

E & P.H (194⁸) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. NO. Ms. 420.

Dated 3-3-48

closed.

~~u/m~~
Supdt

Scp
28/3/48

15

[Despatch Abstract.]

Schools . Secondary - Aided - St. Theresa's High School, Vadakamangulam.
Restriction in regard to the admission of non catholics - Removal -
Ordered

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Further Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



Rev. Father Xavier Mel Ph.D.,

Correspondent,

ST. TERESA'S HIGH SCHOOL.

VADAKANGULAM,

Dated.....May.....1947.

The Honourable Avinashalingam Chettiar,

Minister for Education,

Government of Madras.

Sir,

Sub: Explicit permission to admit non-catholic pupils
directly into Forms IV, V & VI requested

I have the honour to place before you the following
with the hope that atleast under the present popular
Government, that champion the cause of freedom, justice
will be done to an institution started by no less a person
than the Rt. Rev. Dr. Francius Tiburtius Roche S.J., Bishop
of Tuticorin, the first Indian Bishop of the Latin Rite,
and from the beginning fully staffed by the sons of the
soil:-

(i) As matters stand now, we are debarred from
admitting non-catholic pupils directly into Forms IV, V &
VI of the school.

(ii) This disability was put upon us from the very
beginning. When permission was granted to open Form IV,

Not put the Director in Pres. Dis. No. 1222/36 dated 26-3-36
imposed upon the school a condition that non-catholic pupils



ST. TERESA'S HIGH SCHOOL,
VADAKANGULAM,

Dated.....194 .

should not be admitted. Though it is against all Educational Rules, the management submitted to the humiliation with the hope that better counsels would prevail in course of time.

(iii) We were not altogether disappointed. The Director

Not put up when granting temporary recognition in Pros. Dis. No. 1002/37 dated 3rd March 1937 was pleased to modify partially the orders contained in para 3 of Pros. Dis. No. 1222/36 dated 26-3-36 and permitted the management to promote non-catholic pupils already studying in Form III to Form IV and the other Higher Forms.

Not put up (iv) When representations were made to the Director of Public Instruction by the non-catholic residents of Panagudi, Thanakkarkulam and Sivasubramoniapuram, requesting him to direct the management of St. Teresa's High School, Vadakangulam to admit Hindu and Muhammadan students, they were informed through the District Educational Officer, Tinnevely, in L. Dis. Sc. No. 196/39 dated 14-6-39 " that the question of the removal of the restriction regarding the admission of non-catholics will be considered when the extension of recognition of the school beyond the end of 1941-42 is taken up."

(v) However when permanent recognition was accorded to Forms



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Dated.....194 .

IV, V & VI in Director's Pros. Dis.No. 3164/42 dated 20-8-42
the Correspondent was informed that the restriction regarding
the admission of non-catholics should continue. This was
no doubt a sad disappointment.

(vi) Sir Statham during his ^{last} visit to Tinnevely assured the
then Correspondent Rt.Rev.Mgr.S.Mariadas (now Vicar General
and Administrator of the Diocese of Tuticorin) that the ban
would soon be removed.

(vii) From the foregoing facts, it is quite clear that the
ban regarding the admission of non-catholics in the High
School Forms was never meant to be a permanent one. When
the management renewed its request after Sir Statham's death,
the Director in Re. No. 177 D/46 dated 27-4-46, it was
informed " the restriction regarding the admission of non-
catholics laid down in the Director's Proceedings Dis.No.
3164/42 dated 20-8-42 should continue for 1946-47"

(viii) The matter has now reached the last stage and the only
thing that remains is to remove once for all the ban that
has been the cause of our being misunderstood by the non-
catholic brethren in this part of the province.



ST. TERESA'S HIGH SCHOOL,
VADAKANGULAM,

Dated.....194 .

(ix) The management is being pressed on all sides by non-catholic parents to admit their sons into the Higher Forms of the school as they are not rich enough to send them to far-off places. The management feels that the restriction put upon them hinders the spread of Secondary education in these parts.

(x) The management, therefore, requests you, Sir, to issue an explicit order throwing open Forms IV, V & VI of St. Teresa's High School to pupils of all creeds and denominations in keeping up with the spirit of the times.

(xi) I am sure that in doing so you will be creating an atmosphere of confidence among the Catholic Christians of this province.



I beg to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Barrie Mel
Correspondent.

Encl. 46502/47-B1-1 26.8.6/47 Edn. & P. H. Dept

Forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction for enquiry and report.

