

DETERMINATION

Proposal: To amend the implementation date for the enlargement of St George's Roman Catholic High School, Westminster.

Proposer: Westminster City Council and the Governors of St George's RC High School

Date of Adjudicator's Determination: 27 May 2011

Determination

Under the powers conferred on me in the School Organisation (Transitional Provisions)(England) Regulations 2007, made under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, I hereby approve the proposal to amend the implementation date of a proposal to increase the admission number from 120 to 150, such that the new admission number shall be effective from September 2011.

Referral

1. On 28 April 2011, following consultation with the Department for Education, the authorised representative of the City of Westminster Council (the Council) wrote to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) to request a modification to a statutory proposal agreed by the former School Organisation Committee (SOC).

Jurisdiction

2. The School Organisation (Transitional Provisions) (England) Regulations 2007, made under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, provide for modifications to statutory proposals made by the former School Organisation Committees to be considered by the School Adjudicator.

3. I consider that I have jurisdiction to determine this matter.

Background

4. In September 2006 the SOC for the City of Westminster approved a proposal that St George's Roman Catholic High School (the School) be enlarged, with its admission number increasing from 120 to 150, with effect from September 2010. This approval was conditional on completion of an agreement for the Council's Building Schools for the Future programme, through which funding for the associated building works was to be secured.

5. In the event, although funding was secured, there was a significant delay in completing the building works, so that the implementation of this proposal has had to be deferred until September 2011.

6. The Council recognises that a modification to the implementation date should have been requested in time for it to come into force for the 2010 admissions round.

7. This retrospective modification request serves to regularise the situation now that the building works are nearing completion and the governors can be confident of admitting the higher number of pupils this year.

Consideration of Factors and Conclusion

8. I accept that the Council and the School's governors were not in a position to admit more than 120 pupils to Year 7 in September 2010. I have no doubt that an Adjudicator considering a properly timed request for a modification would, in these circumstances, have agreed it.

9. I note that in the School's admission arrangements for 2010 the admission number was held at 120 so that, although parents may have been disappointed if they were unsuccessful in an application for a place at a school which was due to expand, the admission arrangements had not led them to expect an increase in places for that year.

10. I have concluded that the modification should be approved retrospectively.

Determination

11. Under the powers conferred on me in the School Organisation (Transitional Provisions) (England) Regulations 2007, made under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, I hereby approve the proposal to amend the implementation date of a proposal to increase the admission number from to 150, such that the new admission number shall be effective from September 2011.

Dated: 27 May 2011

Signed: 

Schools Adjudicator: Mr Andrew Baxter