

TAKING RISKS WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL PRIORITIES

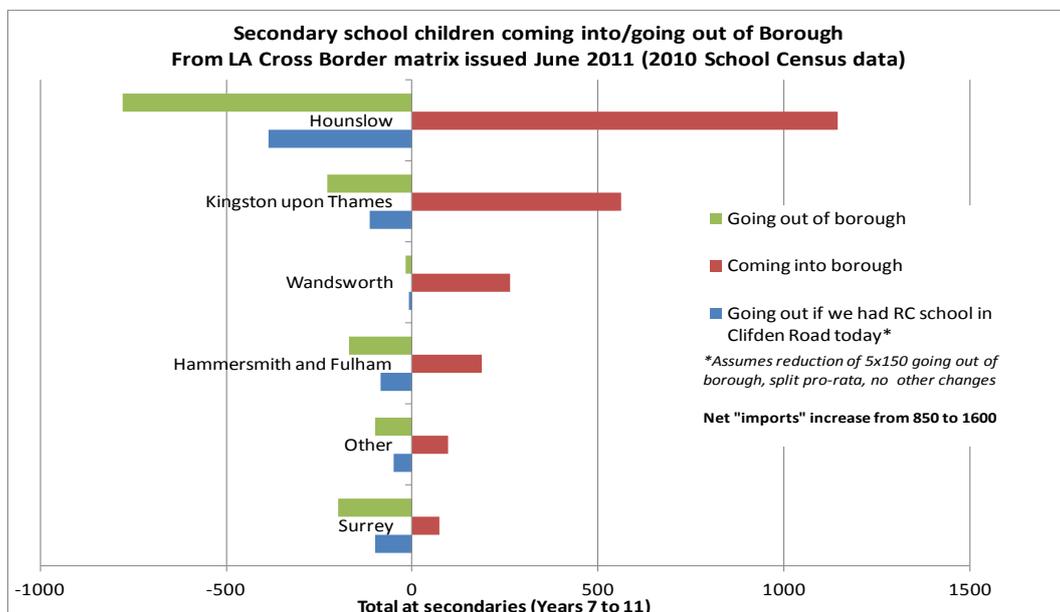
APPENDIX 1 - DETAIL¹

1. Pressure from surrounding local authority areas

The borough is currently a substantial net “importer” of secondary children from surrounding boroughs. Hounslow accounts for roughly 50% of both imports and exports. If there were a 5 form entry Catholic school in Clifden Road today, reducing the “exports”, and with no other changes, the net import would increase from 850 to 1600 children (roughly increasing from 170 to 320 per year).

Out of borough pupils in Richmond secondaries (Years 7 to 11)			
Borough of residence	Total		Mean/yr
Hammersmith and Fulham	187	8%	37
Wandsworth	265	11%	53
Hounslow	1,146	49%	229
Kingston upon Thames	564	24%	113
Surrey	75	3%	15
Other	98	4%	20
	2,335	100%	467

Richmond resident pupils in out of borough secondaries (Years 7 to 11)			
Borough of schooling	Total		Mean/yr
Hammersmith and Fulham	168	11%	34
Wandsworth	16	1%	3
Hounslow	778	52%	156
Kingston upon Thames	227	15%	45
Surrey	199	13%	40
Other	98	7%	20
	1,486	100%	297



¹ Primary data sources::