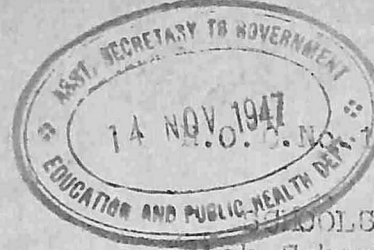
Advis. Secy. Secy. Secy.

To
the Director of Public Instruction

5/6/47

Office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras

Dr. S. R. U. Saver, M.A., D.Sc., I.E.S.,
Director of Public Instruction.



Dated 10th Nov. 1947

Subject.

SCHOOLS--Admission of non-catholics in the St. Theresa's High School, Vadakangulam--Removal of ban.

Reference:--Government Endorsement No. 46.502/47-B1 dated 6.6.1947 on letter dated May 1947 of the Correspondent, St. Theresa's High School, Vadakangulam.

Resubmitted.

2. The circumstances that led to the imposition of restriction in regard to admission of non-catholics in the St. Theresa's High School, Vadakangulam and the present position of the locality are explained in endorsement R.C. 447(A)B/47 dated 21.8.1947 and letter R.C. 447(a)B/47 dated 22.10.1947 of the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Madras, copies of which are herewith enclosed.

3. A copy of my proceedings R.C. No. 177-D/46 dated 4.6.1947 is also appended herewith.

4. I consider that the present state of affairs should continue and recommend that the restriction should not be removed.

FOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

To

The Secretary to Government of Madras,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

ks.12-11.

Madura, Dated 21st August 1947.

Sub:--Schools--Admission of non-catholics in the St. Theresa's High School, Vadakkangulam--Removal of ban.

Ref:--Director's Proceedings Rec. No. 1777-D/46 dated 23.6.1947.

Resubmitted to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras. The first High School, that was opened at Vadakkangulam was the one started by the M.E.L.I. Mission, now known as the Concordia High School.

On a representation by the Catholic body of Vadakkangulam, the St. Theresa's Higher Elementary School was permitted to be converted into a Middle School in Pres. R. C. No. 190-D/32 dated 15.6.32 of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras with the definite stipulation that the school would not be allowed to open Form IV. Obviously this stipulation was found necessary to ensure the ordered progress of the school, which was originally started (Concordia High School) and avoid unhealthy competition and rivalry between the two schools, resulting in an overlapping of educational effort in a village like Vadakkangulam.

But the Correspondent, St. Theresa's High School, Vadakkangulam applied to the District Secondary Education Board for permission to open Form IV. The District Secondary Education Board considered this application at its meeting held on 10.4.34 and passed the following resolution:-

"In view of the fact that Vadakkangulam is an important Catholic Centre, and the Catholic Mission desires to start a high school exclusively for the benefit of local Catholic scholars and resident Catholic scholars from the Diocese of Tuticorin, and in view of their understanding not to admit non-catholic students in any of the High School classes, this Board is of opinion that M.E.L.I.M. High School (Concordia High School) will not prejudicially be affected and recommends the grant of recognition for Form IV in St. Theresa's High School, Vadakkangulam."

The Director of Public Instruction, was therefore pleased to grant permission for the opening of Form IV in St. Theresa's High School, on condition that non-catholics are not admitted in the higher forms (Vide Dis. No. 1806/35 dated 26.4.35 of the Director of Public Instruction). Reference was again made to this restriction in the order of the Director's granting permission to open Form V (Vide Re. No. 423-D/36 dated 29.5.36 of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.).

Temporary recognition for forms IV and V was accorded in Pres. Dis. No. 1002/37 dated 3.3.1937. In this order, the Director was pleased, on due representation, to modify the restriction regarding the admission of non-catholics imposed in his Dis. No. 1806/35 dated 26.4.35 and Re. No. 423-D/36 dated 29.5.1936. As per this modification, the management, was permitted to allow only such of those non-catholic students as were promoted from III Form in the same school, to study in the IV and higher forms. Permission to open Form VI was granted in Rec. No. 244-D/37 dated 9.4.37, and temporary recognition for Forms IV to VI, was accorded in Dis. No. 5402/37 dated 3.12.1937. In as much as these two proceedings did not make any mention, about the restriction regarding the admission of non-catholics in higher forms (IV to VI) the Bishop of Tuticorin took it for granted that there was an implied removal of the restriction and addressed the Director requesting for an explicit permission on the point.

