

APPENDIX 6 - RESPONSES TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Comment	
1	Dear Sir or Madam, I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support for Saint George Catholic VA College to start admitting both girls and boys into Year 7 as of September 2013.
2	Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to confirm my family's strong support of St George's school's proposal to become co-educational. Currently, the only way to educate children in the Southampton area in a school which is both catholic AND co-ed is to go private, into St Mary's. I'm sure you'll agree that this is an untenable state of affairs.
3	As a parent of catholic children I fully support the idea of a co-ed catholic school for the city something that has been denied both to myself as a pupil in the past and now as a parent with children at a hamshire catholic primary coming into Southampton for a catholic education.
4	I am writing to express my support for the proposal that St George Catholic College becomes co-educational as from September 2013. As well as being a member of staff, I am also a future parent of the school and welcome the chance for a co-educational, Catholic education for my 3 sons. I hope you are able to support the proposal.
5	I am a very firm believer in mixed education and I think it is about time we had a mixed catholic senior school.
6	To whom ever it may concern, I am writing to offer my complete support for the proposal Saint George Catholic College becomes a co-educational school from september 2013. I believe the school can offer a fantastic education to both boys and girls. With the significant and continued progress the school is making in all areas highlighted in the recent OFSTED inspection awarding the school an overall GOOD with outstanding features the college would offer both boys and girls an education we can all be proud of.
7	Dear Sir/Madam, I would like to register my support for the proposed change at St George Catholic College. The change to a mixed school is fully supported by the staff and parents from feeder schools. I feel that this will be a positive change for the school and a way to continue to improve our standards and create a school that will appeal to catholic families.
8	To Whom it may Concern, I am in support of St George becoming mixed. As a teacher I think that it would benefit the school educationally & culturally.
9	Dear Sir, I will be writing to give my support to Saint George Catholic VA College admitting girls from September 2013. I believe this will be a very positive move for the College, and give numerous opportunities to continue to move the College forward and build on its recent successes.
10	I can confirm that I support the proposal for mixed sex education at the college.
11	I would like to register my support for the proposed change to a mixed school at St George.
12	To whom it may concern, I am writing to inform you in support of the current request for Saint George Boys school to become a mixed school. I am in total support of the school becoming a mixed school, and feel the benefits to the education of those attending will improve vastly.
13	To whom it may concern, I would like to record my support for St George's plans to admit girls. I feel the staff here are up for the Challenge and believe that both the boys and girls will benefit from the venture.
14	Dear sir, I am writing to confirm that I am in favour of St George becoming a school for boys and girls. Every group of our stakeholders has voted for the change, and so I feel it is right to support them.
15	My daughter is currently at St Anthony's Catholic School in Fareham and we are looking into the various options of her future schooling? We know a number of parents who's children go to Saint Georges and are extremely impressed with comments from everyone. Their attitude/confidence is very positive when talking about their child's learning and seems just what we would like for our daughter. We think it would be a fantastic opportunity to introduce a school for boys and girls with such high levels of teaching experience. This is would definitely encourage our decision to send my daughter from 2013.
16	I have been a Foundation Governor of St George Catholic College for the last 8 or 9 years and have witnessed an outstanding journey of transformation from a school in decline with serious behavioural issues to one which was recently identified as the 15th Most Improved School in the whole Country and a more recent Ofsted inspection cited as having several Outstanding features. In response to serious and persistent pressure from boys' parents and prospective parents of potential new pupils, the Governors are in full support of the application for St George Catholic VA College to move from a single-sex boys school to a mixed school for boys and girls with effect from September 2013. This will also provide the essential option of choice for parents in providing a mixed catholic education for their children which currently does not exist in Southampton. I would respectfully urge the Cabinet who are charged to consider this on behalf of Southampton City Council to look favourably on the recommendation proposed by our Board Governors in support of the wishes of the parents in the community. With kind regards.
17	I write in support of the proposal that St George Catholic College becomes co-educational from September 2013. At aged 11, my son was a very shy child but he was fully supported, both educationally and emotionally, by the staff and teachers at St George. The excellent care that he received gave him the skills and the confidence to do very well, and he left school with 9 GCSEs. He went on to gain 4 A levels at College and will be attending university next September. I cannot praise the school highly enough. I have a daughter who studied at St Anne's school who was very happy there and who also did well. However, if St George had been co-educational I would have chosen to send her there instead; based on our experience and the excellent standards set by St George. Both of my children attended Springhill Catholic Primary School which is co-educational. Both of my children therefore had friends of both sexes until the age of 11, and I feel that the long period of time attending single sex secondary school can impede their ability to make friends and relationships later on in life. Children can feel awkward when talking to members of the opposite sex in later years if they have not had the opportunity to mix with them during their formative years.