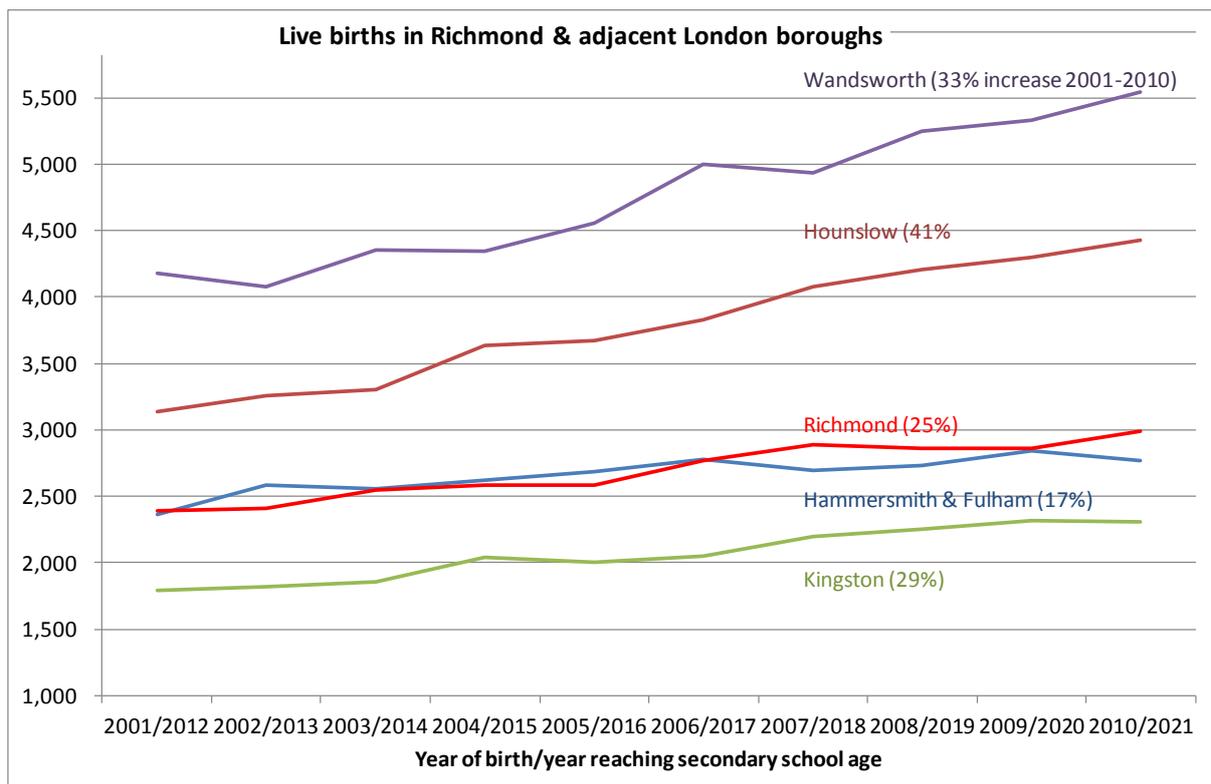
<http://data.london.gov.uk/datastore/applications/focus-london-population-and-migration>

LA cross border matrix & School Census issued June 2011:

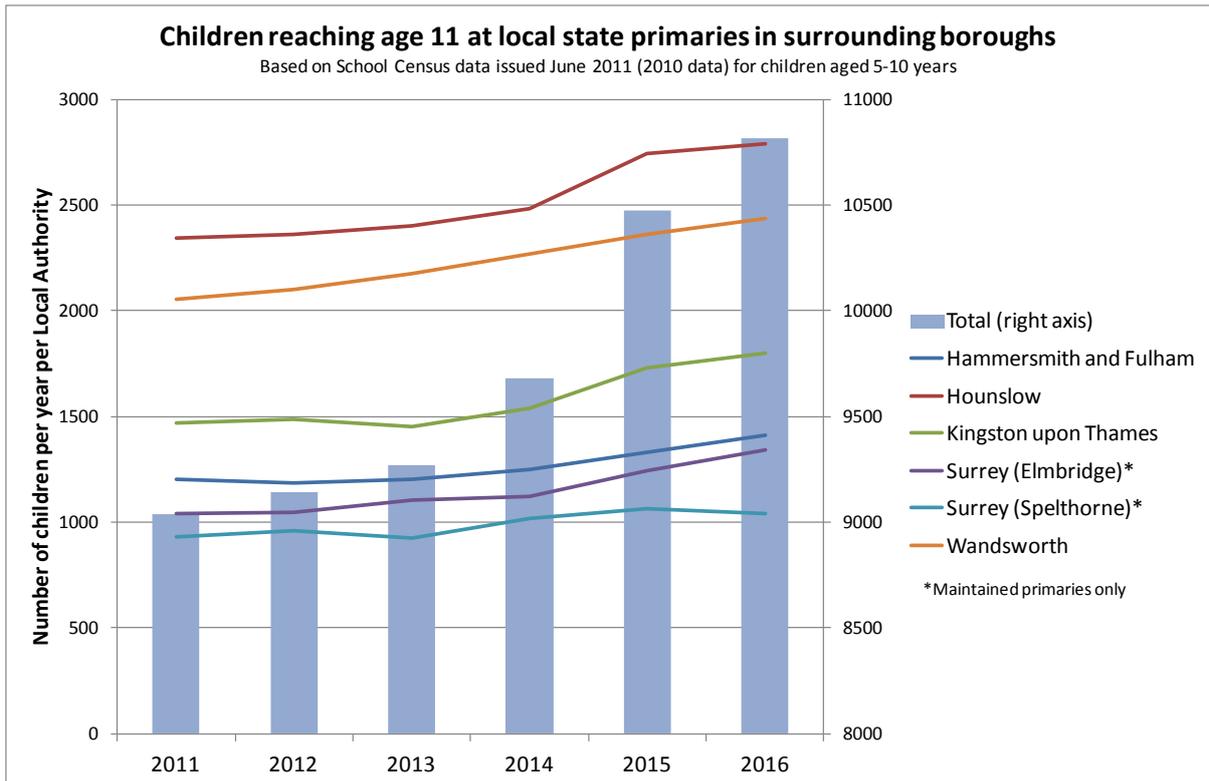
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml>