The Director sent a reply to the Bishop of Tuticorin in his Re. No. 323-D/38 dated 29.10.1938, in the following terms "You had placed a wrong interpretation upon the Director of Public Instruction's Proceedings Re. No. 244-D/37 dated 9.4.37 sanctioning the opening of Form VI in the school. In issuing these proceedings it was not thought necessary to reiterate the restriction that non-catholics are not to be admitted into the higher forms of the school (i.e.) into Forms IV, V and VI. Non-catholics shall not be admitted into these forms, except pupils promoted from Form III

school. These orders should be carefully observed in future". The same view was held in the order granting permanent recognition to the School (Vide Dis. No. 3164/42 dated 20.8.1942) and re-iterated in Pros. No. 177-D/46 dated 27.4.1946 and 4.6.47, issued in reply to the representation of the Correspondent regarding the restriction. No change in the position of the two schools, has occurred as to warrant a reconsideration of the orders passed so recently as 4.6.1947.

I shall now pass on to the points raised in the letter of the Correspondent, St. Theresa's High School dated 11. May '47 to the Hon'ble Minister for Education.

(i) Items I and II:- As evidenced by the resolution No. 1 of the Dt. Secondary Education Board at the meeting held on 10.4.1934 the management is fully aware even at the outset of the conditions under which it was permitted to open IV Form and no new disability has been sprung upon the management.

(ii) Item III:- The Director was pleased to modify the original restriction, to give the non-catholic boys studying in the school the benefit of continuous study in the same school though the management proposed its opening exclusively for the benefit of Catholic pupils (Vide resolution No. I Dt. Secondary Education Board dated 10.4.34 - Para-supra.)

(iii) Items IV & V:- As promised, the question was considered and orders were issued, retaining the restriction, as it was felt obviously necessary to avoid unhealthy competition and rivalry between the two schools (Vide Dis. No. 3164/42 dated 20.8.1942).

(iv) Item VI:- I am not aware of any assurance given by Sir Statham and there is nothing on record in my office.

(v) Items VII to XI:- The restriction originally imposed is necessary and still there, from its very inception as a High School and I learn from the Headmaster of the Concordia High School that he had no occasion to refuse admission to any non-catholic, on the score of want of accommodation. Accommodation is available in the school for the admission of pupils in the high school classes. I do not think that there is any handicap to the public on account of this restriction as there is full scope for further admission in High School forms in the Concordia High School which caters to the needs of a large section of non-catholic pupils. As such, it seems to me that the existing state of affairs may be allowed to continue, as that alone in the light of past experience also would be most conducive to the effective working and peaceful atmosphere of both the institutions. There is absolutely no case for any reconsideration of the orders passed so recently as 4.6.47 (Vide Re. No. 177-D/46 dated 4.6.1947).

(True copy).

II.

Copy of letter No. No. 447(a)B/47 dated 22nd October 1947 from the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Madras Division, Madras to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

Subject:- Admission of non-catholics in St. Theresa High School, Vadakangulam.

Refce.:-- Your Pres. Re. No. 177-D/46 dated 23.6.1947.

In continuation of this office letter Re. No. 447(a)B/47 dated 3.9.1947, I have the honour to submit herewith the revised statistical particulars as desired by the Director of Public Instruction.

Out of 358 pupils in St. Theresa High School, Vadakangulam, there are 85 non-catholics (14 in the Higher forms and 71 in the Lower Forms), further out of 136 pupils who are boarders, only 81 belong to Nanguneri Taluk in which Vadakangulam is situated and the rest are distributed as follows:--

Thiruchendur .. 27; Srivalkanten .. 7; Madras .. 2; Tuticorin ..
Kollipatty .. 12; Sankaranthol .. 1; Tenkasi .. 2; Travancore ..
Total .. 56.

The School is, therefore, maintaining its strength by drawing pupils from other places. The institution is levying a lower rate of fees than that of the Concordia High School.

In this connection, I wish to invite your kind attention to the fact that the management of the St. Theresa's High School has been freely admitting Non-Catholic pupils in lower forms and these are being continued in the school in the higher forms also as they are promoted till they complete their S.S.L.C. Course. I am told that the relaxation made in Proceedings Dis. No. 1002/37 dated 3.3.47 i.e. "in partial modification of orders contained in para 3 of Pros. Dis. No. 1222/36 dated 26.3.1936 the management is permitted to admit into Form IV non-catholic pupils already studying in Form III of the school" is interpreted to mean that this could be done. But it seems to me that only pupils in Form III of that year could be permitted to be continued in the school in higher forms. But there is a letter Re. No. 323-D/38 dated 29.10.38 of the Director addressed to the Bishop of Tuticorin which could be interpreted to mean that the admission of Non-Catholic pupils in these forms could be made perhaps every year, because pupils promoted from III Form in the school could be retained.

