



# *A Catholic Primary School for Christ the King Parish*

## **Part One**

Representation by the Primary School Group  
(Cockfosters)

The case for a Catholic Parish Primary School

Pentecost 2017

## **Part Two**

Work in progress. Submission for a Catholic Parish Primary School [Academy free school]. This will be submitted at a later stage to the DFE and with the support of the Diocese and other organisations (2018).

**(Covering letter attached. Pentecost and dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017)**

## **The Catholic Primary School Group**

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Group members – Current  
Pamela Carrol-Zeto. Secretary  
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## **Notes**

**This document is based on earlier versions published in April 2008, 2015 and updated to report on events since.**

**Christ the King refers to the Catholic church and parish of Christ the King Cockfosters. It is also the name of any future Catholic school. Page 65. Westminster Year Book 2017**

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**“Only a small number of children of our parish each year obtain a place at a Catholic School.”**

**“Parents endorse and fully support the need for a Catholic School at Cockfosters .”**

## **The Mission Statement**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**“This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you”**

### **John 15 12-17**

A Christ the King Catholic Primary in Cockfosters would seek to provide primary Catholic education for the parish and wider Catholic community of Cockfosters and Southgate.

The school is committed to promoting and realising Gospel values in an environment of academic endeavour and pastoral care. We will work in partnership with pupils, parents, parish and the wider community.

We seek to provide a Catholic education in which each pupil is personally valued and challenged to pursue the highest standards in the spiritual and moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development. We aim to share an experience of Christian community in which all pupils will grow in faith through worship and mutual respect.

We will encourage each pupil to develop his /her own talents in pursuit of their God-given vocation. Academic success, confidence, good relationships, loyalty, sporting prowess, aesthetic interest and readiness to be of service to society will all be qualities of Christ the King Catholic Primary School, Cockfosters.

### **The Chemin Neuf community**

The Chemin Neuf community moved to Cockfosters in 2014 following the departure of the Benedictine order. Their arrival has strengthened and re-affirmed the Catholic community. The support of the parish priest is valued by and important to Catholic Primary School Group

## **1 The Need**

Only a small number of children of the parish of Cockfosters each year obtain a place at a Catholic school, unless they go private. Most also fail to get into other faith schools. The parish does not have a voluntary aided school and although favourably treated in the queues for other local faith schools, in practice these are mostly oversubscribed with their own parishioners. This is a very serious matter of concern. Catholic education is embedded into the mission of the Church and the education of children in that tradition is of importance to all catholic families at Cockfosters

### **History of Catholic Education at Christ the King.**

The founder of Vita et Pax, Dom Constantine Bosschaerts, was a great educationalist and a close friend of Maria Montessori. He was a pioneer and envisaged monks, nuns and lay people working together for society and for Christian unity. In 1926, he established a Benedictine foundation in Schotenhof, Belgium and with it a school, Vita et Pax. Its ethos combined his ecumenical vision and the teaching methodology of Montessori.

In 1936 Dom Constantine continued his vision in Cockfosters. A school also called Vita et Pax was founded with the community. This was one of the conditions for this development of the church, that a school would be set up to serve the needs of the parish and Catholic community. The school was and remains fee paying but there were concessionary rates for parish families. It was run by the community of nuns. Subsequently in 1981 the community moved in pursuit of a more contemplative setting. All the nuns and some of the monks settled in Turvey in Bedfordshire. Vita et Pax school remains but is now independent and no longer administered by the Benedictine community of sisters.