The Council assumes that the number of out of borough children at borough secondaries will decrease from around 450 in 2011/2012 to 350 in 2013, 250 in 2015 and perhaps under 200 by 2020, based on growth in capacity in the surrounding authorities' areas. But it fails to take into account the substantial increase in demand taking place in the same areas and major uncertainties about new capacity in Kingston.

Richmond's growth in live births 2001-2010 (25%) was actually lower than any of the top three sources of out-of-borough children at Richmond schools. Hounslow's increase was over 40%. The chart shows the live births and the year in which the children will reach secondary school age:



This is reflected in the numbers of children “graduating” from state primaries, with increases every year, especially from 2014 to 2016:



Demand for places in Richmond secondaries from out of borough is more likely to go up than provide a “cushion” by going down.

- **Hounslow**

According to the Council, the new capacity currently planned in Hounslow is a 2 form of entry (60 places) Free School opening in 2012. They also speculate that community schools converting to Academies may seek to expand; but even if **all ten** community secondaries had the space, finance and desire to add an extra form of entry, that would add 300 places. The real total may be much lower. The typical ratio of Hounslow children at state secondaries compared to state primaries is 65%, and the number of children “graduating” from Hounslow primaries will increase by 60 in 2013 compared to 2011, and by a massive 470 in 2015. On this basis, by 2015 there will be an increase in pressure on Richmond places from Hounslow.

- **Kingston**

The Council is assuming there will be a substantial reduction in applications from Kingston children for Grey Court and, to a lesser extent, Christ's from 2015 as a result of the planned 8 form of entry secondary school in North Kingston (240 places).

But the chances of the new school opening in 2015 are uncertain. Having received no government money in 2011/12, Kingston applied in October for funding from the Department for Education’s Priority School Building Programme, which is based on Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding, as "the only option". The Treasury has now announced that PFI in its current form will be scrapped, although Kingston Council apparently remain confident. The outcome will be known in December.

In any case, Kingston Council is assuming that the school will be available to cover their own (forecast) deficit of 166 places by 2015/16, and 241 by 2016/17. According to Cllr Liz Green, the

Executive Member for Education at Kingston Council: *“If 100 pupils in 2015 go to the new [N Kingston] school rather than Grey Court, these would be a mixture of Kingston children and Richmond children, but that is over 3 forms of entry of our new school ...we need the new school to take new extra pupils that are currently coming through [Kingston] primaries, not to take them out of Grey Court... ”*. In fact the first cohort will include pupils who were accommodated in bulge classes in September 2008.

Unless finance is found, there will be increased pressure on places in Richmond from Kingston children, not a reduction. And even if the new school goes ahead in 2015, there is a difference in view between the Councils on the impact on Richmond schools.

