



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Back Lane Little Crosby
Liverpool L23 4TS
Tel: 0151 924 4447

<http://www.stmaryscatholicps.co.uk>

In God's light, we love, learn and grow together



Notice of Intention to Consult to become and Academy within a Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

Dear Parents,

As you may be aware, it is government policy to encourage and support all schools to become academies, and in particular for schools to make this decision themselves. At the same time, local authorities are reducing the services that they have available to schools as budgets are continually reduced.

Against this background, the Governors and I have been considering our options for some time. I alongside the Governors believe that academy status within a CMAT is the best way to support St Mary's in continuing to develop and improve. Working together within the Trust will bring benefits to teaching and learning and this will impact positively on children's achievement.

On November 14th 2023, the Governing Body passed a resolution proposing that St Mary's Catholic Primary School becomes an academy and joins with Pope Francis Catholic Academy.

This letter is to advise you that we plan to organise a formal consultation on the proposal to become an academy within the Pope Francis CMAT on Thursday 11th January 2024. Children can attend after school club but not the meeting. In considering conversion, please be assured that the over-riding concern of Governors is to ensure that our school continues to provide the best possible standard of education and care for our children.

Key points of converting to Academy status within a Multi-Academy Trust

- Our school will retain its character and will continue to look, feel and be the same as it is now with the same uniform, school name, school times, holiday patterns and admission policy. Most of the changes will be behind the scenes.
- The CMAT organisation does not affect your choice of secondary school for your child. We will continue to work closely with all our local schools when taking part in competitions, performances, staff training and transition events.
- Myself as Headteacher and the Governing Body will continue to lead our school on a daily basis as we do now, and parents will continue to be represented on the Governing Body.
- The CMAT arrangements will share some services across the schools, which will help them be more efficient and make sure that funding is focused on teaching, learning and support for children. These services will grow over time and St Mary's will become an integral part in shaping the primary CMAT.

- Staff will be transferred to the CMAT on existing terms and conditions, under TUPE regulations. I know that the new opportunities afforded by the CMAT will reassure and encourage staff that they remain a vital part of the school's commitment to our children.

An academy is a state funded school that is run independently of the local authority. Funding is received directly from central government, meaning that the myself and the Governing Body have greater freedoms in using this funding in the way that they think will most benefit the children. By working together with other schools, we can use our resources more effectively and support one another to improve children's education. As the first primary school within the Trust, we will have the opportunity to help decide how the primary Trust develops.

We are engaging with parents, carers, staff, governors and the wider community on the proposals to convert to academy status and form a CMAT. The consultation period will run from the 1st January 2024 to 1st February 2024. The meeting will take place on Thursday 11th January at 3:30-4:40pm and will be an opportunity to ask questions about the proposal and how this will affect the school and your child(ren). Governors and school leadership will be available to talk to you and you will be able to register your comments, queries and any thoughts on opportunities or concerns.

There are many myths and bad press regarding academies, some with reason and some without. I want to make it clear that this is not being forced on us and it is a school choice. I would never do anything to damage St Mary's and truly believe this is the way forward to protect our special school.

Yours faithfully

Headteacher – Mrs. K. Scott

Chair of Governors – Mr. D. Corbett