



St. Ethelbert's R.C. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. M. Messham

12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you of some very important and exciting news about the future of St. Ethelbert's RC Primary School. In March 2022, the government published its White Paper, which stated that by 2030, all schools will be expected to become part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). A MAT is a group of schools which work together to share best practice, so that educational standards are raised and greater value for money can be secured through joint buying power.

The school's governors have discussed whether St. Ethelbert's should stay under the control of Bolton Council or whether we should seek to join a MAT. On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, the decision was made to seek consent to become a voluntary academy and stage 1 of this process has been sent to Salford Diocese. If successful, St. Ethelbert's will become part of the St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust (CAT), which currently contains six schools - two secondary and four primary. By 2030, the CAT will serve all Catholic schools in Bolton, Bury, Rochdale and Salford. The governors feel that St. Ethelbert's will benefit from being in the CAT at an early stage, so that leaders can play a part in shaping its work.

The conversion process can take up to a year, with many checks made on the school to ensure it is ready to be part of the CAT. Therefore, if successful, St. Ethelbert's will only become a voluntary academy on **3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023** at the earliest.

So what does this mean for parents, children and staff? Well, the day-to-day running of the school will be very similar to how it is now. Our St. Ethelbert's name, our uniform, even the Headteacher will all remain as they are now – our identity will not change. We will still be members of the Salford Diocese family of schools. There will be no negative impact on our curriculum offer, including Religious Education, or on our admissions policy. Staff will transfer their employment from Bolton Council to the CAT; they will have access to continued professional development opportunities with our partner academies, but will also continue to work with colleagues from our Bolton family of schools.

This letter is part of the consultation process with parents, staff and local stakeholders. We welcome any questions or comments you might have. These can be submitted via email at [office@st-ethelberts.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-ethelberts.bolton.sch.uk).

Thank you for your continued support,

M. Messham  
Headteacher