Anyway the fact is that Non-Catholic pupils have been freely admitted into Form I to III and are allowed to go up to Form IV and complete their S.S.L.C. course, in the school. There is, however, no direct admission into Higher Forms. Whether it was the intention of the Director to allow non-catholic pupils to study in Forms IV to VI by promotion from lower forms into which admission was not restricted, thus to some extent nullifying the spirit with which the ban on the admission of non-catholic pupils in Forms IV to VI imposed, is a question to be considered now.

(True copy).

III.

Copy of Proceedings Re. No. 177-D/46 dated 4.6.1947 of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

Subject:- Schools--Admission of non-catholics in the St. Theresa's High School, Vadakangulam--Removal of ban--Request negatived
READ:-- Letter dated 1.6.1947 from the Correspondent, St. Theresa's High School, Vadakangulam.

The Correspondent is informed that it is not possible to remove the ban on the admission of non-catholics in the school during 1947-48.

2. He is also informed that his request for the removal of the ban should have been sent through the proper channel (the District Educational Officer) and in time.

/True copy/.

FOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Rs. 12-11.

406502/47-1 En

30/12/47

T.M (by post)

From

The Assistant Secretary ZNM Dept

To

The Deputy D.D.

Reference Director's letter Roc. No 177 D/46 of 10.11.47 regarding the removal of the restriction in regard to the admission of non-Catholics in the St. Theresa's High School Vadakangulam.

Please say whether there are any other cases where similar restrictions have been imposed and if so to furnish a list of such restrictions with reasons for the imposition of the restriction in each case and also whether the imposition of such restrictions has been in consultation with Govt of

PC

KSN
28.12.47

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whether they have notified the acting
the D.P.D. in any case either
an appeal for the management affected
in any other connection.

25/11/48
Reference Director's letter No. 11/2/48
in regard to the admission of non-Catholics
in the St. Theresa's High School, Vadakangulam.
Please refer whether there are any other
cases where similar restriction have been
imposed and if so to forward a list of such
institutions with reasons for the imposition
of such restriction in each case.

TELEPHONIC MESSAGE BY POST DATED 11--2--1948.

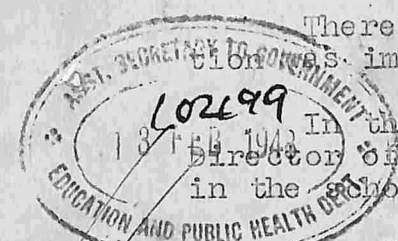
Deputy
From the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

To the Assistant Secretary, Edn & P.H. Health Department.

pp. 10-11 and

Ref: Your T.M. by post, dated 30-12-1947 regarding the removal
of the restriction in regard to the admission of non-catho-
lics in the St. Theresa's High school, Vadakangulam.

There appears to be no other case where similar restric-
tions imposed.



In the present case, the late Mr. H. Champion then Deputy
Director of Public Instruction permitted the opening of Form IV
in the school on condition that non-Catholics are not admitted.

The Divisional Inspector has also recently remarked that
such restriction has been conducive to the efficient working and
peaceful atmosphere of both the schools.

J. A. S. S. S.
Deputy Director of Public Instruction

P.R.K. 11/2/48

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11/2

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ETOM(51)

11/2
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pp1-4cf

15cf
112cf

2/3/48

Schools. Secondary - Aided - St Theresa's High School, Vadakkangulam - Restriction in regard to the admission of non-catholics - Removal - Ordered

From the Correspondent St Theresa's High School Vadakkangulam 8 May 1947

From the DPJ Roc. no 1772/46 8.10.11.47
" TM by post 8.11.2.48

Order no 420 edu. 3-3-48
The DPJ is informed that the restrictions imposed in regard to the admission of non-catholics in the St Theresa's High School Vadakkangulam, should be removed and the management should be permitted to admit pupils of all creeds & denominations in Forms IV to VI of the school from the next school year. The Director is also
P.T.O

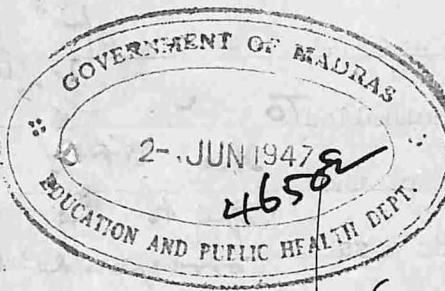
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informed that in future no such restrictions ^{according to Committee} should be imposed in respect of restrictions under ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~management~~ ^{management} ~~in the future~~ ^{in the future} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~removed~~ ^{removed}.

2/ The correspondent St. Teresa's High School Vadakangulam is referred to the D.P.I. for orders on his representation to go on the subject mentioned above.

