



R.C. DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN
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Bishop of Aberdeen
Rt Rev Hugh Gilbert O.S.B.

8 September 2026.

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you once again on the vitally important matter of the future of Catholic Education in Aberdeen.

Twice in the last two years Aberdeen City Council's Education Committee has voted to set up a group with representatives from the Church and the Council to explore the possibility of having a Catholic Secondary School. Twice the Council has overturned the decisions of its own committee.

The case for a Catholic secondary in Aberdeen is compelling. The Catholic population of Aberdeen is similar in size to that of Dundee; indeed, there are more school age Catholics in Aberdeen than in Dundee. Dundee has two Catholic secondaries and ten Catholic primaries. Aberdeen has no Catholic secondary and three Catholic primaries. Similar comparisons between Aberdeen and Edinburgh and between Aberdeen and Glasgow demonstrate that Aberdeen is an outlier in its failure to provide for Catholic education.

Of course, it is not only Catholic families who wish to send their children to Catholic schools.

All over Scotland thousands of families who are not Catholic send their children to Catholic secondaries attracted by their distinctive ethos and mission. In September of 2024 inspectors from Education Scotland reported on their visit to St. Joseph's RC Primary in Aberdeen: "Across the school children are motivated to learn in a highly inclusive and diverse learning environment. This is underpinned by the strong Catholic ethos where every child is supported to make good progress in their learning". The Catholic Church would welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with Aberdeen City Council to extend this quality provision to the secondary sector.

If you have children aged from 0 to 18 you can register your interest in a Catholic Secondary by following the link:<https://form.jotform.com/261192155489363> or by scanning the QR code below. This portal will be open until Friday October 9th.



Yours devotedly in Christ,

+ Hugh Gilbert O.S.B.

Bishop
Bishop of Aberdeen

RC Diocese of Aberdeen Charitable Trust
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