

Diocesan report: sixth form college for Southwark

A Roman Catholic sixth form college to serve Wandsworth, Lambeth and Southwark, and housed at the present Clapham College, is among proposals formulated last week by a working party set up by Southwark Diocesan Schools' Commission.

The proposal is contained in a report which looks into the effects of falling rolls on the 19 Catholic secondary schools in South London. The report also recommends a consortium of schools for Greenwich and Lewisham which would operate under a joint management committee containing representatives of each governing body. Schools in this consortium would cater for the full 11-19 age range.

Move to cut school meals cost

A recommendation to reduce the price of school meals from 35p to 25p in September will go before a joint meeting of four sub-committees of the Authority next Tuesday morning.

Frances Morrell, Deputy
Leader of the Authority

The writers of the report recall the time, not so long ago, when it was impossible to find a place for every Catholic child in a Catholic school.

Today there are vacancies in 10 of the schools - a fact which has led the working party to recommend amalgamations, retaining spare accommodation for a possible future reversal in population trends.

Present figures predict a decline of 40 per cent in the numbers entering Catholic secondary schools by the end of the 1980s.

For South and South West London the main recommendations are as follows:

A sixth form college on the premises of Clapham College; amalgamation of John Griffiths school and Notre Dame, Battersea on the site of John Griffiths; of La Retraite High School and Convent of the Holy Family on the La Retraite site; of Notre Dame High School, Southwark and St Veronica's school on the site of Notre Dame High School, Southwark. The pro-

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posed amalgamation of Sacred Heart school and St Michael's should be reassessed in the light of dockland development currently under discussion. The intake of Bishop Thomas Grant and St Thomas the Apostle schools should be reduced to six and five forms of entry respectively.

For South East London the main recommendations are:

A consortium of six Catholic schools with co-operation at sixth form level under representative management committee. The amalgamation of St Joseph's Academy and St Austin's School on the St Joseph's Academy site; the intake of St Theresa's School and Bonus Pastor School to be reduced to four and three forms of entry respectively.

The plans, if approved, would take five or six years to implement with the least possible disruption.

Copies of the report, which have been distributed to interested parties, may be obtained from the Diocesan Schools' Commission, 97A Belmont Hill, SE13.