St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School – A Catholic Voluntary Academy

DIOCESE OF HALLAM
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ROTHERHAM LA
Lidgett Lane, Dinnington, Sheffield S25 2QD

Tel 01909 550123 E mail: office@stjdinnington.co.uk
Headteacher: Miss LJ Atkinson

Monday 18th September 2023

Dear Governors and Staff of St. Joseph's,

As we start this new school year, I am writing to update you with our progress towards joining the St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust (CMAT). As you are aware, earlier this year we ran a consultation process to gain the views and answer questions of all stakeholders with regards to joining the CMAT. After this process was completed, the Governing Body resolved for Saint Joseph's to join the St Francis trust. We are currently on track to convert and join the CMAT on 1st November 2023. At this stage, we are offering you all the opportunity to pose any additional questions that you may have and to give our new staff the opportunity to see all the information that had previously been made available. The following information was shared at the beginning of the year:

As you are aware, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a Single Voluntary Academy within the Diocese of Hallam. In line with the Bishop's vision for education, it is proposed that the academy trust will join the St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust (CMAT), meaning that it can give support to and gain support from other schools within the CMAT.

What will becoming a CMAT mean for St Joseph's?

Currently St Joseph's is supported by the Holy Spirit Umbrella Trust. If St Joseph's joins the CMAT, the governance arrangements for St Joseph's will change. The Governing Body will become a Local Academy Board, who will continue to support, challenge and guide our school. The Headteacher and the Local Academy Board will report to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Trust Board of the CMAT.

What are the benefits of being a CMAT?

In the school's opinion, the benefits are numerous:

• We will be able to formally collaborate with our Catholic feeder Primaries, the Primaries in the wider Diocese and our partner Catholic Secondary Schools.

• We will be able to share good practice and learn from each other, to better the education of our children.

• We will be able to achieve much greater value for money, using economies of scale, so that our children learn in the best of environments.

• We will be able to engage in excellent professional development for our staff and succession plan for the future

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Are there any disadvantages to becoming a CMAT?

As a CMAT, the Trust Board will be accountable for any other academies that join the CMAT, not just St Joseph's. This means increased responsibility. However, as part of the conversion process, the governing body will ensure that careful decisions are taken to ensure that the right governance structure and systems are in place, to successfully operate more than one academy.

What else will change?

We do not intend to change anything else about the day to day operation of St Joseph's, as a result of converting to a CMAT.

How can I find out more?

There is more information about CMAT academies on the DfE website: http://www.education.gov.uk/academies You can find more information specific to St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust (CMAT) on the following link: https://stfcmat.com/

If you can't find the answer to your question here, or on the DfE website, please email Headteacher Laura Atkinson at latkinson@stjdinnington.co.uk, who will try to assist.

How can I make representations?

If you have any additional comments or questions, please do take a moment to share them with us. https://forms.office.com/e/A6YX1u0vti

The form will be available until lunchtime on Friday 6th October 2023.

Yours Sincerely,

Laura Atkinson

Headteacher