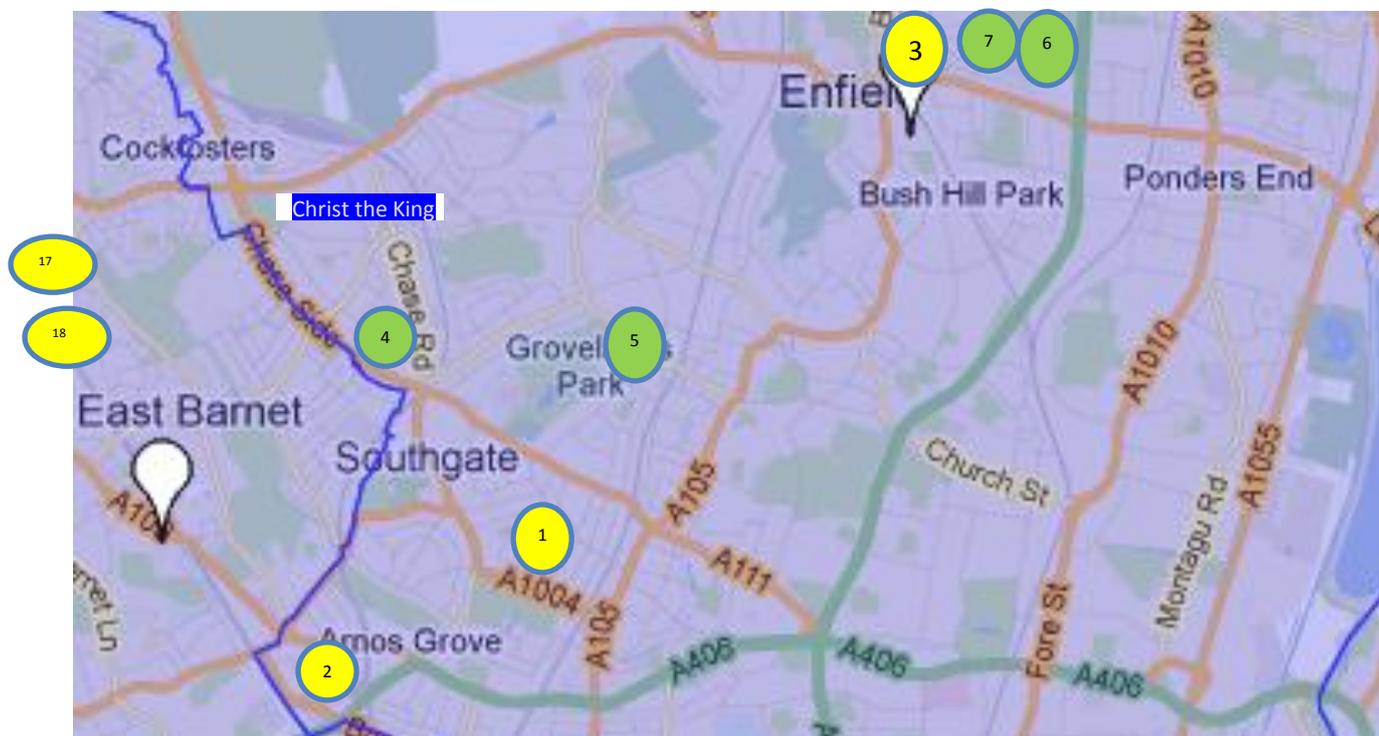
In 2013, the Benedictine vacated the Christ the King campus and the Chemin Neuf Community took over the parish and spiritual administration. The Chemin Neuf Community at Cockfosters are committed to the aims of Catholic education for young people and support the aims of the Catholic Primary School Group.

## The Catholic Primary School Group

The original group was first formed in 1995 under Dom Placid to found a parish school. Subsequent progress has been mixed. This report summarises the work and findings of the group over the last three years.

### All Local Primary Schools Admissions 2016.

Updated date for school data 2016 and 2017 in the references.



