other	2	2%

2.6. Religion/Faith

When asked their religion or faith, 60% of the respondents stated they were Catholic, 14% were Church of England and 3% Other Christian, 20% were not religious. Around a fifth of respondents (20%) stated they were not religious and just under, 6% said they would prefer not to say. Around 3% (136 respondents) indicated they were an 'Other' religion / belief of these 42 respondents stated what their 'Other' religion/belief was, this varied from Humanists, Greek Orthodox to Jehovah's Witness.

		Number of responses	Percentage of responses
What is your religion/belief? (All responses– 4,115)	Catholic	2327	57%
	Church of England	529	12.9%
	Other Christian	125	3%
	Not religious	770	18.7%
	Prefer not to say	228	5.5%
	Other	136	3%

2.7. Ethnicity

The vast majority of respondents (91%) describe themselves as White/White British, followed by Asian or Asian British (3%), Mixed (3%) and Black or Black British (1%). Around 2% of respondents stated they were an Other Ethnic Background.

		Number of responses	Percentage of responses
How would you describe your ethnic group? (All responses – 4,035)	White /White British	3658	91%
	Asian or Asian British	136	3%
	Mixed	116	3%
	Black or Black British	43	1%
	Other Ethnic background	82	2%

2.8. Sexual Orientation

The majority of respondents, 85% said that they were heterosexual with 13% preferring not to state their sexuality.

		Number of responses	Percentage of responses
What is your sexual orientation (All responses – 3,919)	Heterosexual/straight	3320	85%
	Prefer not to say	526	13%
	Bisexual/gay/lesbian	55	1%
	Other	18	-

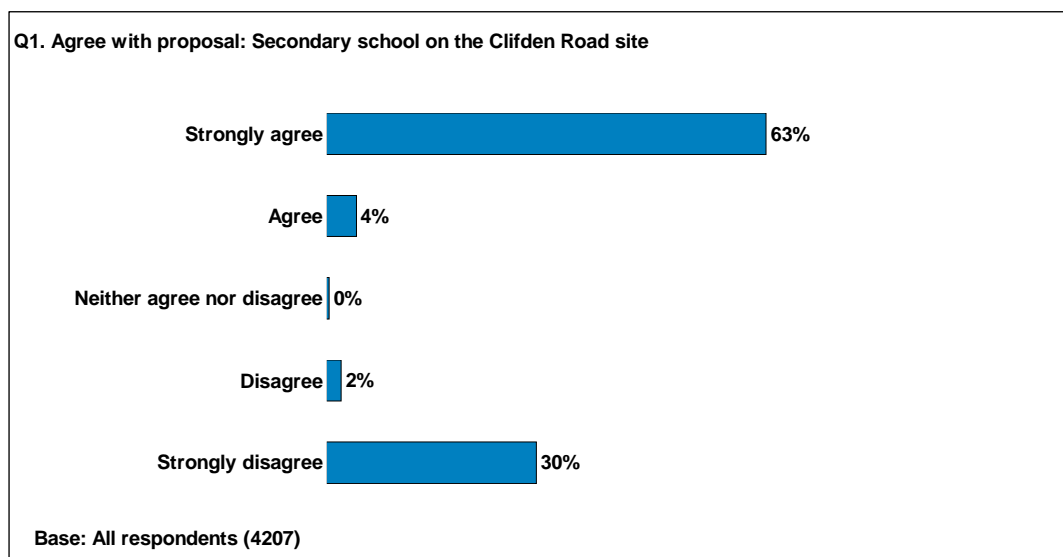
3. Your Views: Secondary School

3.1. Introduction

Respondents were asked whether or not they agreed or disagreed with the proposal to build a five-form Voluntary Aided Catholic **secondary** school at the Clifden Road site.

3.2. Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school

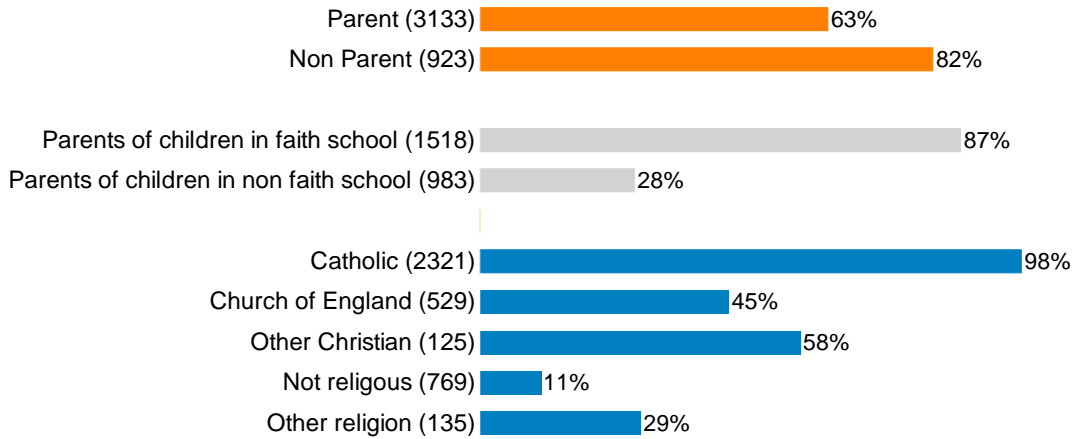
The overwhelming majority of respondents (67%) agree with the proposal that part of the Clifden Road site should be used to establish a five-form Voluntary aided Catholic **secondary** school; while just under a third of respondents (32%) disagree.



The following chart provides a breakdown by some of the key subgroups and highlights statistically significant differences:

- 63% of parents and 82% of non-parents support the proposal to build a Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school on the Clifden Road site.
- 87% of parents with children in faith schools support the proposal, compared to 28% of parents whose children do not go to faith schools.
- Majority of respondents 98% supporting the proposal to build a Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school on the Clifden Road site. stated their faith as Catholic.