18	Hello, We are emailing our support for the St George Catholic College becomes co-educational from September 2013 to go ahead.
19	I would like to express my view that Saint George should be co-educational from September 2013. I have three children, one of which will hopefully be starting at St George in Sept, two boys and one girl and I would very much like them to all attend the same Catholic school.
20	Dear Sir/Madam, I would like to add my support to St. George Catholic VA becoming a co-ed school. I think this will be of great benefit to local girls and boys of all faiths.
21	To whom it may concern, I am fully supportive of the proposal that St George Catholic College becomes co-educational from September 2013, my details are as follows -[removed for privacy], my son will hopefully be starting St George in 2012 and my daughter will be starting secondary school in 2014. Thank you.
22	Hello, I am writing to give my support to the proposal that St George Catholic College becomes co-educational from Sept 2013. I would like both my children (a daughter aged 9 years and a son aged 4 years) to have the opportunity to attend a co-educational catholic senior school in Southampton. Thank you very much.
23	I completely support the proposal of St George becoming a co-educational school. I believe the change in dynamic would be a positive step for the boys, who I'm sure would rise to the challenge admirably. I am certain that with this move the school can continue to progress at an even faster rate in all areas.
24	Yes, I will like St. George Catholic College to become a co-educational from September 2013.
25	Good Afternoon, I would support the admittance of girls into the school.
26	Dear Sir / Madam, I am contacting you with reference the proposal for St George to become a Catholic Co-ed school from Sept 2013. I would like to offer my full support (and that of my husband) for this proposal ahead of the L.A. Cabinet meeting on 12th March, to which I hope to attend. We are passionate about our children attending a Catholic School so they are educated in the faith we hold dear and are nurtured and receive the pastoral care that we would both choose for them. I work for the Portsmouth Diocese too, (and actually went to St Anne's myself) and this is really important to our family. We currently have 3 children attending St Anthony's R.C. Primary School, Titchfield Common - which is a feeder school for St George/St Anne's. We have a boy in Yr 6, and one in Yr 5 and our youngest, is a girl in Yr 4. However, not only do we feel strongly that they all progress to a Catholic Secondary School, we also wish to continue their education in a natural, mixed sex environment and together as a family unit. For many years (and to date), I feel that the Catholic families in Southampton, and the surrounding area (as the catchment for these schools is so wide), have almost been penalised and discriminated against because there has been no option for them to attend a mixed Catholic School. Through all our lives, we are in a mixed environment and I think it is appropriate, especially during such formative years in a young person's life, that they are with both boys and girls to learn how to interact and learn together - especially socially, and emotionally. It is the most natural thing for our children to grow up and be educated together, and yet, we have to segregate them in Southampton from ages 11-16. Then we expect them, as young adults, to pick up where they left off at Primary School and work/learn together once more! It is my experience, that Catholic families in our area either choose to split their children up and send them to separate single sex R.C. Schools (something that no other religion or race in the area are forced to do) or they decide to send them to a local mixed secondary/comprehensive. I hear this time and time again at work, as parents approach the Church for which I work for, asking for supplementary application forms to be signed by the Priest - or come in to almost apologise and explain why they feel they can't support the Catholic Secondary system offered at present (or in the occasional instance I see them really struggling to find the fees for St Mary's College - as the only other R.C. mixed secondary option in Southampton). Personally, we have applied for St George for our eldest child (Sept '12) with the great hope that this proposal to go co-ed is approved, so that we can keep our children who are not only close in age but are quite a strong little unit too, together. We have taken a risk rarely, because the other option (as we live in Park Gate) was to try and send the children to the oversubscribed Oaklands (a mixed R.C. Secondary) in Waterlooville - which is out of our natural catchment and would have been done at an inconvenience to the family as we would have to change working patterns to transport them part way - and at a high cost too. I also feel that, from a very practical and economic point of view, with the recent loss of transport subsidy from Hampshire for Catholic children to attend Catholic schools, it has become even more important for a family budget that the children are being transported to and from one site - rather than splitting them across the City (especially when they need collecting from after school clubs at a time when their normal bus may have left). I have offered my time to work with a Committee that St George's College have formed to help support the thorough process of integrating girls into the School - and look forward to continuing as their plans come to fruition. I hope that the L.A see the very real need for this proposal to go ahead and support the School with the application it has submitted.