	Barnet	Enfield
Catholic VA schools 2016 oversubscribed 	17 Sacred Heart (60 pupils) 18 St Catherine (30/45.)	1 St Monica (60) – 27 not accepted 2 Our Lady of Lourdes (30) – 29 not accepted 3 St Georges (90)- 51 not accepted.
C of E schools 2016 oversubscribed 	19 Trent (30) 20 St Mary's (30) 21 All Saints (30) 22 Monken Hadley (20)	4 St Andrew's (30) 5 St Paul's (60) 6 St Andrew's Enfield (60) 7 St Michael's (60).
Oversubscribed community schools 	23 Livingstone (30) 24 Monkfrith (30) 25 Churchill (30) 26 Osidge (60) Foundation school 27 Brunswick Park (30) 28 Queens well (90)  Barnet data. Also, oversubscribed	8 Hadley Wood (30) 9 Merry hills (90) 10 Grange Park (120) 11 Eversely (60) 12 West Grove (60) 13 Walker (60) 14. New Ashmole, all through primary oversubscribed . 15/16 Other. (Ref.1. First 7/10 schools. In very close proximity to.C.K.) (Ref.2 Blue/white box denotes parish church of C.K.)

## 2 Data analysis

### The case for a Catholic Primary School at Christ the King Cockfosters

#### Four key points and summary case (1-4)

**1 Authority admissions data up to 2016. A similar pattern is also true for 2017.** Here we have noted (for Enfield) the oversubscribed school's data for the 10 schools including Catholic, in very close proximity to Christ the King Cockfosters for 2016. This is set out on page 6 above. Data for 2017 is also included in **References**.

**2 Significant emerging Catholic primary school need.** This is demonstrated at Cat Hill, East and New Barnet and Trent Park. Initial door to door canvassing suggests there is dedicated support for a new Catholic primary school, from new Catholic and Christian families visited. This will be completed shortly. **References**.

**3 Other Catholic Schools 2016.** The strong parish data gathered over time is secure and rising. To open a new Catholic parish school would take pressure off the neighbourhood catholic primary schools and county. We have discussed these matters with the respective Head Teachers and have their good will. A school at Christ the King Cockfosters would offer many Catholic families an additional Catholic school choice, for those unable to secure a place at other Catholic schools. The data supports the case for a new Catholic school. The Deanery supports our endeavours and we have the good will of other local Catholic primary schools who support our endeavours. **2016 and 2017 evidence below**

Christ the King does register on the school's admission criteria at no 4 for St Georges and for the last six years has not accepted places beyond criteria 3. Catholic families from Cockfosters therefore, are not admitted to St Georges, even though this criteria was first set up to support a parish with no Catholic school. Also, the greater distance of three miles is a disadvantage to families applying.

<b>St George's admissions</b>	<b>2016. 90 accepted places 2017 .90 accepted places</b>	<b>51 not accepted Not oversubscribed</b>
<b>St Monica's</b>	<b>2016. 60 accepted places 2017.60 accepted</b>	<b>27 not accepted 160 applications *</b>
<b>Our Lady of Lourdes</b>	<b>2016.30 accepted places 2017 .30 accepted places</b>	<b>29 not accepted 31 not accepted</b>
<b>Pope Paul</b>	<b>2016.2017</b>	<b>Over subscribed</b>
<b>Sacred Heart</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Over subscribed</b>

( above information, responses obtained from individual schools directly)

**4. Parish Catholic data 2007- 2008 and 2015 -2017. (Catholic Voice.)** There is emerging evidence from current and new Catholic families. This is builds on earlier evidence in 2015 and 2007/2008. This evidence was collected both by paper and electronic survey. Main findings are that the parish and majority of Catholic families strongly support the case for a new Catholic primary school. This is the Catholic data behind the story and narrative.

Two earlier census studies were undertaken by the school Group in 2007/2008, 2015. Findings from the first two have already been outlined before.