Q1. Agree with proposal: Secondary school on the Clifden Road site

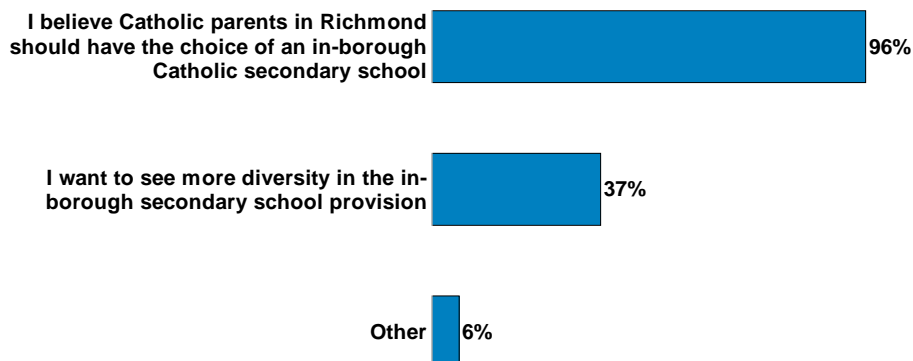


Base: All respondents

3.3. Main reasons for supporting the Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school (pre-coded)

When asked why they supported the proposal, 96% of those respondents who agree with the proposal for a Catholic secondary school, stated that they: *“believe Catholic parents in Richmond should have the choice of an in borough Catholic Secondary School”*. While around 37% stated that they *“want to see more diversity in the in-borough secondary school provision”* and around 6% stated another reason.

Q2. Agree with secondary school: What are your reasons



Base: All agree with secondary school (2807)

Those with children in a non faith school (92%) were less likely to give “*I believe Catholic parents in Richmond should have the choice of an in borough Catholic Secondary School*” as a reason for supporting the proposal than parents with children that attend a faith school (97%)

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

6% (159 people) of those agreeing gave other reasons for their support, the most frequently mentioned ‘other’ reason provided by approximately 50 respondents was, that they felt it would enable Catholic children to remain in education within the borough and help avoid them travelling long distances. The second most frequently mentioned ‘other’ reason (by just under, 40 respondents) was that there is currently no direct link to Catholic secondary school within the borough. Some examples of the types of comments made are provided below:

"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."

"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."

The next most frequently mentioned reason was it is important to Catholic parents, for Christian identity or Catholic schools promote good moral values (around 30 respondents) followed by a Catholic education is popular and achieves good results (around 25 respondents).

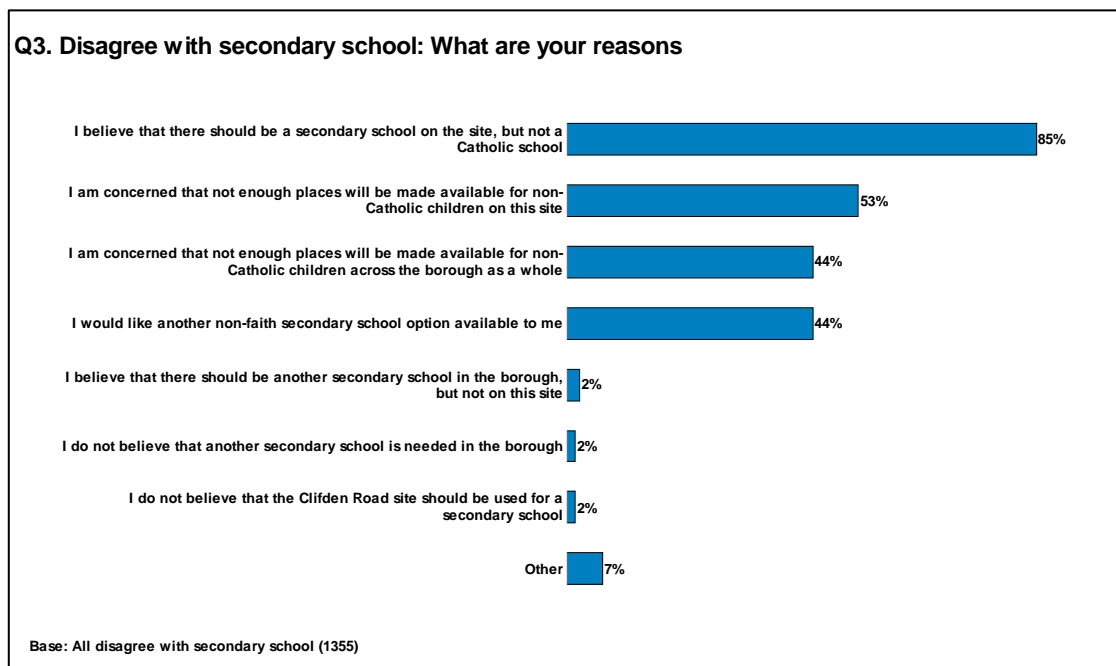
The following reasons were mentioned by a smaller number of respondents:

- Catholic primary schools in the borough are oversubscribed
- The proposal will be positive for the wider community
- Support for the proposal as long as it includes some provision for non-faith children
- It will provide value for money
- It is a longstanding commitment

3.5. Main reasons for not supporting the Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school (pre-coded)

32% of all respondents disagreed with the proposal for a Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school. When asked why they didn't support the proposal the main reasons respondents gave were:

- 85% believed that there should be a school on the site, but not a Catholic school.
- 53% were concerned that not enough places would be made available for non-Catholic children on the site, or across the borough as a whole (44%).
- 44% would like another non-faith secondary school option available to them.



