

Appendix: Local opposition

241 people sent their comments in opposition to the school in Hampton Water being a faith school, and in favour of it having an inclusive community-ethos. Over 75% of these were from confirmed Peterborough postcodes. A selection of their comments is below, and the full petition will be submitted separately.

1. **Comment #002** I currently live in Hampton Water and part of the reason was the prospect of a new school to which my child will hopefully attend as he will be of age to begin school in Sept 2022 (proposed opening). However, despite being brought up in the Catholic faith, we choose as a family, not to educate our children in a faith school and want a more inclusive environment for our children. It is disheartening to see that only if there isn't a full take up of spaces by Catholic children, will spaces be opened up to non-faith families. I don't want to have to travel to other schools when we will have one on our very doorstep
2. **Comment #003** I am living in Hampton Water and have 2 children. I am not either religious or have any issues with different culture, but I would like to have my child have right to have a place in school closer home in area where we chose to live.
3. **Comment #004** We are going to move to Hampton Water next year and have a daughter who is primary school age. We would like to have a non-faith school in walking distance instead of a Catholic school (as we are not Catholic).
4. **Comment #006** I feel having a faith school will be so detrimental to the rest of Hampton. We are a community, not an isolation of faiths, colour or anything else. All this will do is cause a huge divide in Hampton and I think is extremely unfair to non-faith children who will have to go further afield to go to school when there should be a local school available to them. I have no issues with faith of any sort, but faith schools exclude a high volume of children and is only targeted at a certain audience, which in this day and age should not be allowed and is not acceptable!
5. **Comment #008** Whilst I believe in respecting and preserving faith, I do not believe that the same respect is being granted to those of no faith, or those who are willing to integrate. By opening this school, it will only entrench discrimination and take away the open and diverse community that we have been working hard to build at Hampton Water. The increased traffic (whether a school bus is proposed or not) will have a detrimental impact on the natural qualities of Hampton Water and the peaceful lake, which in sure is a big factor for people choosing to live here. I will be vehemently opposing this school on the basis that it is not inclusive; it is discriminatory and has a complete lack of respect of the individuals living within the catchment area.
6. **Comment #009** Hampton Water is a multi-cultural area and no child should be excluded from attending their local catchment school. The environmental factors should also be considered on the area esp. as this is something the local council support. Hampton Water is a close community where children should be able to go to school altogether and play out together.
7. **Comment #010** We moved to Hampton Gardens with the intention of settling here and starting a family at some point in the near future. Part of the attraction was the family housing and new primary and senior schools that were proposed. In this day and age, it didn't even cross our minds that it could be a faith school. We want our future children to grow up surrounded by other children of all faiths, ethnicities and backgrounds so that they understand and value difference in

others. A faith school which prioritises Catholic children over local residents does not support this. We want to walk our future children to school and back each day, without fear that they might not be accepted to their local school because a Catholic child takes precedence. We don't want increased traffic through our lovely new estate because of people travelling to the school from the wider Peterborough area. We don't want to be forced to travel to a school further away than necessary. We aren't Catholic. Our children won't be raised as Catholic and we would prefer they be exposed to the teaching of all religions, as well as atheist beliefs, in equal measure so they can make their own decisions on what they believe in the future. Faith schools are in my opinion fundamentally wrong, outdated and don't belong in a new, multi-cultural and diverse residential development. We are completely opposed to this.

8. **Comment #015** Hampton waters is made up of people from diverse cultures and we want a school that caters to the children who live in this development. Having a faith school where our kids will not get a place makes no sense. Schools should be built to teach children of all faiths to create a next generation that is inclusive and tolerant, not to exclude because of not belonging to a particular faith. In addition, the amount of outside traffic this would bring in every day to Hampton Water is unimaginable and will fast become a security concern for people living in the development. Is this what the Peterborough council, advertised as the Environmental capital of England want? Forcing kids who live within walking distance to the proposed school to go to a different school by car and allowing a few hundred cars traffic every single day to the school doesn't seem very environment friendly. A faith school is not the need of the people with families who have chosen to make their home in Hampton. The need of the hour is a community school that will address the problem of lack of school places for kids who live locally, a school where parents and kids can walk to, a school where the local community can come together.
9. **Comment #018** Hampton needs a primary school that will accept all children and will not exclude children because they are not of the right religious faith. There is not the demand in Hampton for a faith school but there is the demand for a school that serves the whole of the LOCAL community rather than that of the faith school. That could draw from the whole. Of the city and outlying villages.
10. **Comment #019** Education should be inclusive not exclusive to a certain religion group. School places are limited in Peterborough and this decision to allow a Catholic faith school is outrageous considering the issue with parents trying to place their children in a school in their local area.
11. **Comment #036** A school should be inclusive, meeting the diverse needs of the community. Local children wouldn't be able to attend a local school and would be out of catchment area for other schools meaning they may have to attend a school miles away. Increased traffic if kids are coming from elsewhere, on an already busy road.
12. **Comment #041** I'm moving to the area soon. I don't believe children should be indoctrinated at a young age. Religious Education is fine, but it should be educational, not dogmatically fed into every element of schooling. Faith schools also put an emphasis on one faith over others, which doesn't allow children to fairly decide what religion they wish to follow (if any). I'm also concerned that children will miss out, because they don't practice the same faith as a local school and will be forced to travel outside of their catchment area.
13. **Comment #046** Why exclude the children from the very community that the school is going to be based in? The needs for this area that is vastly growing is greater than the wider population of

Peterborough. Listen to us residents who pay our council taxes and deserve to have our children attend a school locally.

