

Catholic Education Service Press Statement

Admissions to Catholic Schools following the Judicial Review re the Oratory School, Westminster on 17th December 2004

The Catholic Church continues to oppose interviews as part of the selection procedure in the case of over-subscription to Catholic schools. This is backed up by paragraph 3.16 of the School Admissions Code of Practice to which all schools are required to have regard. A recent Judicial Review in the case of the Oratory School does not change this position. However, in the case of the Oratory School, the Judicial Review found that the process of adjudication including timing and communications made it unreasonable for the Oratory not to continue with interviews for this year. This does not mean that any other school may re-introduce interviews this year or in the future. The Judgment in the case of the Oratory and its conduct of interviews applies only to the Oratory and only for this year.

By its very nature, interviews for places can be, even if unwittingly, a system of social selection or selection based on ability. The church is, therefore, pleased that the overarching Government ruling against the practice of interviews for admissions remains in place.

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