- **Wandsworth**

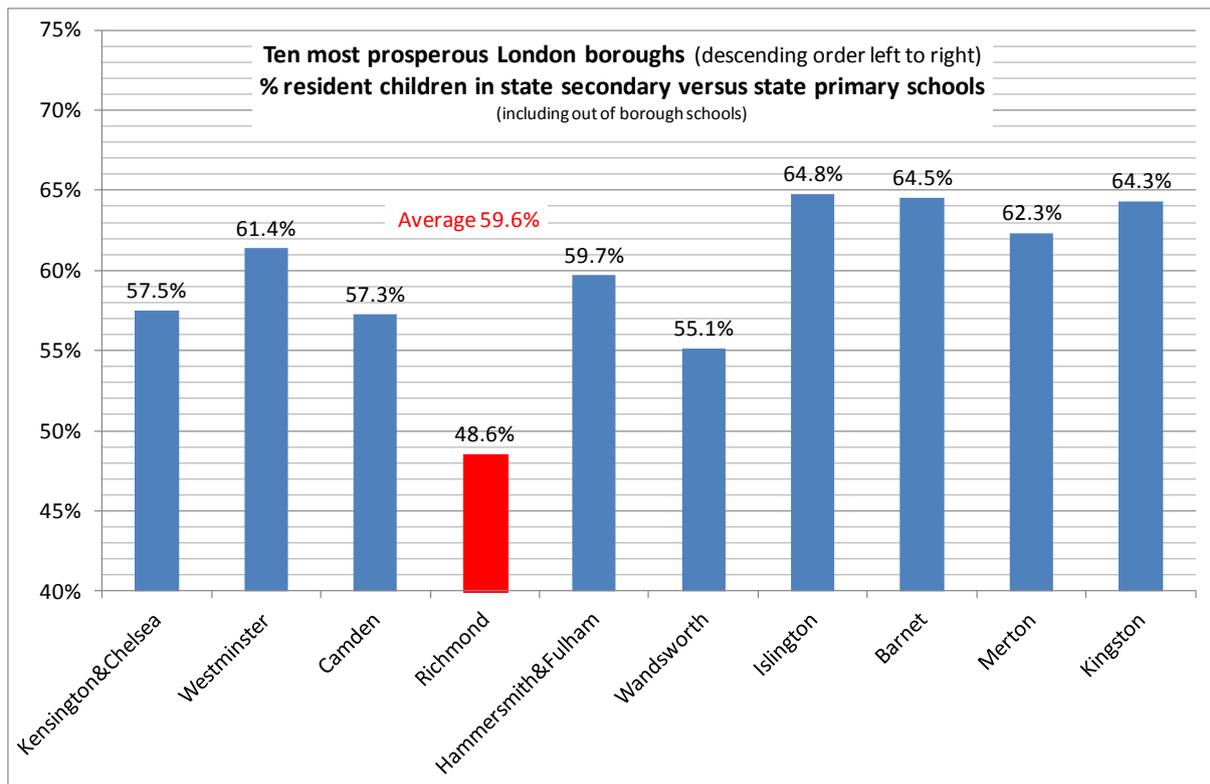
Here too there is a major increase in children graduating from primaries compared to 2011, with over 150 more in 2013 and 600 more in 2015. With a typical Wandsworth state secondary/primary ratio of 55% that translates to an increase in state secondary demand of 85 in 2013, 210 in 2014 and nearly 340 in 2015. The 120 places at the new Bolingbroke Academy opening in 2012, along with any improvement in recruitment to Elliott school, will offer only a temporary reprieve. On this basis, by 2014 at the latest it is likely that the pressure will increase on Richmond.

- **Hammersmith & Fulham**

Despite the introduction of an additional 240 places across two new Free Schools in 2011, the impact on H&F children starting at Richmond Park Academy has been a reduction of only 5 (down from 15 to 10). Looking ahead, with no additional capacity planned in H&F itself, there will be an increase in the number of children graduating from H&F primaries compared to 2011 of over 90 in 2013, 180 in 2014, 215 in 2015 and 325 in 2016. With a typical state secondary/primary ratio of 60% that implies increased demand for state secondaries of 56, 106 and 128 in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. Some of that may be absorbed by the new Free School in north Kensington (borough of Kensington and Chelsea) but these data indicate an increase in demand on places in adjacent boroughs, including Richmond.

2. Increased demand from increased quality – relieving pressure to go private

This potentially major factor is not mentioned at all in the Council’s paper. But Richmond is unique: a higher proportion of borough children are “lost” to the state sector when they leave state primary school than in any other borough, including those that are more prosperous. The ratio of resident children at state secondaries (in and out of borough) versus those at state primaries is only 49%:



This is not because Richmond is uniquely prosperous. The average for the ten most prosperous boroughs in London is 60%.

It is also not because an unusually high proportion of children attend state primaries in the borough: the mean % for the 10 most prosperous boroughs is 79%, Richmond is 76% (*mean % children age 5 at state primaries 2005-2010*).