27.2.48 by 484.

To ^{Do} ^{2/5/48}
The D.P.I.
Copy to the
Correspondent
St. Teresa's High
School
Vadakangulam
(Para 2 only)



Secretary, E. & P.H.

PP. 1-4 C.7.

Please see herewith a representation from Rev. Father Xavier, Correspondent of the St. Teresa's High School, Vadakangulam. The D.P.I. may be asked to put up the facts of the case.

TSA
1.6.47
H.M. Edn.

A Draft endorsement to the D.P.I. is submitted below for approval.

Mr
576.
484
576/47

6-6-47

P. 4 C.7.

Issued as Endt. No. 46502/47-81-1-Ed
dated, 6-6-47.

P. 5 C.7.

C. No. 90181. 7 from the D. P.I., R.O. C. No. 177-D/46
dated, 10-11-47.
(P. T.O.)

2.

Please see the petition from the correspondent of the St Teresa's High school Vadakangulam on pages 1-4 C.F. in regard to the removal of the condition of recognition that non-catholics should not be admitted into Forms IV to VI of the school and the report of the Divisional Inspector of schools, Madura, thereon on pages 6-8. C.F. The Divisional Inspector has pointed out that this restriction came to be imposed to prevent rivalry with the Concordia High School in the same locality into which non-catholics are freely admitted and that in the interests of the smooth working of the institutions, he considers that the restriction may be continued. He says that there is no handicap to the public on account of the fact that the higher forms in the St Theresa's high school are not thrown open to the public as there is full scope for further admission into the Concordia High School. The Director agrees with the Divisional Inspector that the present state of affairs should continue and that the restriction should not be removed. For orders whether the Director's view ^{may} ~~will~~ be concurred in and the request of the correspondent of the St Theresa's High school to throw open the higher forms to all castes and communities may be negatived. Attention is in this

A

connection solicited to rule 1 of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

The file may be circulated to H.M. (Edn).

St Teresa's High School Vadakangulam has been working as a complete high school from 1937 onwards.

The fact that there is another high school in the locality, the Concordia High School, should not be an obstacle for parents to have their children admitted in the ^{better} ~~best~~ ^{two} schools available. The ^{best} ~~best~~ school will ^{as efficient} ~~always~~ ^{attract} ~~attract~~ students. No bar on such national flow of students or in their choice for the better institution need be imposed. If this view is agreed to the D.I. may be asked to cancel the existing ban regarding admissions in Forms IV to VI of the St Teresa's High School.

Have we had any other cases like this? Similar thinking has been imposed to avoid 'visiting' by many.

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with reference to Secretary's query on page 3 ante, it is submitted that no such cases has so far come to the notice of Govt.

A draft T.M. to the D.P.I. is submitted below for approval

USK
24.12.47

[T.M. to the D.P.I. dated 6.1.48]

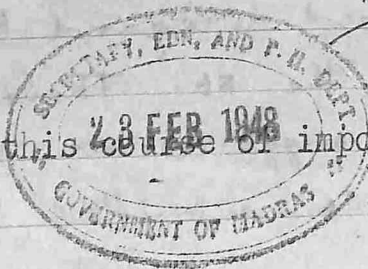
p 10 of.

Post copy of T.M. from the D.P.I. dated 11.2.48 p 12 of.

It is reported that there appears to be no other case where similar restriction has been imposed. This ^{the ban imposed on admissions in St. Theresa's High School} for consideration whether it should be removed. The file may now be circulated to HM (Edn) for orders. ^{with}

reference to A on p 2 ante

USK
14.2.48



I think this course of imposing restrictions by way

OSK
16/2

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of castes or communities is a very bad precedent. I understand some such restrictions have been made with reference to other schools mainly Catholic in Malabar. They came to my notice when I was on tour in those districts. Instructions may be issued to the D.P.I. that hereafter no restrictions according to communities should be placed on institutions like the one suggested in this.

TSA

21-2-48

Please see the minutes of HM (Edn) above. It is presumed that he has agreed to the removal of the restriction imposed in regard to the admission of non-catholics in the St. Theresa's High School Vadallangulam, as suggested ab X on page 4 ante. A draft order is submitted below for

P.7

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approval. The D.P.I. will have to modify his
USK previous orders imposing the restrictions.
26.2.48

27.2.48 S by
USK.

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80-2-16

Please see the minutes of H.M. (20) 20.2.48
of January at a large and at least 1000000 a
the restriction imposed in regard to the admission
of new calls in the 20. The case H.M. 20.2.48
is suggested as a possible solution to the problem
A draft order is submitted below for
approval.