



the DIOCESE of EAST ANGLIA

Appendix 4

Proposed Catholic Primary School Hampton East, Peterborough Consultation events

Three sessions were arranged:

- Wednesday 18 September, St. Thomas More Primary School, Peterborough at 7:00pm
- Tuesday 1 October, Sacred Heart Primary School, Peterborough at 3:30pm
- Monday 7 October, Hampton Vale Community Centre at 7:00pm

At the first session at St. Thomas More Primary no parents/public attended but RCDEA officers discussed the proposal with staff, governors and church representatives.

At the second session two members of the public attended together with staff, governors and Friends of Sacred Heart Primary.

The third session at Hampton Vale was well attended with 42 attendees recording their attendance.

RCDEA officers presented a short PowerPoint presentation which can be viewed [here](#). Attendees were then invited to ask questions and/or make comments regarding the proposed new school. After the formal meeting officers spoke with individuals where requested. All attendees were encouraged to respond to the consultation. Attendees were reminded that the consultation is available online and hard copies of the consultation document were available in both English and Polish for attendees to take away.

The following points were discussed at the meeting:

- What happens if a place is refused at the new school, particularly for a family who may live near to the proposed new school?
The admission appeals process was briefly described, and reference was made to limitations imposed by infant class legislation on infant classes of 30.
- How will the number of places be determined?
This will be determined in conjunction with Peterborough City Council



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to ensure sufficient places at the appropriate time. When full, the school is expected to take 90 Reception pupils each year.

- Several questions were asked regarding the admissions policy for the new school.

The Catholic Education Service model admission policy is on the consultation website. The over-subscription rules were described and displayed at the event. Attendees were advised that the governing body will finally determine the policy. The model policy and the finally determined policy will fully comply with the statutory School Admissions Code. There will be no catchment areas for the proposed school – within each oversubscription rule proximity will be used to prioritise each applicant.

- Would the school be filled with Catholic children leaving local non-Catholic children without a place at a local school?

Attendees were advised that nationally, less than 1% of Catholic schools are full with Catholic children with on average two-thirds of places being taken up by Catholics across the country. Historically in Peterborough around two-thirds of pupils are Catholic in the two RC primary schools with around half at St. John Fisher High School.

- How would the new school affect the Hampton Academy Trust (HAT) that runs most schools in Hampton.?

All current Catholic schools work closely with neighbouring and feeder schools and this would be the expectation for the proposed new school.

- Shouldn't all Hampton schools be run by HAT who have a track record of delivering good education to the community?

A counter view from an attendee expressed concerns that HAT has a monopoly on education provision in Hampton and that this does not offer choice to parents.

The government supports diversity in state education and the "funding in principle" for the proposed new school is an example of this.

- Doesn't some of the current parish precept from Hampton residents go to HAT and if so the new school should be run by them too.

Funds for all state funded schools are allocated by the relevant local authority funding scheme – so all local authority schools in Peterborough will be funded by Peterborough City Council's scheme. Precepts may be used to support infrastructure development, including education, but would not be applied to specific schools or academies.

- It was confirmed that the proposed school will be state funded.



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- A view was expressed that there were not many Catholic families living in Hampton.

An RC church representative advised that the local RC churches have very large attendances with many living in Hampton.

- If the school is intended for local children, why prioritise Catholic children?

The government has confirmed “funding in principle” for a new RC school. All state-funded RC schools in England prioritise Catholic children and this fully complies with admissions legislation. It is anticipated that the vast majority of Catholic children at this school will be local children.

- Why don't all schools have the same admission arrangements and prioritise local children?

Admission law ensures admission rules are objective but gives a range of acceptable rules for admission authorities to adopt. This includes faith schools prioritising pupils of that faith. Peterborough City Council has the duty to ensure all school admission rules comply with legislation, but it cannot require common rules for all schools.

Peterborough City Council does have a duty to ensure sufficient places to meet current and expected demand and the identified need for a further primary school in Hampton is part of that process.

- Why do the model admission rules prioritise children of other faiths before children of no faith?

The model rules provide a clear and consistent framework for admission policies for all state funded Catholic schools in England. It was confirmed that Sacred Heart and St. Thomas More Primary schools have not needed to prioritise pupils of other faiths ahead of those of no faith. The prioritisation of other faiths will be considered by the Governing Body when it determines the final admissions policy.

At the conclusion of the meeting attendees were encouraged to submit responses either online or via hard copy and were reminded that the closing date for responses is 20 October.

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