



# THE DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE

ST ANDREW'S VILLAGE  
1 FRANCIS THOMAS DRIVE #01-01  
SINGAPORE 359340  
TEL: (65) 6288 8944 FAX: (65) 6288 5538

Bishop of Singapore: Rt Revd Rennis Ponniah  
Assistant Bishops: Rt Revd Low Jee King  
Rt Revd Kuan Kim Seng

Archdeacon of Singapore: Rt Revd Low Jee King

27 April 2016

## COVER LETTER TO VICAR'S ENDORSEMENT FOR AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ONE IN AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL UNDER PHASE 2B

Dear Parent/s,

I am Rev Joshua Sudharman, Chairman of the Education Board of the Diocese of Singapore. I represent the Bishop of Singapore in matters pertaining to our Anglican schools. Please allow me to explain the purpose of the captioned form and the criteria that schools will apply in determining if your application to register your child in an Anglican school under Phase 2B will be accepted.

The form is to establish that at least one parent is a bona fide member of an Anglican parish and demonstrates active commitment to the church community. This criterion of demonstrable commitment is necessary as Phase 2B of the P1 registration process consists of 3 sub-groups, as spelt out in the MOE website:

- a. *For a child whose parent has joined the primary school as a parent volunteer not later than 1 July 2015 and has given at least 40 hours of voluntary service to the school by 30 June 2016.*
- b. *For a child whose parent is a member endorsed by the church/clan directly connected with the primary school.*
- c. *For a child whose parent is endorsed as an active community leader.*

Categories (a) and (c) both require demonstrable commitment, and therefore so must category (b).

The form requires Vicars to answer 4 questions pertaining to the parents' membership, attendance, service and care group involvement, and to answer 'Yes' for each parent with a church stamp.

The objective criteria we are using for endorsement are that the father should have received at least 3 stamps, with a stamp for the first two questions being required; OR the mother should have received at least 3 stamps, with a stamp for the first two questions being required.

If these criteria are met, and the Vicar endorses the application with his signature, the form will be accepted by the school without requiring any further comments by the Vicar.

However we do realise that some may narrowly miss out on the minimum of 3 stamps because of circumstances beyond their control. In such a situation, the church is prepared to make some concessions. Nevertheless we cannot do away with all objectivity and fairness while making these concessions.

So in cases where a parent is short of 1 stamp to meet the criteria of a minimum of 3 stamps (i.e. can only get 2 stamps in total), and there are factors beyond the parent's control why getting a 3<sup>rd</sup> stamp was not possible, the Vicar may have the discretion to write an explanatory note in the box provided in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> stamp to meet the criteria, and endorse the application with his signature. Such a form will still be accepted by the school, i.e. a form endorsed by the Vicar containing 2 stamps for a parent, AND an explanation from the Vicar in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> stamp. (See Appendix for outcomes of various permutations.)

In cases where a parent has not been able to get even 2 stamps, the application will not be accepted by the schools as it falls too far short of the criteria. Vicars have been advised not to endorse such applications, and even if some Vicars do (out of kindness) endorse such a form, the schools have been instructed not to accept them.

We know this may come as a disappointment to those whose applications are not accepted, but we need to do our best to hold in tension the need for objectivity and fairness in the process on one hand, and the need for grace on the other.

Above all, we pray that God Almighty, for whom nothing is too difficult, will bless and prosper the education of your children, whichever schools they are in.

Yours sincerely,



Rev Joshua Sudharman  
Chairman, Education Board  
Diocese of Singapore



## DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE

### VICAR'S ENDORSEMENT FOR AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ONE IN AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL UNDER PHASE 2B

THIS IS THE ONLY FORM THAT WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY OUR  
DIOCESAN SCHOOLS. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS FORM AND  
REGISTRATION UNDER PHASE 2B DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A  
GUARANTEE OF A PLACE IN OUR SCHOOLS.

Full Name of Child	
Birth Certificate No.	
Date of Birth	
School Applied For	<input type="checkbox"/> St Andrew's Junior School <input type="checkbox"/> St Hilda's Primary School <input type="checkbox"/> St Margaret's Primary School

Full Name of Father			
NRIC / Passport no.		Contact/Mobile no.	
Current Parish Membership			
Areas of Active Contribution to Church Life & Ministry			

Full Name of Mother			
NRIC / Passport no.		Contact/Mobile no.	
Current Parish Membership			
Areas of Active Contribution to Church Life & Ministry			

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VICAR:**

	Please mark boxes below with a <b>CHURCH STAMP</b> if the answer is...	
	YES for the FATHER	YES for the MOTHER
1. According to your Parish Records, have the child's parents been <u>Baptised AND Confirmed Members</u> of your church for at least the last 12 months?		
2. Have the child's parents been attending your Parish's worship services at least twice a month (on average) over the last 12 months?		
3. Have the child's parents been actively contributing to the life and witness of your church through serving and giving over the last 12 months?		
4. Have the child's parents been attending one of your Parish care/cell groups at least once a month (on average) over the last 12 months?  Name & Contact no. of Cell Group Leader (if any) :		

**Remarks from the Vicar:**

**DECLARATION OF ENDORSEMENT BY VICAR:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ Vicar of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of Vicar) (name of Parish)

support the application of \_\_\_\_\_ to register for Primary One  
(name of child)

in an Anglican School under Phase 2B.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature and date)