27	Dear Sir / Madam, This is to say that I am 100% in favour of St George becoming a mixed college so that the college meets the needs of its Catholic community.
28	I would like to voice my support for the current proposals to mix St George Catholic College. I feel that a mixed Catholic school in Southampton is long overdue - it is unfair to expect parents send their children to two separate schools if they wish them to receive a Catholic education - after all those who choose a Catholic primary education are able to send their children to a co-ed school - why prevent them at secondary?
29	F.A.O. The Cabinet, I would like to formally express my support of the proposals shortly to come before Cabinet regarding St George Catholic VA College becoming co-educational. My family has had a long association with St George since its inception. My husband was a pupil there when it was mixed; he had a long career as a teacher there and both of our sons attended St George. I also taught at St George in the 1990s. I am currently a governor at the college. We have therefore been closely associated with St George throughout its history and have witnessed its ups and downs. It is widely acknowledged that St George has made huge progress under its present leadership. Becoming co-educational would be a natural and welcome development. It is recognised that many families would welcome the opportunity to have both their sons and daughters progress seamlessly from their mixed primary/junior schools to a mixed St George.
30	To whom it may concern; As a parent of a child attending St patricks primary school, I support the proposal for mixed schooling. I feel that with the current climate of more pupils in the city, parents wanting more choice and better education for all we need all of our schools to be open to all of mixed gender and religious background.
31	I am writing to confirm my support to the proposal for Saint George's to become a school for both boys and girls.
32	To Whom it may concern, I wish to submit my support for St George going co-educational. I have a girl and two boys currently at St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Titchfield Common, and from a practical point of view it would be a lot easier for my three children to attend the same school. However, more importantly, my daughter currently sits on a table at school with mainly boys, it appears her learning is enhanced being in the company of boys. Similarly, my son works better with girls. I hope my support for the venture will be passed on to the relevant team.
33	To whom it may concern, We are parents of four daughters, two of whom currently attend St Anthony's RC Primary and another about to join the pre-school. We are very much in support of St George becoming a school for both boys and girls from September 2013. Our intention is to take advantage of this for our daughters should there be such an opportunity. Currently only St Anne's is offering a Catholic education in our catchment and although we already have one daughter there we are very much in support of our other daughters attending a co-ED, which has a very apparent Catholic ethos namely St George. We also feel a mixed school would be more suitable for them both academically and socially.
34	To Whom it May Concern: I am writing in support of the conversion of Saint Georges Catholic Voluntary Aided school in becoming a co-educational establishment. I have been supporting this process since it was brought to my attention at a meeting held in our local Catholic primary school St Swithun Wells, in Chandlers Ford, I am the parent to one son and one daughter and looking to the future am hoping they will be able to continue their educations in the same school for purely practical reasons such as transport, activities etc. We are a Catholic family with both my husband and myself educated in a Catholic school until 18 years of age (St Peter's, Bournemouth) and we would ideally be looking for that same level of Catholic education for our two children. We strongly believe as a family that our faith is an important part of their education but we also believe that a co-education school has life lessons of its own which cannot be found in a single sex school. The workplace is no longer a male domain environment and women are taking more and more of a role and I think it is important for both sexes to learn how to work together. I firmly believe that the co-education set up curbs some of the boys' "boorish" behaviour and that the girls are less "catty" when surrounded by boys. I think it also helps to challenge some of the sexist attitudes giving boys/girls a more realistic approach to relationships with each other. I don't not feel living in Chandlers Ford that I would be able to meet the needs for a Catholic education and co-education grounding at present and would have to compromise. I also feel that it would be impractical for me to send each of my children to a different school. The ideal solution for myself and I am sure a large number of other Catholic families would be for Saint Georges to receive agreement for conversion to a co-educational establishment.