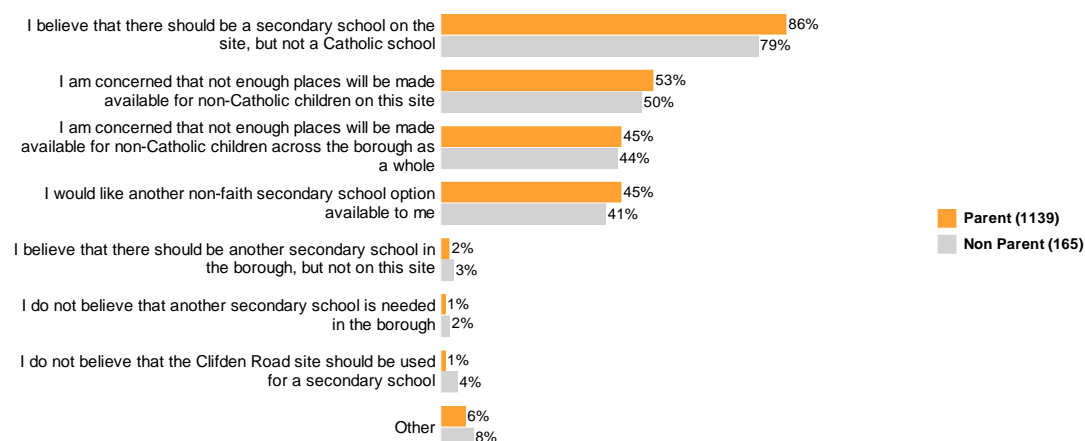
There were some notable differences in the responses to these questions from different sub groups.

- Parents (86%) were more likely to give “I believe that there should be a secondary school on the site, but not a Catholic school” as a reason for supporting the proposal than non-parents (79%).
- Respondents who stated their religion as Church of England respondents (60%) are more concerned that not enough places will be

made available for non-Catholic children on this site than respondents who are not religious (48%).

- Respondents who are not religious (48%) would like another non-faith secondary school option available than respondents that are Catholic (29%) or Church of England (37%).

Q3. Disagree with secondary school: What are your reasons



Base: All disagree with secondary school

3.6. 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 not giving their support. The main 'other' reasons given by around 60 of the respondents was, they felt the school should not be able to exclude the majority of children, be selective, that it would cause divisions or they were opposed to faith based education. Some examples of the types of comments made are provided 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."

"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."

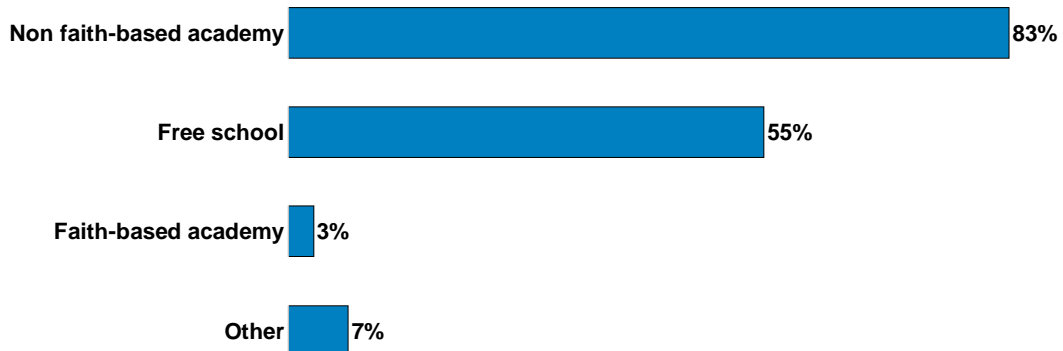
Around 20 respondents felt that taxpayers money should not be spent on funding faith schools. An less then 5 respondents said their reason for not supporting the proposal was the school would discriminate against staff.

3.7. Preferred type of school on the Clifden Road site.

The respondents who disagreed with the proposal to build a Voluntary aided Catholic school were then asked what their preferred type of school for the site would be:

- The vast majority 83% (1109 respondents) stated that they would prefer a non-faith based academy
- Just over half, (55% or 731 respondents) stated that they would prefer a free school
- Around 10% either stated they would prefer a faith based academy or selected other.

Q4. Instead of secondary school, which type of school would you prefer

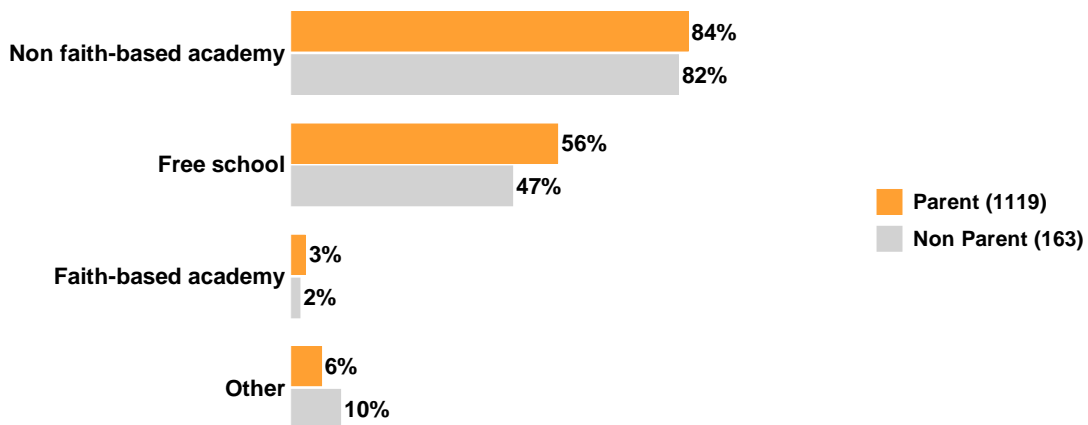


Base: All disagree with secondary school (1334)

There were some notable differences in the responses to these questions from different sub groups.