1 95% of parents canvassed stated that they support the creation of a parish school;

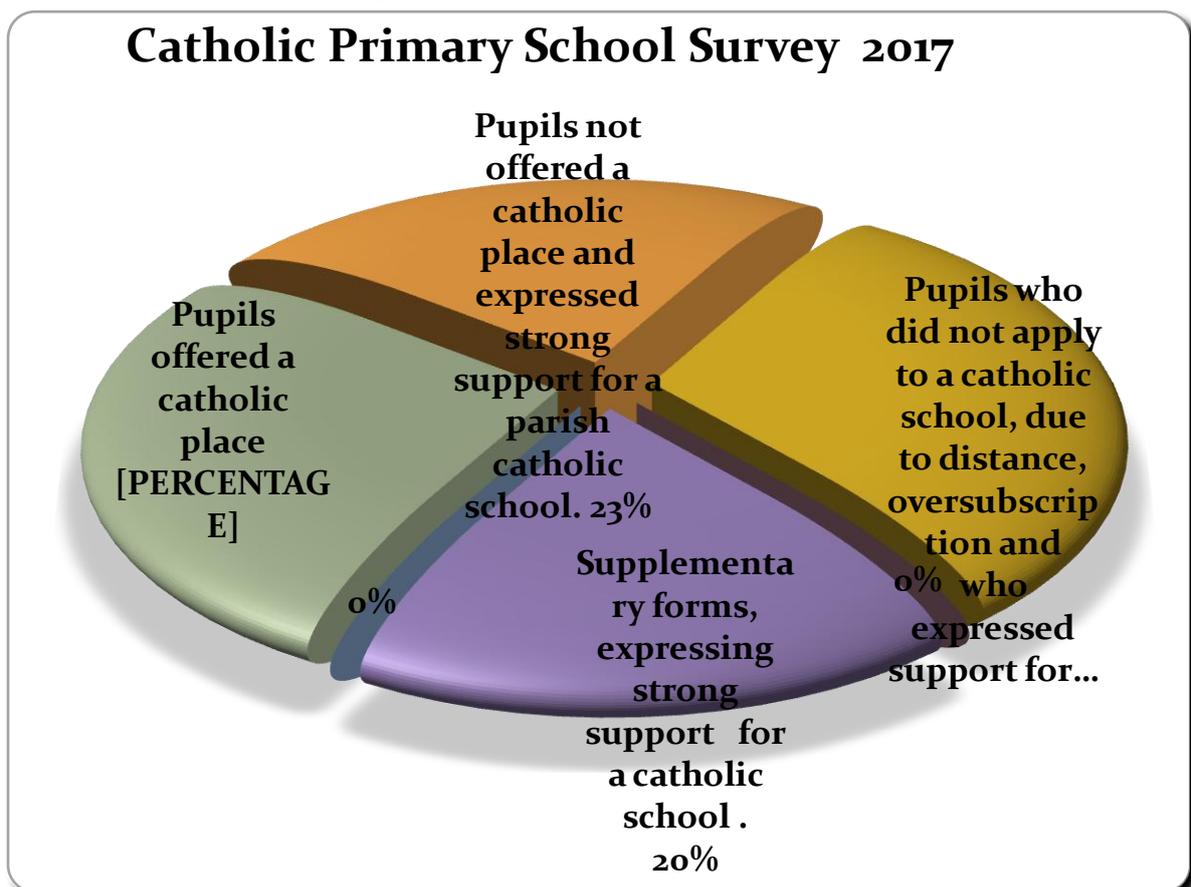
2 Most parents were dissuaded from applying to a Catholic school by the schools' admission policy. St George's Catholic Primary school, the nearest catholic school each year is unable to offer places to applicants beyond oversubscription criteria 3. Christ the King applicants in criteria 4 are not offered places

3 Only 17% of parish children attend another faith school – others similarly dissuaded.

**A third paper/electronic survey was introduced this year 2017.**

**Concluding data and notes of Guidance.**

The Survey was completed in the parish of Cockfosters and area. (parish focus) It was completed after Sunday masses in April, May, June 2017. It continues to be a live survey for new families, parishioners, the wider Catholic community. It can also be completed on line through the school's section of the parish website.



Results were analysed and broken down into headings for 2017.  
Replies received were 71 and this is expected to be higher by September.  
Main findings for the parish and area were that Catholic families strongly support (100%) the case for a new Catholic school:  
23% did not get their child /children into a Catholic school  
30% did not apply (distance and oversubscription being the main factor).  
These two percentage figures (a combined of 53%) will become higher as more families become aware of the on-line survey. This is a concern for all leaders planning for Catholic Education.

