



**ST·GEORGE
& THE ENGLISH MARTYRS**

Serving St Gregory's 'Chapel of Ease', Thorpe Bay

96 Ness Road Shoeburyness Essex SS3 9DH

Telephone: 01702 292726

5th November 2021

Dear Year 5 parent,

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY

In just under a year's time you will be thinking about sending your child to Secondary school and I'm sure that you and your child will eventually form a hierarchy of options nearer the time.

If a Catholic secondary school (e.g. St Thomas More or St Bernard) is part of that, then you need to be aware that an application is considered at various levels. For example, if your child is a baptised Catholic then they will be given a higher priority over a child who is not. Furthermore, if a child is a practising Catholic, then they receive a higher priority than a Catholic who is **not** practising.

How does the Church define practising?

'A practising Catholic is a person who observes the Church's precept of attending Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2041-42)

In other words, **a practising Catholic is someone who comes to Mass every Saturday evening/Sunday.**

To verify that you are a practising Catholic in the context of an application, you must obtain (in October next year) a *Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP)* from your parish priest which will be handed in together with your application form.

Fortnightly or monthly attendance, or attendance at Mass two months before requesting a CCP, does not constitute Catholic practice as per *Canon Law* or the requirements of the *Catholic Education Service*. In these cases, **a CCP will not be given.**

The reason I am writing to you now is that *catholic practice* will be assessed over a substantial period of time, i.e. over 11 months or more.

The guidelines for priests provided by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales asserts that, aside from the parish priest's observations, the responsibility is on the family to provide verification of catholic practice. In order to help you with this, I am providing a 'Mass Registration Card' for those who wish to be recognised as practising Catholics come school application time next year.

If you wish to be considered under the 'practising Catholic' category in October next year, then please contact the Parish Office to arrange to collect a Mass Registration Card as soon as possible. This will need to be signed after Mass by either myself, a visiting Priest, or one of the Stewards standing at the door.

Yours sincerely,

Fr Brett