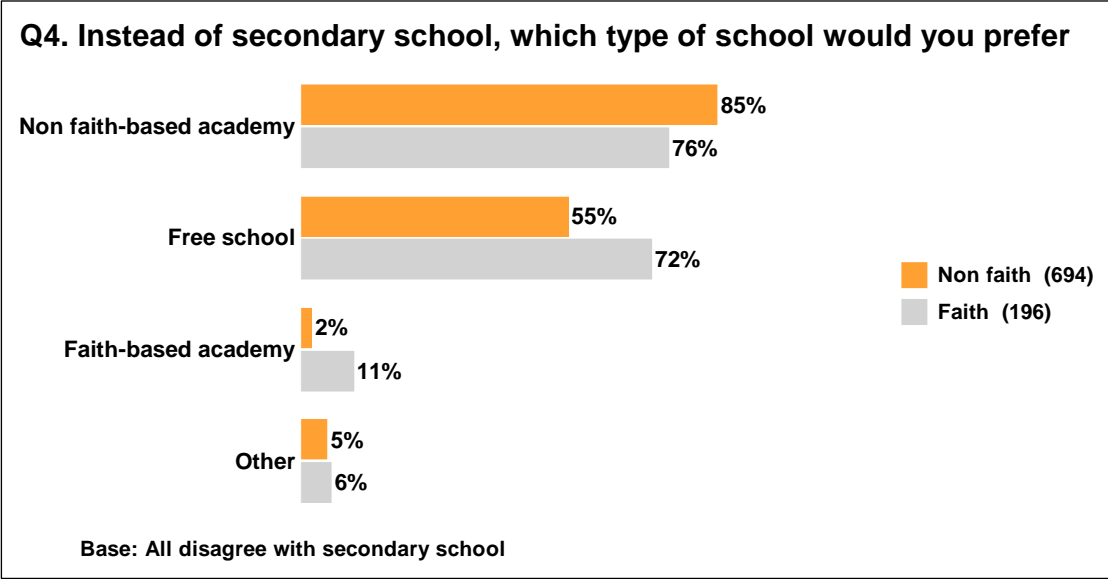
Instead of a Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school, parents (56%) would prefer a free school established at the Clifden Road site than non-parents (47%)

Q4. Instead of secondary school, which type of school would you prefer



Base: All disagree with secondary school

Instead of a Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school, parents with children in a non faith school (85%) would prefer a non faith academy, than parents with children that attend a faith school (76%).



Furthermore Instead of a Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school, more Church of England respondents (59%) would prefer a free school established at the Clifden Road site compared to non-religious respondents (51%).

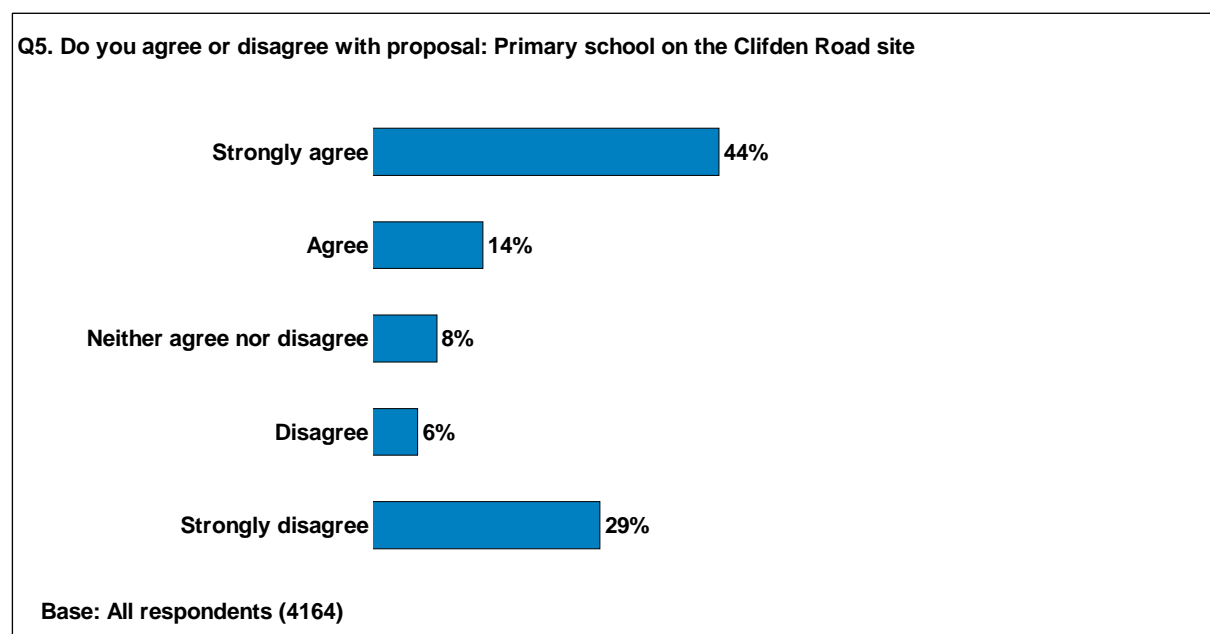
4. Your Views: Primary School

4.1. Introduction

Respondents were asked whether or not they agreed or disagreed with the proposal to build a one-form Voluntary Aided Catholic **primary** school at the Clifden Road site with some places open to non-Catholic children.

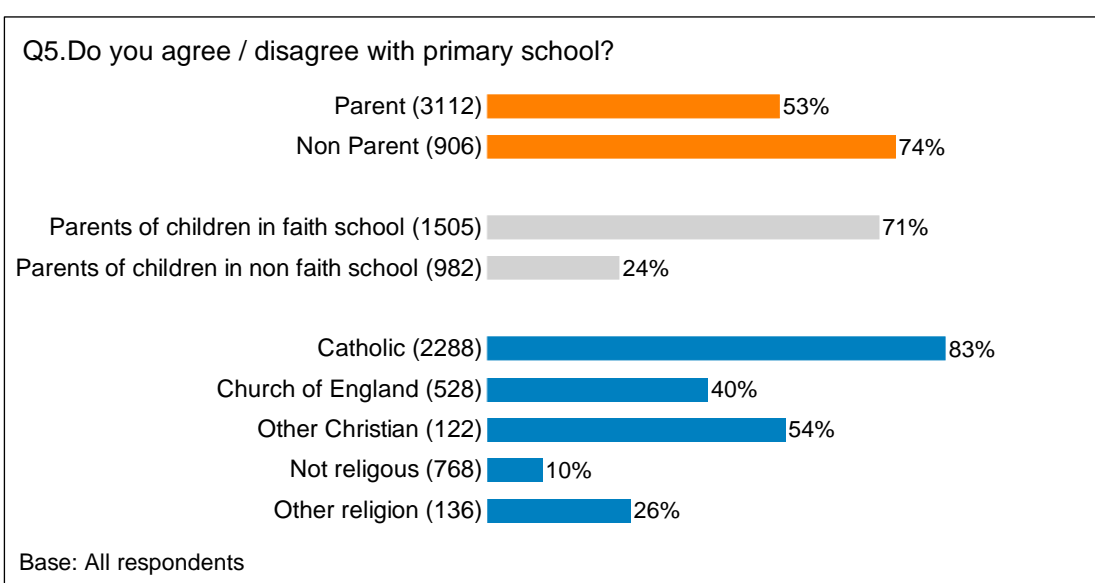
4.2. Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school

The majority of respondents (58%) agree and 34% disagree with the proposal that part of the Clifden Road site should be used to establish a one-form Voluntary aided Catholic Primary school, with some places open to non-Catholic children.