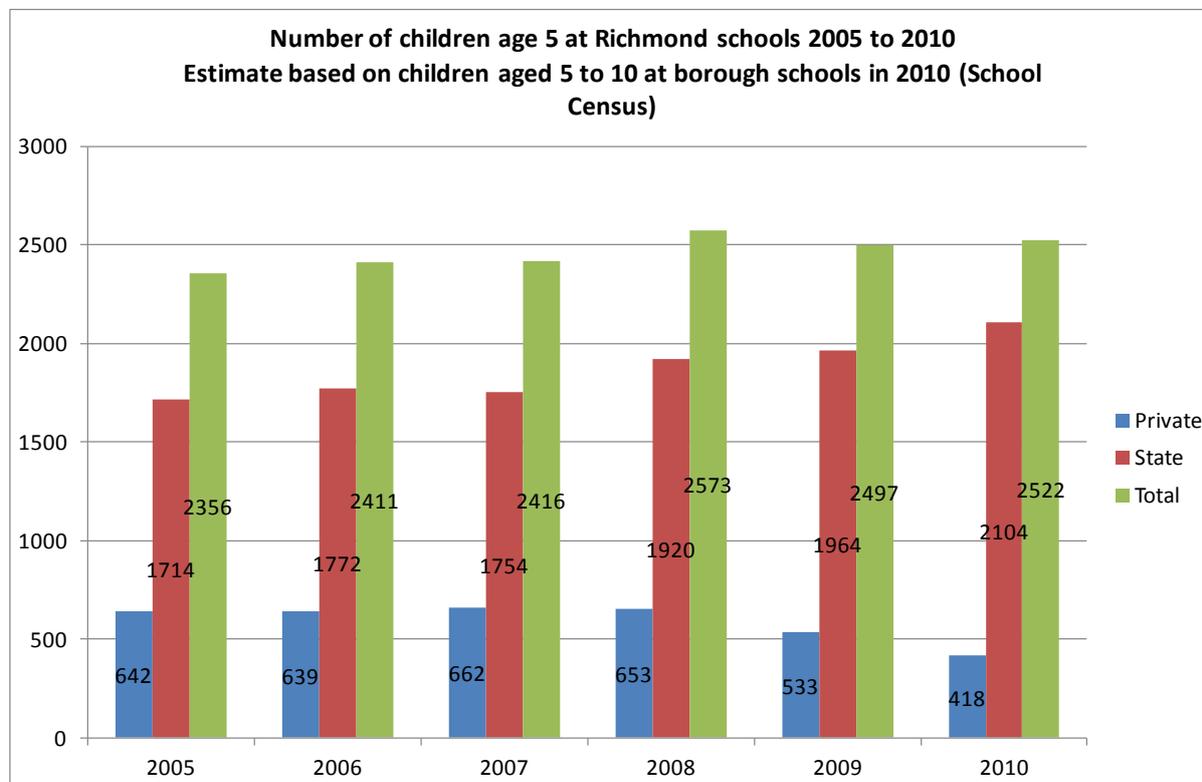
It therefore seems that the borough is **already** more “stressed” than other boroughs in terms of availability of good quality places at secondary level, and a disproportionate number of parents feel obliged to go private at secondary level, and are able – sometimes with some difficulty – to do so.

The borough is already failing to meet the needs of its residents, but that is being masked by their ability to pay school fees (on top of their taxes).

On that basis, and especially under difficult economic conditions, there is a high probability that an increase in the quality of those secondaries that are currently perceived as being behind (principally the three Academies) to similar levels to other borough secondaries will lead to a significant increase in demand for places at state schools.

If Richmond normalised and the state secondary/primary ratio rose from 49% to the average for the top ten boroughs of 60%, that would imply an additional 260 children per year in the state system. Even if it increased only to the lowest of the other boroughs (Wandsworth – 55%) the implied increase is over 150 places per year – the size of the Clifden Road school.

Evidence from the primary level illustrates how quickly changing parental decisions about state versus private school can affect demand: there was an increase of 390 in the number of children aged 5 at borough primaries between 2005 and 2010. Of this, under half (43%) appears to have been because of an underlying increase in the numbers in the system. The majority (57%) appears to have been due to a drop in the numbers going to private schools:



This could explain the need for last-minute increases in primary capacity, when the changes in birth rate had been known for several years. *(The same calculation cannot be done for secondary schools from publicly available data because of the importance of cross-borough movements.)*

The Council's paper ignores even the possibility of this major effect.

3. Free Schools

The calculation presented by the Council to the Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21st November assumed two Free Schools opening in the borough between 2013 and 2016, and 95% of the places going to in-borough children.