35	TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: We understand that the statutory notice from St George Governors to go mixed is now published and with the Local Authority for consultation. We are writing to the Councilors of Southampton to ask that they take into consideration our strong objections to the proposal because of the huge implications it could have on our school (St Anne's) and indeed for the future progress of education in this City. You will find attached copies of letters from our Chair of Governors, Headmistress and Sister Teresa Finn (on behalf of the LSU Trustees) which were sent to the governing body of St George for their consideration. Clearly we are very concerned that parents should have the option to choose single sex education if they wish to. Since 2006 the council has redeveloped a number of secondary schools and moved from single sex to mixed education. The issue is a complex one but in some of these circumstances the agenda has clearly been to remove underperforming boys schools. It is also clear that some parents prefer mixed education as well and I know the council did substantial research. However, we would argue strongly that all girls' schools remove barriers which can be quite significant for girls in mixed schools and this enables young women to perform to Single sex schools provide some of the best academic results in the country overall and St Anne's has consistently outperformed local schools over decades and provided the City with a Beacon of Excellence. Indeed many Councilors will have family members who have been educated at this school. Whilst we understand that St George is a small school and wants to increase numbers, if they take Catholic/Christian girls then they will be potentially diminishing the numbers that attend St Anne's. You are prepared to look strategically at this, a huge increase in numbers of Catholics is not predicted so inevitably the two schools will be competing for the same "pot" of girls. If they remain the same size then other schools around us, notably Canfield and Regent's Park, may well be affected as more pupils who are not Catholic move to our schools to fill up empty spaces. St Anne's has always been oversubscribed but currently is approximately 50% Catholic and the rest are made up of other Christians and then other faiths. The school has always welcomed a mix of faiths but we want at least to maintain the present proportion of Catholics. The trustees and governors may need to reduce the size of St Anne's so our ethos is maintained as a Catholic school.

	<p>Forcing a highly successful, high achieving school to reduce in size does not seem to us to make much sense. Secondly, St George has been on an upward trajectory in recent years and is now recruiting strong numbers of boys. Surely the population explosion currently in Year R will work through and ensure the school becomes larger in the near future. It is complicated as to why parents do not send their children to any particular school but the recent past history of poor attainment (now much improved) coupled with the considerable transport difficulties to that site have surely been the two major issues rather than single sex education there. I urge you to think carefully about the future education of our young men and women who prefer to be educated separately. Are the girls in the previous girls' schools in the City going to perform as well now they are in a mixed environment or, is it just improving boys expectations? Why are some successful mixed Hampshire schools now educating boys and girls separately in key stage 4 for the core subjects? Is the Council going to be in the position of going back to some single sex education in the future? From our point of view girls perform extremely well in a single sex environment as generations of Southampton women have shown in this school.</p> <p>This school has consistently served the City well over 100 years and allowing a situation to emerge where it is going to reduce or impoverish our provision seems ludicrous. The Council's decision to change the transport subsidies has already impacted on Catholic education; please think twice before you allow a further decision to affect St Anne's. Finally, I would urge you to allow local parents the ability to continue to have single sex education as an option for both boys and girls. You now have established many more mixed schools. Surely Southampton is able to meet the needs of all our families and keep choices open for them. We are asking you to object to the change at St George in view of the negative impact it will have on St Anne's in particular (we suspect Cantell may also become very unbalanced as well) and that the proposed solution to a perceived problem of size and achievement is going to be addressed anyway in the near future at St George without this radical step. We have of course made our representations to St George governors and the Diocese of Portsmouth.</p>
36	<p>I am sending this e-mail to support the transition of the college from a single sex boys school to a mixed entry school for boys and girls, in the joint capacities of Chair of the Governing Body as a Foundation Governor, a former parent of three boys at St George and as a member of the Catholic community of Southampton.</p> <p>I support the request for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school opened in 1958 as a mixed Secondary Modern School at the request of the local Catholic population since the only option open then was to pay fees to the two catholic schools in Southampton at that time. The proposal will therefore return the school to its original format. - There is an increasing groundswell of opinion to provide mixed secondary education so that families where brothers and sisters can continue the mixed sex education they enjoyed at primary school and will be continued at Sixth Form College. - This development is supported by the feeder primary schools to St George. - There is evidence that a number of Catholic families do not send their children to the local single sex Catholic schools because they desire a mixed education for their children. - St George has shown considerable improvement in Standards over the last five years and now is the right time to become mixed to continue with the improvement from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 - It would be good for the city to see a well supported successful mixed Catholic Secondary School for the Catholic Community since this would see pupils attracted for outside the city <p>I therefore support this proposal and commend it to the Council for approval.</p>