14. **Comment #047** Some of the key principles I believe in are freedom of choice and equality. In these circumstances, I think that it's only fair giving an equal chance to all Hampton Water students to study in their own area. Having in mind the, this school will be built in a residential area, I strongly believe that everyone living in Hampton Water and around must have equal rights in having as a choice this school. Having a school in the area will increase traffic significantly and this is something that we, the Hampton Water residents will have to deal with, therefore I think our opinion must be taken seriously in consideration. I am happy having a school in the area or any kind of institution/business as long as this is available to all Hampton Water residents.
15. **Comment #048** I do not condone a faith school being built but it should not be a single faith in a diverse community. The area will not only be congested with traffic but also this will rob the residence of Hampton Water to send their children to a school in catchment area.
16. **Comment #053** Hampton community has always been an area that prides itself in its mixed population and the area and its schools provide a free environment for children and Adults alike to thrive using their own minds and views. A specific faith school would totally go against what the area stands for. Please do not change this happy philosophy
17. **Comment #055** I feel that a faith school in the heart of a community like Hampton water will force children who live on its doorstep away to further schools. This will mean car journeys to schools further afield. It will also mean vast volumes of vehicles travelling into Hampton water to drop children off from other places. This will create a traffic nightmare for residents. This is also an unnecessary hazard, making children travel across dangerous roads to attend a school further away.
18. **Comment #069** A primary school is needed to cover the demand of our growing community Hampton. We need a school that caters for all children and not just those of faith.
19. **Comment #074** There aren't enough places for the children living in Hampton. Why should parents living in the area have to drive their kids to another school? So much for Peterborough being the environmental city.
20. **Comment #078** I am in the process of purchasing a house on Hampton Water (due to exchange any day now). I have two primary school age daughters who I will need to find school places for. I purposely selected their existing community primary, having attended a religious linked primary myself and not wanting my children to have to attend daily worship, regular out of school church services etc., when I feel this time could be better spent learning about many other things. If this school goes ahead, I amongst many other residents of Hampton Water would not choose to send my children there. There is currently only one access into/out of the estate, with a traffic light-controlled junction from the busy A15. Traffic issues could potentially be massive, with large numbers of children being brought onto the estate, whilst residents have to take their children elsewhere. I have concerns over the value of a property I've not even yet moved into, following the impact of this decision. Peterborough is renowned for its rich multicultural diversity and the general consensus amongst those I have spoken with is that this school is unwanted and ill thought through.
21. **Comment #083** Having to take my children outside of Hampton because there's no room in the schools currently there having a school based on religion is useless for the Hampton community

when we are so lacking in places for all on Hampton. Yes, build more schools but make it for everyone.

22. **Comment #110** I live in the area and I am a teacher. I want to have children and therefore my pupils will attend this school. I do not believe it is right and fair to be a faith school. There is no need for a faith school in the area.
23. **Comment #112** I and my fiancée are moving into our new home in Hampton Water next week. As a future family that is planning to have children and raise them in the atmosphere of tolerance and solidarity, we oppose the idea of having at our doorstep an educational institution that admits students based on sex, religion or race. We find the idea of having a school that admits only students of a certain religion to be mildly said offensive to the residents of the community that have different religions. Moreover, we have no evidence that majority of the people living in Hampton Water will be Catholics. If this is not the case, having a Catholic school in Hampton Water will compel the majority of the children in the neighbourhood to travel miles in order for them to exercise their right of getting proper education. This inequality is not only offensive, but discriminative. In conclusion we want to express our opinion that a school in the area is highly necessary, but it should be open to students from all religions.
24. **Comment #116** The area needs an inclusive school not one based on religion in which case most of the children that live in the area will potentially have to travel out of the area to go to school and most of the children that meet the faith school's criteria will be travelling into the area. This defeats the object of having a school in the area to meet the growing needs of the new development and will also cause more traffic, congestion, parking issues and pollution. Catchment is the main criteria for most schools and children should be given the opportunity to go to their nearest school. The children within the community therefore being able to bond by going to the same local school and more children able to walk to school reducing the amount of people using cars to get to and from school. In a new development bringing families into an area an inclusive school is a necessity.
25. **Comment #118** Hampton is struggling with spaces for school aged children. Having a religious school won't help with the oversubscribed schools in the area. A school suitable for all children is needed more.
26. **Comment #120** My concern is that for 7 years I had to drive my daughter to a school out of Hampton as there were no places. To have a school that its first priority is based on religion rather than geography is wrong. Are there really lots of local Catholics? If so, great they can walk their children to school. I think more likely lots of cars and increase in pollution. A school where people who live near and can walk to is needed. Being at a school miles from friends increased social isolation for my child. Hampton places in schools for Hampton residents. Let's not segregate and have selection and supremacy.
27. **Comment #121** The pressure this will put on primary places in the local community will be very worrying. The number of new homes being built in Hampton will produce new families that will ultimately need primary places. Giving a high number of places to outside catchment is crazy.
28. **Comment #137** I find it extremely unfair that my 3-year-old will not be able to go to a school at the bottom of his street when he's older just because we aren't religious. It seems a nonsense that we would have to travel out of the area to school him when a school is so close to our house.