### **The background and journey of the Catholic Primary School Group from basic need to Free School opportunities\* (Page 9-10)**

In 1995(1), when the School Group began its work, population was growing locally due to housing developments at Highlands etc. The basic Need criterion was met and the possibility that part of that need might be supplied by a Catholic school was considered. Enfield LEA received proposals from Christ the King. The plan considered was for St Andrew's Southgate (c of E) school to take over De Bohun and become two form entry (2FE) while a new 1fe Christ the King school would be given the St Andrew's site.

1996 – LEA reach a decision. Basic Need was to be met by creation of a new community school (West Grove) and the expansion of two existing schools. The Christ the King option was not included. 1999 – West Grove School opened.

1999 – LEA approved plans to expand St Georges RC (Enfield) by 30 places and St Mary's by 15 places. This did not solve the lack of provision at Cockfosters, as only one or two Christ the King parishioners obtained a place for their child into St George's in most years.

2003 – Death of Dom Placid. After the set-back in 1995/ 1996 and the later illness of Dom Placid, a renewal in School group activity took place.

2005 – Basic Need not met

The new established School Group approached the LEA. Discussions could not proceed unless a basic need case existed. But basic need could not exist at the time while surplus spaces existed at the nearby De Bohun School which was then poorly performing and unpopular.

### **Correspondence 2005- 2015-2017**

13<sup>th</sup> May 2005 Peter Lewis, Director of Education & Leisure  
Before further discussions could take place the following criteria

- Identification of a basic need case
- Policy on admissions open to the community
- Confirmation required to be met, capital contribution.

10<sup>th</sup> October 2005 Glynis Vince, LEA Children Services & Leisure

“... that the authority would also wish to be satisfied that the arrival of a new denominational school would not adversely affect existing community provision in the area.

28<sup>th</sup> November 2006 Peter Lewis communication to David Burrowes MP.

” As and when that issue (basic need) emerges as being a real driver for change we can re-visit the discussions and see where they might take us”

18<sup>th</sup> January 2007 meeting with Chris Graham LEA

LEA acknowledges recent DfES guidelines were removing basic need obstructions.

2007/2008. An excellent and secure case was made by a new school group (2), for a Catholic primary school for Cockfosters and public funding was to be available. However, the Benedictines were in transition and making plans to close the monastery and could not give a commitment to their future at Cockfosters. The dedication, professional work and vision of this former school group, was appreciated by all parties and is also acknowledged by the current school group members today.

2010-2017. Current Catholic Primary Group (3). First paper produced in 2015/2016 and rewritten 2017. All current minutes are available on request. Regular Meetings 2016, 2017. Free school academy training 2016, 2017. Presentation Paper to present and meeting with the Diocese by September 2017.

#### **Future commitment**

**A way forward for consideration. \*The Free School Academy route.2017-2020.**

The current Catholic Primary School group are confident, having demonstrated strong Catholic need, oversubscription, throughout this document that one future route to explore could be the catholic free school academy one. **References**

**Catholic Education Service September commentary 2016.**

Once the admission cap is removed by the government, the group will work with the Diocese, other bodies with a view to making an application and to seek a site. The school group would also wish to be included under any future academy cluster for Enfield and Haringey catholic schools at the appropriate time.

#### **Catholic Voice.**

**“A Catholic parish primary school for Catholic families at Cockfosters. A combination of home, school and parish.”**



### **3 The case for a Catholic Parish Primary school**

The case for a Catholic school has been proven throughout in the earlier sections of this presentation paper. There follows below a summary of former, current, pending, government policy, along with additional Catholic education evidence, that further supports the case and the direction for a future Catholic Primary School.

#### **Central Government Policy. (former and current)**

Education and Inspections act 2006

Section 2 Duties in relation to diversity and choice

In section 14 of EA 1996.

“A local education authority in England shall exercise their functions ...with a view to.