Result from various stakeholder groups vary widely, and are summaries below:

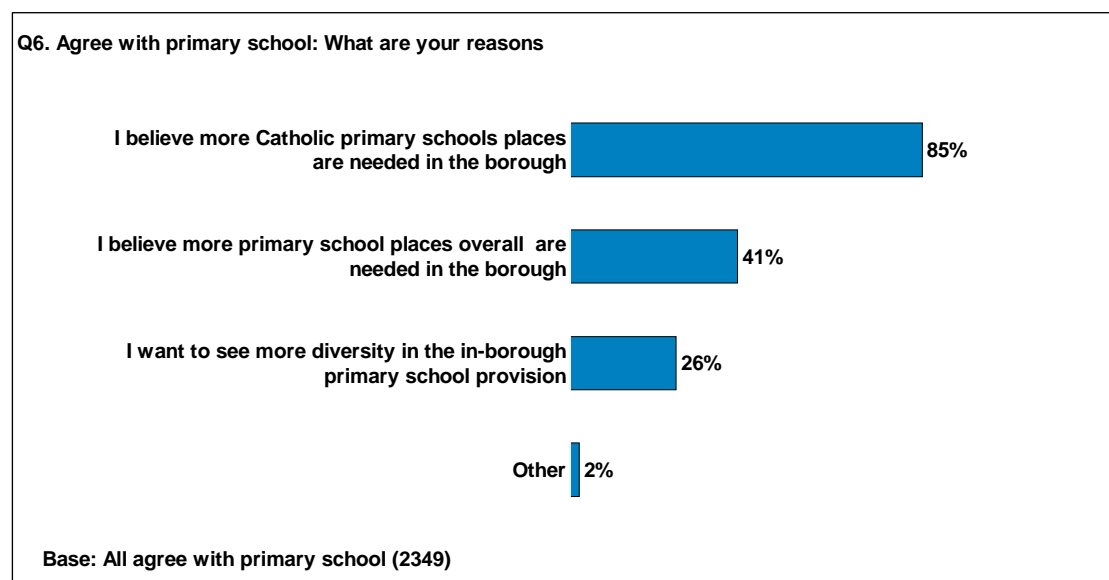
- 53% of parents and 74% of non-parents support the proposal to build a Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school on the Clifden Road site.
- 71% of parents with children in faith schools support the proposal, compared to 24% of parents whose children do not go to faith schools.
- 83% of Catholics support the proposal to build a Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school on the Clifden Road site. Those who are not religious were least likely to agree (10%).



4.3. Main reasons for supporting the Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school (pre-coded)

The chart below shows the reasons that respondents gave for agreeing with the proposal that part of the Clifden Road site should be used to establish a five-form Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school.

- 85% said that they believe that more Catholic primary school places are needed in the borough.
- 41% said that they believe more primary school places overall are needed in the borough.
- 26% said that they want to see more diversity in the in-borough primary school provision.



There were some notable differences in the responses to these questions from different sub groups

- Those with children in a non faith school (74%) are less likely to give “I believe more Catholic primary school places are needed in the borough” as a reason for supporting the proposal than parents with children that attend a faith school (87%).
- Parents (45%) are more likely to give “I believe more primary school places overall are needed in the borough” as a reason for supporting the proposal than non-parents (32%).

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

2% of those who agreed with the proposal (51 people) said that there were other reasons, and were given the opportunity to state what their reason. The most frequently mentioned 'other' reason was that a Catholic primary school promotes a moral dimension (around 15 respondents); followed closely by respondents felt that Catholic primary schools are currently over subscribed.

"Catholic schools are very good. They teach great moral values from which all children would benefit. We need more good schools."

"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."

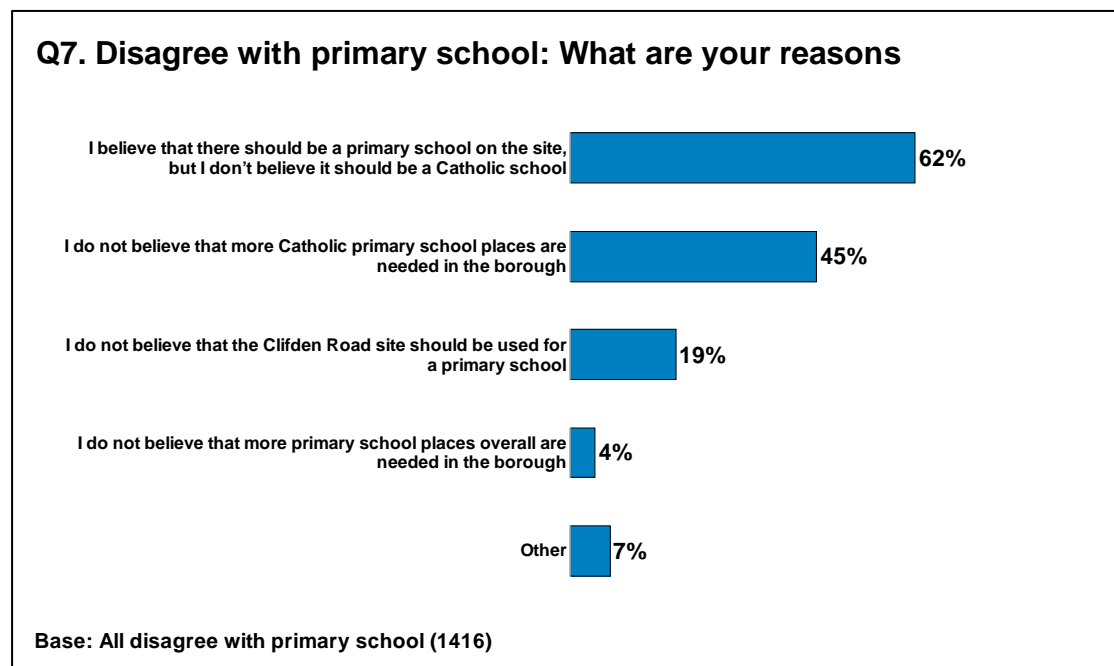
The following reasons were mentioned by a smaller number of respondents:

- Catholic schools provide good education
- Distance children currently have to travel to out of borough catholic primary schools
- Should not be exclusive
- Helps smooth transition to secondary
- Priority given to Catholic children as more options for non-Catholic children

4.5. Main reasons for disagreeing with the Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school (pre-coded)

Respondents that disagree with the proposal gave the following reasons:

- 62% said “*I believe that there should be a primary school on the site, but I don’t believe it should be a Catholic school*”
- 45% said “*I do not believe that more Catholic primary school places are needed in the borough*”
- 19% said “*I do not believe that more primary school places overall are needed in the borough*”



There were some notable differences in the responses to these questions from different sub groups:

- Parents with children in a non faith school
 - 64% are more likely to give *"I believe that there should be a primary school on the site, but I don't believe it should be a Catholic school"* as a reason for disagreeing with the proposal than parents with children that attend a faith school (45%).
 - 17% are less likely to give *"I do not believe that the Clifden Road site should be used for a primary school"* as a reason for disagreeing with the proposal than parents with children that attend a faith school (35%).
 - 3% are less likely to give *"I do not believe that more primary school places overall are needed in the borough"* as a reason for disagreeing with the proposal than parents with children that attend a faith school (7%).

4.6. Other reasons for disagreeing with the Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school (coded)

7% (96 people) of those disagreeing with the proposal gave 'other' reasons.

The most frequently mentioned 'other' reasons provided by approximately 48 respondents were, that faith schools are too exclusive, they discriminate, respondents did not agree with faith schools or felt entry should not be based on religion.

"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 inclusively - everyone living and learning together."

The following 'other' reasons were given by smaller numbers of people:

- Taxes should not be used to fund faith schools
- The site is large enough to support two schools, or a big secondary school
- Very few non faith based primary schools

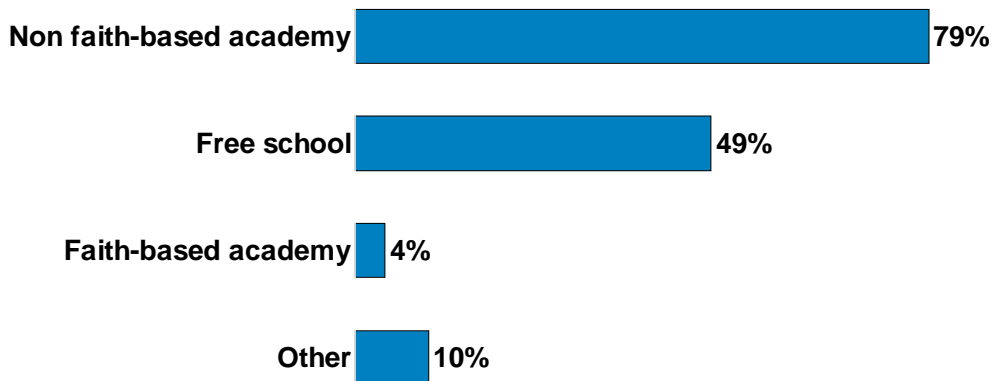
- Would guarantee these children a place at the secondary school / unfair

4.7. Preferred type of school on the Clifden Road site.

Respondents who disagreed with the proposal to build a Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school were asked what their preferred type of school for the site would be.

- 83% said that they would prefer a non-faith based academy
- 55% said that they would prefer a free School

Q8. Instead of primary school, which type of school would you prefer

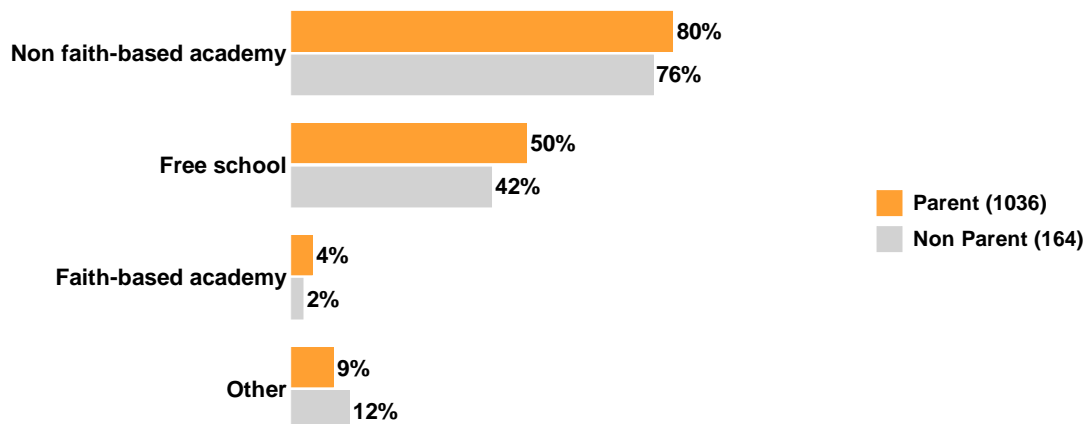


Base: All disagree with primary school (1252)

There were some notable differences in the responses to these questions from different sub groups