However, the only application so far for a local free School (Richmond Free School) failed to secure funding in the 2011 round, in common with most Free School applications. One of the reasons given was that there was not enough evidence of demand – an impression likely to be reinforced by the Council's new paper. With limited funding available, will the Department for Education really prioritise Richmond for not one, but two Free Schools?

Of the organisations apparently interested in setting up local Free Schools, only the Maharishi Free School has so far surfaced in the public domain. The school would be founded on the principles of

Transcendental Meditation, which at least one parent is encouraged to learn and practice. It is therefore likely to appeal to a relatively limited number of parents drawn from a wide area. And its proposed site – Oldfield House, Hampton – is close to the borough boundary, and not far from Hampton Academy, where the % of in-borough children is currently 60%.

The Council's "Secondary School Priorities" paper provided for the 24th November Cabinet meeting states "...it would be imprudent if the Council to diminish its own plans for providing additional places on the presumption that any such submissions will be approved, given that there has so far been considerable nation-wide competition for free school funding." **The fact that the Council's own assumptions have changed over a matter of days illustrates the high levels of uncertainty here and impact the number of available places by 95, which is 63% the size of Clifden Road.**

Note: The Council is making Oldfield House(a Council site) available to the Maharishi Free School for opening in 2013 when it is at least as close to Hampton Academy as Clifden Road is to the nearest of the three academies (Twickenham Academy). Yet it claims that a community school in Clifden Road in 2013 would damage recruitment to the academies.

4. Linked Schools policy

As indicated in the Council's paper, the Admissions Forum has recommended consultation on dropping the Linked Schools policy for Grey Court, Orleans Park and Teddington, effective for the 2013 entry. It is claimed that this could lead to a net gain of 33 places across the three schools. It is understood that this is based on 2011 intake data.

But 2011 intake data is not a valid indicator of the behaviour of in and out of borough parents if the LSP is removed - currently most parents do not apply to schools where they know they have no chance. For example, Teddington School may see a significant increase in admissions from Kingston families, who live nearer the school than many Teddington families. There is also the likelihood that some parents of children at Catholic primaries – all but one of which are currently excluded from the LSP – will apply for places at these schools, as they already do to Waldegrave.

In terms of forecasting, there is no evidence to assume that removal of the LSP, if it goes ahead, will be better than neutral in terms of capacity for borough children.

5. Local situation in central Twickenham

By Sep 2013, the earliest that the Clifden Road school could open, the Council's data show that the only secondaries with spare places will be Richmond Park Academy and Twickenham Academy. As more local pressure mounts on Orleans Park and Waldegrave, for parents living in central Twickenham in the roads around Clifden Road – especially those with boys - these will be the choices available. And RPA is at the far end of the borough.

At the same time, if the Council's plans go ahead, they will be confronted with a new secondary school within walking distance from which their children will be barred (unless they happen to be Catholics). It is hard to imagine a more socially divisive and unfair situation.

6. New community school

Even the Council's optimistic forecasts assume the need for a new community school by 2016, and the information in this paper indicate a need far sooner than that. But there is no known site available – it was many years before Clifden Road came on the market. And the Council's current capital programme, which extends beyond the stage at which a site purchase and other capital spending would be required, makes no allowance for any spending on a new secondary, apart from the site for Clifden Road.

With no site and no money for a community school, the only “bird in the hand” is Clifden Road.

The Council claims that a community school in Clifden Road in 2013 would damage recruitment to the three academies. Yet:

- As shown in this paper, their calculations are based on what appear to be over-optimistic demand forecasts.
- If the result of the good work taking place at the academies is that their reputations improve (as everyone hopes they will), the increase in quality will increase demand, from in and out of borough, including from those parents who can ill-afford private school fees (see above).
- At the same time, a new community school at Clifden Road will itself be unproven and take time to establish a positive reputation.
- If one or more of the academies continues to struggle, despite all the efforts over several years, a policy deliberately to deny parents access to alternative community places in order to force them to apply to struggling schools – especially at the far end of the borough - would (rightly) be considered an abuse.
- To exempt Catholic parents from this pressure by providing an exclusive Catholic school at Clifden Road would compound the sense of unfairness.

Even setting aside the in-principle arguments about inclusivity and Catholic Voluntary Aided schools, the only responsible course of action for the Council is to prioritise an inclusive community school at Clifden Road.

www.richmondinclusiveschools.org.uk

22 November 2011

APPENDIX 2

MAP OF BOROUGH SECONDARY SCHOOLS & LOCAL CATHOLIC SECONDARIES

