

ST TERESA'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

5 MacDonald Road
Irlam
Manchester
M44 5LH

Tel : 0161 921 2055
Email: stteresas.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.st-teresas.salford.sch.uk>



Head Teacher: Mrs S Burgess

04 December 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and other Stakeholders,

I am writing to you to share some important and exciting news about the future of St Teresa's RC Primary School. The Governing Body has asked me to consult with parents/carers and all relevant stakeholders on the prospect of St Teresa's RC Primary School becoming a voluntary academy.

Over the past eighteen months our Bishop, John Arnold has been working with our schools to consider how best we can work together for the common good. Bishop John has made clear that he would like all schools in the Salford Diocese to join one of three Catholic Academy Trusts. We at St Teresa's would join the St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust. The Diocese have set out at a timetable for all seventy schools to join the Trust and the plan is that we would be amongst the last group of six schools to join the Academy Trust in 2030.

Our Governing Body have discussed this over the course of this term and are now keen to formally explore joining this Trust ahead of our planned joining date. Our school is stable and we see the benefits that being part of this Trust would bring. We are keen to join earlier as not only can we help shape this Trust as it grows, but we can also use some of our skills and talents to help other schools and collaborate outside our own local authority. We are clear that this would be in the interests of our children. The Governing Body of St Teresa's have met with leaders from St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust and they were reassured to know that the Mission of the Trust very much aligns with our own school Mission - to keep children at the heart of every decision we make. The Governors see that joining the Trust will be a great opportunity to move forward together and fulfil our diocesan mission. On Wednesday 29th November Governors made the decision to seek consent to become a voluntary academy and stage 1 of this process has been sent to Salford Diocese. If successful, St Teresa's will then start the conversion process. The process itself can take up to a year, with many checks made on the school to ensure it is ready to be part of the CAT.

Continued/.....

Our children will not notice any immediate difference, they will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. We would still have the same identity and continue to be part of our Parish family. Our curriculum would remain the same and be mindful of our local need. In time the children will benefit from the extra opportunities given to us as an academy and there will be impact from the opportunity to collaborate with the other schools within the Trust. We will also benefit from the support that the Trust can provide at a time when the LA services are diminishing.

As part of this process we are keen to take the views of you all. Should you have any questions or queries about our thinking on this issue, please do not hesitate to email them to stteresas.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk

We will of course continue to update you as we begin this journey over the coming weeks and months.

Yours faithfully
Sandra Burgess
Headteacher