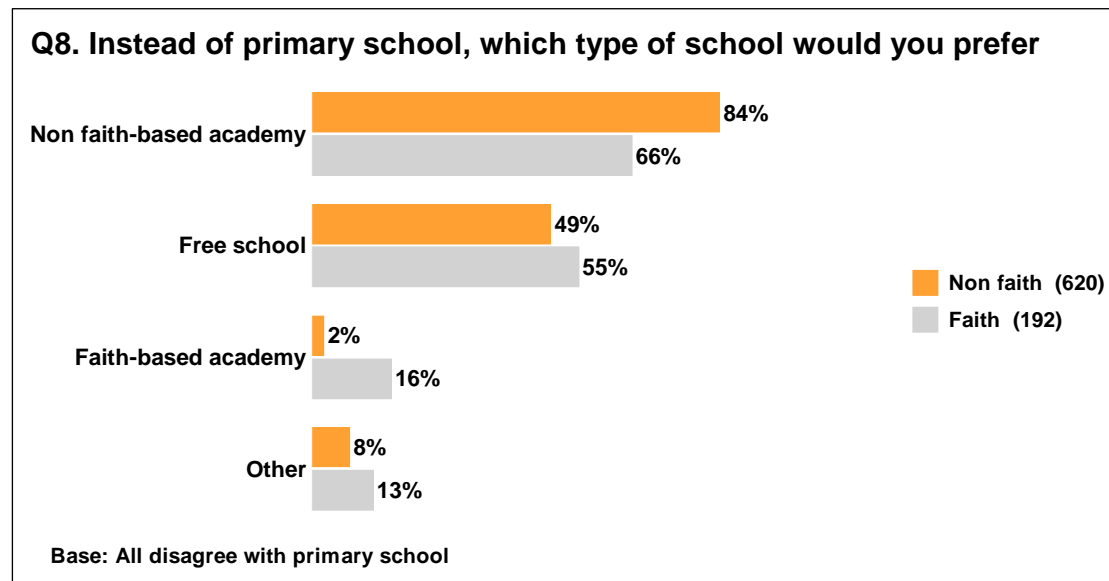
- Parents (50%) were more likely than non parent (42%) to prefer a free school established at the Clifden Road site

Q8. Instead of primary school, which type of school would you prefer



Base: All disagree with primary school
 Snap Research Surveys Report – Clifden Road Site Consultation 2012 (3711R-MR / V2)

- Parents with children at non faith school (84%) are more likely to prefer a non faith-based academy established at the Clifden Road site than parents with children that attend a faith school (66%).
- Parents with children at non faith school (2%) are less likely to prefer a faith-based academy established at the Clifden Road site than parents with children that attend a faith school (16%).
- Parents with children at non faith school (8%) are less likely to prefer an 'Other' school established at the Clifden Road site than parents with children that attend a faith school (13%).

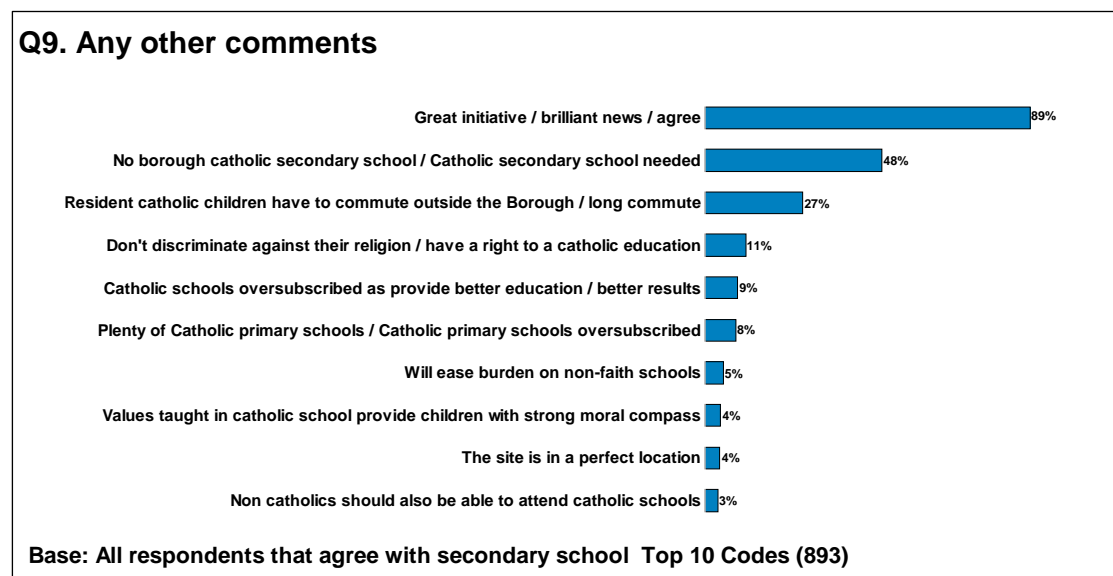


5. Other Comments

Respondents were asked to state any other comments they had about the proposals or the future use of the Clifden Road site.

5.1. Agree - Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school

The following chart 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. The most frequently mentioned comments related to respondent who felt this was a great initiative, felt it was good news or were in favour of it. The second most frequently mentioned comment was that there are no Catholic secondary schools in the borough and one is needed.



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."

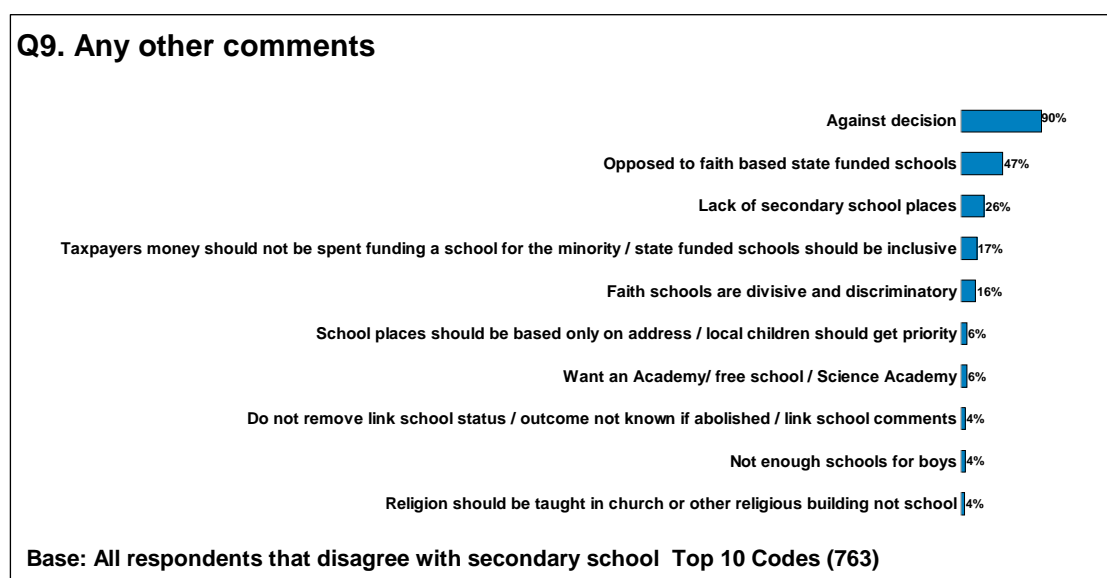
" As 90% of Catholic children in Richmond transfer each year to Catholic secondary schools in other boroughs, it surely proves there is a definite need for Catholic secondary provision in the borough itself"

