

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

What we want to do

Saint George wishes to strengthen its position as a centre of Catholic education within the Catholic community. As part of our visionary mapping of the college's future, we wish to consult with our community about the possibility of inviting girls to join the college from 2013. This is in response to the members of our community, who have expressed a desire for Saint George to become co-educational and would be pending the outcome of a consultation process starting in September 2011.

About Saint George

Saint George Catholic College is currently a voluntary aided school for boys aged 11 to 16, maintained by Southampton Local Authority. The college first opened as a mixed school in 1958, but was later converted to a boys only establishment.

Over the years the college has established itself as a high performing school within Southampton and the surrounding area; providing a quality education within a christian context.

Why now?

We are currently in a very strong position to pursue this vision given the widely recognised improvements that the college has achieved in educational standards.

- The latest Diocesan Validation of 2009 stated that a key strength of the college was our current leadership and management, which has made: "a positive impact in raising standards".

- Our last full Ofsted inspection in 2009 said, "the headteacher has set a very clear vision and direction for the school and has successfully driven through a wide range of improvements in a relatively short time". It also highlighted the fact that parents were: "almost universally positive about the school".



- Our 2009 GCSE results made us the 15th most improved school in the country, and the top school nationally with a combined specialism.

- Complementing our Science status, we were also awarded Specialist Sports status in 2010 in recognition of our outstanding sports facilities.

Given these successes, the college is over-subscribed for our September 2011 intake. This is a significant achievement and shows the faith and commitment of our dedicated community.

Some important questions

Why do you want to do this and why now?

Hopefully this has been explained clearly, but mainly it is in response to parents asking for us to admit girls, and because we are looking at ways in which we can best fulfil the wishes of our community.

We are simply going to consultation to see whether there is a seriously strong demand for a co-educational, Catholic school in Southampton, and then we will proceed accordingly.

When would girls be able to join Saint George Catholic College?

From September 2013 in Year 7, since that is when we would be able to complete our formal consultation. Therefore girls and boys currently in Year 5 or below in September 2011 would be eligible to apply for a place at Saint George.

Can girls join in Year 8 and above from September 2013?

We feel that it would be better to stage our transformation from single-sex to co-educational over each academic year, and admit girls into Year 7 from September 2013 and into each Year 7 cohort thereafter.



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How will the college cope with the changes?

We recognise this is a huge change, hence us staging it over a period of five years, but the college did start life as a co-educational school. We will review our curriculum to meet the needs of both genders and make appropriate accommodation changes. We will work closely with the Authority and Diocese and seek advice and support of other city schools.

Your views

Four ways to have your say over the forthcoming weeks

1. Attend our drop-in sessions at our feeder primary schools;

Holy Family
St Anthony's
St Patrick's
St Peter's
St Swithun Wells
Springhill

Please contact the primary schools or visit our website for dates and times.

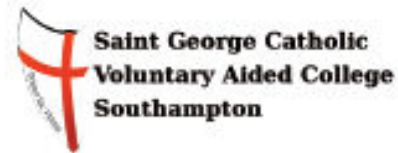
2. Complete and return the enclosed form to:-

Saint George Consultation,
Saint George Catholic College,
Leaside Way, Southampton, SO16 3DQ

3. Visit our website at www.stgeorgecollege.co.uk where you can complete and return the response form by e-mail to consultation@st-george.southampton.sch.uk

4. Attend our Public Consultation meeting at Saint George on Thursday 22nd September, 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

Please send us your views by Friday 21st October 2011.



Shaping The Future
of Saint George Catholic College

A consultation on inviting girls to join Saint George



Consultation Response Form

Please complete this form and return it to:

Saint George Consultation, Saint George Catholic College
Leaside Way, Southampton, SO16 3DQ

Please tick one answer only

1. Do you support the proposal that Saint George becomes a school for boys and girls? Yes No
2. I am a Parent Carer Member of the wider community
3. I am a Catholic Not a Catholic

Your details (optional)

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Please write any further comments here (and overleaf)

**Please send us your response no later than Friday 21st October 2011
if you require this information in a different format or language please call 02380 322 603**