37	<p>To whom it may concern, I am writing regarding my support for the suggestion that St. George College should admit boys and girls. I strongly support this move for the following reasons:</p> <p>As we try to prepare our children for a future of work, it is important that they are accustomed to work in a mixed sex environment. Educationally girls and boys bring different skills and motivations to work, both of which can compliment each other.</p> <p>St. George is succeeding in making great progress as a school and it seems unfair that girls should not be given the opportunity to join.</p> <p>As a father of twins I would like my children to have the opportunity to progress through Key Stages 1, 2, and 3 at the same school.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider these points.</p>
38	<p>I just wanted to voice my support for St George VA College to become co-ed from September 2013. The college has improved dramatically over the past few years and I feel if girls were to be able to attend that would be the icing on the cake. I want my son, who is currently in year 6, to continue his education in a catholic school when he leaves his primary school. However if you want your child to attend a catholic school in Southampton you don't have the choice of mixed or single sex school unless you have available funds to send your child to St Mary's College in Bitterne. I really hope St George does become a mixed school, this will help it build on the incredible achievements it has made over the last few years under the leadership of Mr Wilson with his excellent teaching staff and governors.</p>
39	<p>Co-education proposal. I fully support St George's Catholic VA College's proposal to go Co-educational from September 2013.</p>
40	<p>I wish to express my support towards St George Catholic College going co-ed.</p>
41	<p>great if one day you can give us the possibility to have a school bus for pick up the kids in the area of Chandler's Ford and Eastleigh. Many thanks in advance for give as the possibility to propose something</p>
42	<p>As a catholic mother with 4 mixed sex children who are at junior school age, I would very much welcome the chance to send them all to the same school. I support the proposal and very much hope that the council agree.</p>
43	<p>Regarding the proposed co-ed status of St Georges school I would like to ask that this happen. As a parent of 4 children I know that learning in a co ed situation worked well for them at primary level. For at least 1 of my daughters this would have been ideal for them at secondary school - but has never been an option in a catholic school. I appreciate that some feel the single sex schooling is better; but in a city that has the highest teen pregnancies surely there is some correlation between that and the number of single sex schools that we used to have? I do feel that socially the children benefit for such an environment.</p> <p>Furthermore, such a move can only continue to enhance the status of a school that is showing such great steps forward in all its results (especially notably our the NEETS).</p>
44	<p>I strongly support the proposal to admit girls and boys to st georges college southampton. We do not have a catholic mixed secondary school in southampton and I think it is essential. I have a son who will be hopefully attending at george in sept 2012 and my daughter would be (fingers crossed) attending in sept 2014, to have siblings at the same school provides comfort and support for them both. This mixed catholic secondary school is well overdue.</p>
45	<p>As Trustees of St. Anne's School we are aware of the publication of the statutory notice from St. George Governors for the school to become co-educational. In response to the consultation we are making the following objection to the local Education Authority. For more than a century St Anne's has made adequate and excellent provision for the education of catholic girls in the city of Southampton and has been listed consistently amongst the high performing schools in the local and national context. St. Anne's has maintained these standards for Catholic girls in a non selective manner. It is commendable also, and in line with current thinking, that applicants of other denominations and faiths are admitted to the school and contribute to its harmonious and successful reputation. To pursue the proposal from St George therefore, from the point of view of religious need, parental choice, distance or other factors mentioned is inappropriate use of time and resources.</p>
<p>Late Responses</p>	
46	<p>As a parent of three children, currently in a Catholic primary school I would like to send my boys to a secondary catholic school. My eldest son is now in year six and we are waiting to find out if he has been accepted for his first choice, which is St George's. I hope all my boys will go there, however I would prefer them to receive their Catholic education alongside Catholic Girls. I personally experienced both a girls catholic school and a co-ed school, I felt the co-ed experience was better. I think in discussions we brought something different. It added to the community feel of the school and broadened our perspectives. I hope that this consultation is successful in making St George's co-ed. I think the school has a lot to offer girls as well as boys and I hope that all my boys will be attending the school alongside girls in the future</p>