

13 Eton Villas – London – NW3 4SG

Olivier Nelson
Camden Town Hall
Jude Street
London WC1H 9JE

6th March 2015

Dear Olivier

Support for planning application: No. 3 Arkwright Road

We ~~we~~ have two children studying at St Anthony's and have seen first hand the challenges of the existing site being split across Fitzjohn's Avenue -- a health and safety challenge that uses up valuable teacher time ensuring safe crossing of the road. On the positive side St Anthony's is a successful school with ambitious plans to grow and offer new places to girls seeking a Catholic education.

The proposal supports both improved and streamlined facilities for existing boys and the opportunity to offer a wider education to boys and girls. It will dramatically reduce the number of children crossing the road during the day.

I understand that the school has committed to a legally binding school travel plan which builds on their existing commitment to sustainable travel (TfL 'bronze award'). When combined with "linked journeys" when parents can bring children of different sexes to the same school I expect this to significantly reduce congestion in the area.

Finally, I believe it's worth pointing out that more places for girls seeking a Catholic education will reduce the pressure on state schools in the area.

Yours sincerely,



Nat Billington

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London
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WC1H 9JE

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RE Planning application number: 2014/7847/P

Dear Olivier

I hope you will grant permission for St Anthony's School in Hampstead to extend into number 3 Arkwright Road. We have two sons at the school who will have left by the time the building work is complete, so they won't benefit directly but as a parent who has done battle with the traffic and pedestrian chaos in Hampstead for many years, I believe that the scheme would make life easier for all those in the area, at drop off and pick up times, when the streets are very congested with pedestrians.

There are many parents whose children are split between the two sites at St Anthony's who have to go back and forth across the busy road in the morning and afternoon. This holds up traffic and is dangerous for the children. Our oldest son actually had an accident just outside the school just over a year ago when he stepped out in front of a car.

At the request of the school, the vast majority of the parents at St Anthony's park their cars away from the school and walk to the gate rather than parking directly outside which is why the plans would reduce the pedestrian crush at the road crossings without having a major impact on the traffic density. I have certainly taken the school's edict to heart and park the car in Belsize Park, walking the last ten minutes into Hampstead to collect the children, I am there every day and know that the vast majority of St Anthony's parents take a similar responsible approach, listening to the school rules and trying to avoid problems with traffic outside the school.

The proposals, enabling the school to accommodate girls, would also save traffic chaos by enabling parents with children of both sexes to make only one journey at pick up and drop off. Currently, parents who want a Catholic education for

sons and daughters have to undertake complex routes dropping daughters in St Johns Wood at St Christina's or further down Fitzjohn's at St Mary's before making the journey up to St Anthony's. The proposed changes to St Anthony's would allow parents to clear their cars and their kids out of the area much more quickly in the morning and afternoon with a single journey.

For the children themselves the opportunity to have their day on one site rather than having to traipse back and forth across the busy road would be of incredible benefit. They waste so much time and put themselves in genuine danger every time they cross.

I do hope you will grant this planning application and alleviate the paucity of catholic primary places the area as well as simplifying the chaos caused by having a thriving school straddling a busy road.

Yours sincerely

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Hannah Billington