

ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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Nick Batchelar,
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning,
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF CF10 4UW

Dear Nick,

The primary reason for the Archdiocese asking for the closure of St Alban's was the rapidly falling number of Catholics in the school, as had been reported by the School in successive Census returns to the Catholic Education service over a number of years. There was also concern, which was shared by the Local Authority and Central South Consortium about the difficulty of recruiting a substantive Headteacher to the school, which had had a number of Acting Heads over a period of some 8 years.

We had felt that neighbouring Catholic schools would be able to accommodate the relatively small numbers of Catholic families from the Tremorfa area who wanted their children to attend a Catholic school.

However once it became clear, during the consultation period, that the Census figures reported by the school had been erroneous, and that the actual figure of Catholic pupils was similar to that of several other Catholic schools in Cardiff, that removed the main imperative for closure.

During the consultation period an experienced Catholic Head stated on a number of occasions that they would apply for the substantive Headship of St Alban's if the school was to remain open. While the post would have to be advertised nationally, in line with employment law requirements, this statement of intent does provide re-assurance that there would be at least one credible candidate for the Governing Body to consider.

In light of the above the Archdiocese is requesting that this aspect of the Splott/Tremorfa proposals i.e. the closure of St Alban's Catholic Primary School, is withdrawn.

Kind regards,



Anne Robertson
Director of Schools