"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."

"I want my children to continue to go to a Catholic secondary school after their Catholic primary school and currently they are not able to."

5.2. Disagree -Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school

The following chart 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. The most frequently mentioned comments related to respondents who expressed their opposition to the proposal (80%) followed by general opposition to faith based state funded schools (47%).



"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."

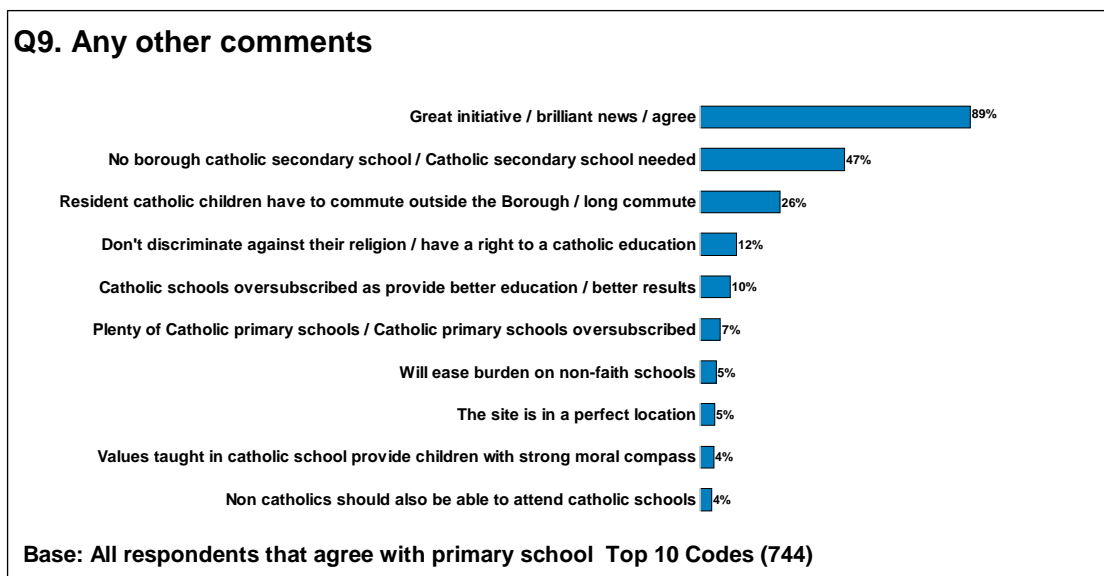
"A new school on this site should not be unavailable to the majority of children in the borough based on their parents' views. It seems unbelievable to me that in the current age of anti-discrimination laws such a proposal would even be considered."

"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."

"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."

5.3. Agree - Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school

The following chart 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.



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.

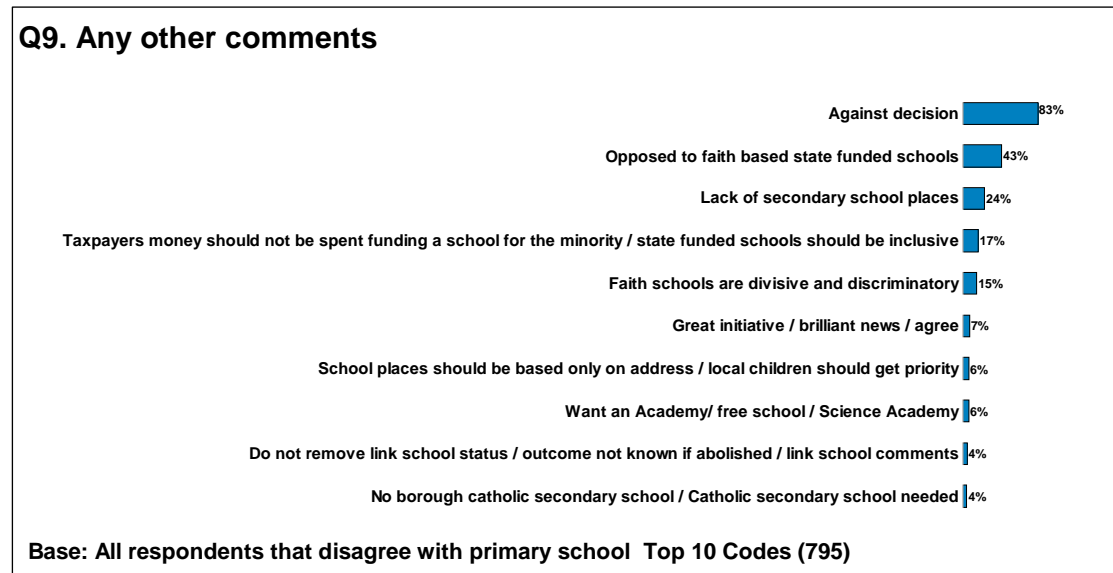
"A significant number of Catholic families cannot find room for their children in the existing Catholic primary schools. The proposed new primary school would reduce this number."

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

"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."

5.4. Disagree - Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school

The following chart 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.



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, and a much fuller sample of the comments will be available on the Council's website.

"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 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 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."