

Holy Rosary RC Primary

Fir Tree Avenue
Fitton Hill
Oldham
OL82SR



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may already be aware, it is the wish and expectation of Rt Rev John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, that all Catholic schools across the Diocese of Salford join one of three Catholic Academy Trusts (CATs). A Catholic Academy Trust is the most effective organisational structure for all Diocesan schools, benefiting both the schools and their communities now and in the future.

Academies are publicly funded schools that operate outside Local Authority control. They receive funding directly from central government, through the Education Funding Agency (EFA), rather than via a Local Authority. The government describes them as independent, state-funded schools. Academies have more freedom than other state schools in areas such as finances, the curriculum, term lengths, school days, and teachers' pay and conditions.

A Catholic Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is responsible for running the academy. It has three layers of governance:

- **Members:** guardians of the constitution,
- **Directors/Trustees:** legally responsible for running the Trust, and
- **Local Governors:** responsible for monitoring standards in individual schools within the Trust.

The 'Members' of any Catholic Academy Trust in the Diocese of Salford will always include the Diocesan Bishop, Corporate Trustee, and the Episcopal Vicar for Education.

It is the Bishop's wish that the individual character and charism of each school be protected and, indeed, enhanced while giving Catholic education a more effective voice through the Catholic Academy Trust structure. Academisation strengthens the central task of promoting and developing a distinctly Catholic ethos in our schools and the communities they serve.

I am writing to inform you that, following approval from the Diocesan Trustee Board, the governors have made a formal application to the Secretary of State for Education via the Department for Education (DfE) for a Voluntary Academy Order. This means our school will join the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust. At this time, no fixed date has been set for the conversion.

Although this is a board decision, I would like to give parents and carers an opportunity to comment on the future direction of our school. I understand that some may have many questions about the process. A full list of common questions and answers is available on the Salford Diocesan website at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Shaping-the-future-structure-of-diocesan-schools-FAQs-1.pdf>. Information regarding the Emmaus CAT can be found on their website at <https://emmauscat.com>.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. If you have any further questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact us via the school office at info@holyrosary.oldham.sch.uk.

Kind regards,

Paul Devine

Chair of Governors