

St. Aloysius' College, Highgate

Notification of prescribed alteration from single sex to co-educational status

1. School

St. Aloysius' College
Hornsey Lane
Highgate
London N6 5LY.

Voluntary aided secondary school in the trusteeship of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster for boys from 11 to 16 with a mixed sixth form.

2. Local authority

London Borough of Islington.

3. Description of prescribed alteration

Girls to be admitted to Years 7 and 8 from September 2024 and annually thereafter until each year group is mixed boys and girls.

4. Evidence of need for change

In 2023, some 73% of Islington resident children transitioned from Islington Catholic primary schools to a co-educational secondary school, indicating that the principal demand in the local community is for mixed sex secondary education. There is no secondary school in the London Borough of Islington offering Catholic education to girls at the secondary stage, whether in a single sex or mixed sex setting. In 2023, some 33% of Islington resident children transitioned from Islington Catholic primary schools to a Catholic secondary school outside the borough. The existing, single sex (male) provision offered by St. Aloysius' College in Years 7 to 11 therefore does not meet demand from the local community (Years 12 and 13 are already co-educational) and there is no other local secondary school in the borough that does so.

5. Objections and comments

The proposal was published on June 21st 2023. The notice stated that any objections or comments should be made within 4 weeks so it closed on July 17th 2023.

The notice stated that objections and comments should be sent to: St. Aloysius' College; Islington Council.

Comments were overwhelmingly in favour of the change to co-educational provision. Many parents are very happy to hear that siblings can now travel to the same school together. There were thirty-eight responses in total. Twenty-seven of these were in favour. Four neither agreed nor objected. Seven were not in favour. No formal objections were received.

6. Approval from London Borough of Islington and Westminster Diocese

The change to the school status has been approved by the London Borough of Islington and the Westminster Diocese.

7. Objective

The objective of the change in school status is to align those arrangements with the needs and demands of the local community, increase parental choice for Islington residents and ensure a balance of school places for boys and girls in line with the Equality Act 2010.

8. Impact on other educational institutions

It is believed that the change will have minimal impact on other Islington secondary schools because it is targeted at Islington residents with a preference for Catholic education at secondary level who are currently choosing schools in other local authorities.