- a) Securing diversity in the provision of schools, and
- b) Increasing opportunities for parental choice.”

#### **Section 3 Duty of an authority to consider parental representations**

Where a local education authority in England receive any representation from a parent or a qualifying child as to the exercise by the authority of their functions under section 14, the authority shall-

- a) consider the representation and what action (if any) to take in response to it and
- b) within a reasonable time provide the parent with a statement setting out
  - i) any action which the authority proposes to take in response to the representation. Or.
  - ii) where the authority believes no such action is necessary, their reasons for being of that opinion.

#### **Parental preference: expanding, freeing places, at more popular schools**

In total, significant places would be free in oversubscribed Enfield schools if a Catholic school was to be provided at Cockfosters (14 listed on page 6). The effect would be to offer more real choice to all parents. In addition to the parental preference, of providing Catholic school places.

## **Contributing to improving standards**

It would be wrong to predict the future performance of any new school. Indeed. However, it is a fact that Catholic schools today (ref CES) have achieved an excellent record and high academic standards. Ofsted's judgement on overall effectiveness concluded that most Catholic primary schools are 'outstanding' or 'good' and such a primary school at Cockfosters would seek to provide both high academic standards and a first-class Catholic education.

## **Choice, duty to promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential**

A local education authority shall also ensure that their functions relating to the provision of education to which this section applies are (so far as this is possible) exercised by the authority, with a view to promoting high standards

In 2014, the Pope expressed his firm belief that parents should have the right to choose a moral and religious education for their children. He pointed out that in today's ever-changing, technological world, our children are bombarded with so much information that it's difficult to filter through it. Because of this, the Pope drove home the point that families and teachers must guide students to critical thinking and a moral compass. That is exactly where a faith-based education comes in.

"Your schools are strong on ethos; unashamed about propagating values as well as standards; and resolute in their mission to children and families of all backgrounds, including the least advantaged in our society. *"Right Honourable Lord Adonis*

"faith schools increase parental choice in their areas... admit pupils from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds... intakes re therefore broadly representative of their local populations .... thus, enhancing community cohesion"

*Enfield Cabinet report no 218*

## **Current Government and CES Policy up to 2017.7**

### **Three important references here:**

- 1. Schools that work for everyone. Government consultation on school matters including the proposal to lift the cap on admissions*
- 2. Catholic Church welcomes the removal of cap on faith admissions by the minister. September 2017.*
- 3. The 2016 Catholic Education Census further demonstrates the contribution that catholic schools make to society for the common good and diversity.*

**The Catholic Primary School Group Cockfosters, believe that the next step to explore with the Diocese should be the commitment to new Catholic primary school and secondly that the free school Catholic academy route could be an option for future discussion together. Importantly, the three documents above (1.2.3.), together with this paper provide the evidence, the background and the opportunities for this to take place.**

## 4 Conclusion - the next steps for a Catholic Primary School

The creation of a new parish Catholic school consistently supports the efforts of both the authority and Diocese to provide additional places and to recognise diversity of provision. This is demonstrated by the significant data collected and the story presented (1930's ,1995, 2007/08 and 2017). A new school would attract Catholic pupils from both inside and outside the parish. The value to the parish and to the wider Catholic community is well known.

Importantly such a new model Catholic school would fit in within the new Diocese Academy structure in Enfield, enrich the parish at Cockfosters and increase Catholic families present. The highest standards in Religious Education and Catholic Life would be expected by the governors and school the leadership team.

### Feasibility studies & principle

#### Next steps

Sites, land and feasibility are critical issues to address. The School Group has professional support to look at options and some realistic proposals have been offered to the group. We would welcome a serious opportunity to discuss these options. The purpose of this document is re-confirming the requirement for a Catholic parish school in the parish of Cockfosters.

It is noteworthy that the Church of Christ the King (Cockfosters), was established in the 1930's with the provision that a Catholic primary school should also be provided by the Benedictines for the Catholic parish community. This is not now the case. The Independent school of Vita et Pax (Cockfosters) Limited have recorded that the Benedictine sisters are no longer involved in the overview of the school. A council of management performs this function.

