



ST ANTONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Miss Chantal Pampellonne

Mornington Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0TX

Tel: 020 8504 4706 www.stantonyscatholicps.co.uk

27th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re Consultation for St Antony's Catholic Primary School to Convert to Academy Status

I write to you regarding a very important development within the Diocese of Brentwood that affects all Catholic Primary and Secondary schools. On 9th September 2018 (Education Sunday) Bishop Alan Williams' pastoral letter told parishioners of his vision for all Catholic schools within the Diocese of Brentwood to become part of Catholic Multi Academy Trusts (CMATs), grouped in geographical areas. He detailed the opportunities for staff to build upon existing networks to further support the excellent work of Catholic schools across the Diocese in delivering holistic education based upon Gospel values. There has also been much talk in the media about academies, free schools and Multi Academy Trusts (MATs). All of these exist across the country and in our locality. All of these have been part of the educational landscape for a number of years as a direct result of government policy.

The Headteachers of Catholic schools across Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham have been meeting regularly over the last 3 years to discuss how this may work in the future so every school has a voice. Every school will maintain its own identity but will have the opportunity to contribute to the continued development of the excellent Catholic schools spanning this geographical area.

After careful consideration and preliminary discussions with the Diocese and Governing Board St Antony's Catholic Primary School has decided that they wish to explore conversion to Academy status and, in particular to form a Catholic multi-academy trust with the Good Shepherd Trust which currently comprises of six Catholic primary schools and one Catholic secondary school across Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham. A period of consultation now begins; and a response form is attached.

I thought it may be helpful to explain a little more about multi-academy trusts in an attempt to answer any initial queries you may have as we start this consultation process.

What are MATs?

A multi-academy trust (MAT) is a single entity established to undertake a strategic collaboration to improve and maintain high educational standards across a number of schools. A group of schools form a single MAT which has overarching responsibility for their governance.

Like everything, there are very good MATs which are making a real difference to, and improving the educational outcomes of, the young people that they serve and there are those that have performed less well.

What will it mean for our school?

I am writing to you because it is crucial to all schools that they are prepared for the future and how they can continue to provide excellent education to the children whom they serve.



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If the school joins the MAT there will be very little, if any, changes you will notice. The main changes will take place at Governing Board level as the role of our schools' governors will change, but they will still be there to carry out their main role of helping to preserve and develop the Catholic vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school by supporting and challenging each school's leadership team.

What does this mean for you and your child?

Essentially, everything that you signed up for when you sent your child to St Antony's Catholic Primary School will remain the same when the school joins the Catholic MAT. Your child will continue to be taught by the teachers employed by school and the same ethos and values remain in place. However, we will then be in the position of being able to share expertise and resources more effectively across a number of schools in the CMAT so that we can continue to improve outcomes for our children.

The Future

Having researched and spoken to other schools that are in Catholic MATs, it is clear that there are many opportunities and benefits of being in a CMAT. Whilst schools are able to protect their individuality, they are also able to enhance the quality of the education to the young people that they serve.

A more comprehensive list of frequently asked questions is available to view on the school website.

How to take part in the consultation process

Your views are important to us, so please take the opportunity to complete the attached response form and return it to the school office in an envelope clearly marked 'Consultation Response'. The closing date for receipt of all forms is 27th March 2020, after which the Governors will meet to discuss your replies.

Many thanks in anticipation for your involvement in the consultation process and we look forward to hearing your views on this new and exciting opportunity.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Pampellonne
(Headteacher)

God is at the heart of our school