29. **Comment #140** I am completely against a single faith school, we are a growing community with families of all or no faiths and therefore this school should not be for one faith only. I have seen the criteria to gain a place within the school with favours only Roman Catholic, other Catholic then Christian before any other faith and then no faith at all. During the previous meeting we were told by the Roman Catholic Diocese that children who live in Grantham who are of faith will be given a place over a resident of Hampton Water of a different or no faith. This will increase traffic on the estate as parents from outside our community will be driving their children to this school and local residents will then have to drive their children to schools outside of the area as they do not fit into the entrance criteria of the school on their doorstep. Schools are in such high demand that it seems ridiculous to make this a faith school and exclude hundreds of local children that need access to a local school. We have 3 or 4 schools in the Hampton Area which are not faith specific and all are over-subscribed, therefore we require more non-faith specific schools to keep up with the growing demand of the local area. We were advised at the previous meeting held by the Roman Catholic Diocese that Hampton Water residents can walk to the Hampton Lakes school, this is at least a 30 minute walk and for young children this is not an easy walk and therefore will require parents to drive their cars to take their children to school. What benefit does a faith school have for the community? None. If a family wishes to be heavily involved with a particular faith, then they can do this in their own time. Every faith needs to be considered in this situation and I am sure there are more other faiths and no faith families in Hampton combined than there are Roman Catholic and therefore we should be listening to the demands of the many, not the few. I am not sure if this can count or not, but I am strongly against a faith school.
30. **Comment #141** I was raised in this area. Schools should be there to support the widest group of local residents, not to prop up the church attendance problems of religious denominations in an increasingly secular and religiously diverse society. Children from Catholic families face no discrimination in a secular school - but there's pressure in any Catholic school for those taught there to adopt those mores, whether they believe in them or not. Where local parents support the idea, a secular school should always be preferable.
31. **Comment #159** It [New VA school] would be harmful and damaging to the community in Hampton Waters and in Peterborough as a whole. The Diocese has dismissed claims that the school's admission policy would be discriminatory, even if the admissions to the school weren't discriminatory, its teaching and values would definitely be discriminatory to those that are not Catholic.
32. **Comment #170** The Faith Schools selection process discriminates against those of other faiths or humanists/atheists. In an area such as Hampton where there is an urgent need for a school for all children this proposal is disgraceful. We live in an increasing divisive society. Schools with students of all faiths/beliefs will help children understand others culture, build friendships and aid social cohesion. I love it when my daughter comes home from school to tell me about her Muslim and Sikh friends and the special celebrations, they have had that weekend. As a humanist I am not looking to insulate my child by putting her into a humanist only school. Faith schools only encourage a 'them and us' attitude. Creationism should not be taught in science as fact. Faith teaching in school should be kept to RE lessons and should cover all major faiths or beliefs equally. Sex education in religious schools can be outdated, homophobic, and be gender discriminatory. This is a state funded school if parents want their child to have a religiously biased education, they should practice this outside of school time, with their own money.
33. **Comment #188** We here in Hampton Waters are blessed with a strong and diverse community. A new faith school would bring about the destruction of this.

34. **Comment #194** My grandchildren live in the catchment area and I live locally. I believe that in order to have an integrated society we need schools to be fully inclusive. All children of all religions, colour, disability or gender should have equal access to their local schools without being led down a specific path to a specific faith etc. All faiths should be discussed in Religious education class to give a balanced understanding of them with no preference shown.
35. **Comment #197** As a former teacher, and Catholic, I feel I must oppose the proposal to establish yet another faith school. This society, as never before, needs uniting. As a taxpayer I would feel aggrieved if any child of mine were not able to attend a local community-based school and mix freely with children of any faith or none.
36. **Comment #201** Integration and not segregation is what our community needs, children need to understand and be tolerant of other peoples' religions and beliefs. The school traffic is bad enough in this area, if this proposed school attracts pupils from other areas it will make it worse, more car journeys is more Green House gas production and made further worse if local children can't get in a local school and also have to be drive in the opposite direction. Nothing good can come out of this proposal. I believe money is put up by the development builders, money that we have paid for when buying our houses, is it fair if our children can't get in a local school but children from other areas can, we've been robbed, in that case?
37. **Comment #223** I am currently attending a Catholic secondary school. I feel so left out because I am not Catholic.