While there are new church links (June 2017) and this is to be welcomed, it is not the parish Catholic primary school. Notwithstanding, the school group very much look forward to working with Vita et Pax school in some form of future dialogue for the mutual benefit of all parish Catholic children.

#### **Below are previous and future sites that were, or remain a subject of interest for 2017 .2020**

- **Vacant land opportunities.**” The Jester former public house and site “ and near Mount Pleasant roundabout Cockfosters and vacant land. This is an option to explore with the support of the Diocese.
- The empty sports facility at “Bramley Road sports ground Bramley Road”.
- **Other possible sites viewed /to be viewed.** We have looked at sites in partnership with Gilmartin Ley, chartered surveyors and commercial estate agents based in Highgate.
- To note at a previous time with Gilmartin Ley we expressed an interest in the Methodist building in Westpole Avenue N14. The Diocese Education Capital Strategy Assistant Director also attended 2016. Funds and the cap on free school admissions prevented us proceeding.

- We will work with both **the Diocese**, the DFE, other bodies in finding a permanent site from the very beginning. Currently there is no local Catholic land available.
- We will keep our parish priest and Catholic parish community consulted and informed at all stages of development.

## **Part Three. References, key points, data, links, materials.**

The Catholic primary school group wish to thank here all those individuals who have contributed so much in the preparation and publication of this document and all references.

**1. Authority data set out in the paper copy and there is a reference copy in the parish office.**

**2. Cockfosters data by canvassing. June onwards 2017.**

Households visited (231 household units) in the Bolingbroke Estate. ( East/New Barnet area and including Trent Park remain work in progress).  
The School survey data questions were asked and used as a guide.  
Most households were very supportive (100%) of the possibility of new faith school in the area, local schools being oversubscribed and there being no current catholic provision Catholic families visited were very supported and would apply. Further work in progress

**3. Data analysis. Other Catholic schools. Chapter 2. Set out as boxes.**

**4. Parish Catholic data 2015-2017 Chapter 2. Set out as a pie chart.**

**4. Parish Data. April, May, June School Survey 2017.” Notes of Guidance.”**

The Survey was completed in the parish of Cockfosters and area. (the parish being the focus)

It was completed after Sunday masses in April, May and June 2017.

It continues to be a live survey for new families, parishioners, the wider catholic community. It can also be completed on line through the school’s section of the parish website and by paper at the parish office.

**Results were analysed and broken down and presented as a pie chart.**

27% Were offered a place at a Catholic primary school

23 %Were you not offered a place.

30%There was a further heading of families with young baptised children who did not apply to a Catholic school. Catholic schools being oversubscribed or there being no such school within three miles and have therefore applied to other local schools, these being county and C of E.

20%. Other survey sheets were included as these were in support of a catholic school. The Survey will be formally repeated in April May 2018.

A parish catholic primary school will promote and enhance the catholic life of the parish and further support catholic families here in the future. A new primary school will further attract catholic families to move to the Cockfosters parish/area and so improve church attendance. This will build up the parish, with the Chemins Neuf community from strength to strength.

**“Worthy to note Catholic Voice”. Conversations with Enfield Catholics, “we would move to Cockfosters but unlike St George’s parish Enfield there is no catholic school at Cockfosters.”**

**5. Sample Catholic Primary School Group Survey 2015. Set out in the paper copy and there is a reference copy in the parish library.**

**6.Catholic Education Service matters. \***

**7.The Catholic Church welcomes the removal of the admissions cap.\* Further sources for data and all school matters taken from the CES Website. \***

**8.Letters of support. Chair of Diocesan Education Commission. Set out in the paper copy and there is a reference copy in the parish library.**

**A commitment to Education. The Catholic Education Service.**

**Education is central to the mission of the Catholic Church “Since 1850, the church’s aim has been to provide a place in a Catholic school for every Catholic child .”**

