



St Stephen's RC Primary School

'A world class school for children that want to make the world a better place as God intended.'

Headteacher: Mr C Lavin

admin@stsrcp.co.uk

www.stsrcp.school

Friday 14th October 2022

Dear families of St Stephen's,
I hope you are well.

Last academic year the Government published the 'Schools White Paper' which set out its aim for the future of the Education System over the next few years, setting clear targets for 2030. One of the main objectives is that all schools across the country will join an Academy Trust.

The Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust has been identified by the Diocese of Salford as a suitable Trust to take forward this vision for Catholic education in the Salford Diocese. After careful consideration and preliminary discussions, the Governing Board of St Stephen's have decided that they wish to proceed with joining the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust.

The Bishop's vision that has been shared with schools is that all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Salford footprint will join a Diocese of Salford Trust and Emmaus is the Trust that Tameside Catholic schools will join.

The school's currently in the Emmaus Trust are:

- St Antony's RC High School
- St Anne's RC High School
- St Chad's RC Primary School
- St Matthew's RC High School
- Mount Carmel RC Primary School

Many other schools are also in discussions like us.

The rationale behind the Bishop's vision for all schools moving towards academisation is to make sure that we protect, preserve and promote Catholic education in the Diocese of Salford. The Catholic Academy Trust model will ensure that the uniqueness of each individual school is celebrated and the unique contribution of each is recognised and appreciated. It will also mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulnerable in a rapidly changing and complex environment. The aim is also to enable greater collaboration, adding strength and capacity to the system and ensuring that all schools are supported.

I truly believe this is an exciting opportunity for us to join this growing family of schools, protecting the Catholic nature of our school, and working more collaboratively with others. Other schools will benefit from our experiences and the way we run our school and we will benefit from their experiences and the sharing of best practise. We are looking to the future; by joining the Trust we will be able to participate in the strategic direction, of not only our school, but other schools in the Emmaus Trust.

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The Governing Board's priority is to enable our school to continue to provide an excellent education for its pupils, retaining their unique qualities and strengths whilst maintaining the school's role at the heart of our community. Having reviewed all the information available and having spoken directly to the CEO of the Emmaus Trust, the school's Board of Governors have made the decision to start the process of joining the Emmaus Trust.

I have attached a "Frequently asked questions" sheet which hopefully will answer many of your initial questions. I have also added a page to our school website which provides more information about Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust for you to read. Should you have any questions, having read the information provided, please feel free to email admin@stsrcp.co.uk to share your views. As always, you can catch me on the gates in the morning too.

This is an exciting time for our school,
Yours sincerely

Mr C Lavin
Headteacher

Mr J Hawksworth
Chair of Governors