

# The Governing Body of St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs E Higgins

15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

## **Consultation to convert to Academy status and to joining the Xavier Catholic Education Trust**

After careful consideration and preliminary discussion with the Diocese, St Edmund's Catholic Primary School's Governing Body has decided that it wishes to explore conversion to academy status and the option to join the Xavier Catholic Education Trust.

The Governing Body is positive about the option to convert. Led by the Senior Leadership Team of the school, we have conducted a number of due diligence activities to determine whether we wish to pursue the option. We see the key advantages as being access to a wider Catholic community of schools, better access to resources, enhanced financial management of our school and the opportunity to exchange ideas and development with other Catholic schools across all key stages in our community. We are now ready to engage in formal consultation with the wider school community.

We are therefore now writing to consult with staff, parents and the parish community of St Edmund's to invite your views on the matter.

Academies are publicly-funded state schools that are independent of the Local Authority and receive funding directly from central government. St Edmund's will still be a Catholic school under the authority of the Bishop of Arundel & Brighton, and its religious designation will not change. As part of a multi-academy trust, there will be greater opportunities for working more closely, not just with other local Catholic schools but also with the wider community of schools. The Governing Body sees this as advantageous both for the children and the staff of St Edmund's.

Please be assured that the Catholic character, ethos and values of St Edmund's would remain unchanged, should the academy conversion take place. Indeed, we anticipate that this opportunity to work even more closely within a supportive Catholic Trust would further strengthen and support the School's ethos and traditions.

The following schools are in the Xavier Catholic Education Trust:

- **Primary schools:** Cardinal Newman School, Hersham; Holy Family School, Addlestone; St Alban's School, Molesey; St Anne's School, Chertsey; St Augustine's School, Camberley; St Charles Borromeo School, Weybridge; St Hugh of Lincoln School, Woking, The Marist School, West Byfleet, St Cuthbert Mayne, Cranleigh; St Polycarp's, Farnham; St Thomas of Canterbury, Guildford.
- **Secondary schools:** Salesian School, Chertsey; St John the Baptist School, Woking; St Peter's, Guildford.

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## How to take part in the consultation process

At this stage, we are not committing the School to conversion to academy status. We are consulting with everyone associated with our School, before the Governors meet again to make a final decision. We would like to know what you think of our plans and are inviting you to take part in this consultation.

Your views are important to us, so please take the opportunity to complete the 'Academy Status and Multi-Academy Trust Consultation Response Form' in hard copy, and ensure that this is returned to the school office by the closing date of **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**. You are free to scan and email it, put it into the post or directly into our letterbox.

We will be holding a virtual meeting via Zoom where you can hear more about the proposals, take part in a question and answer session and raise any queries you may have. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7pm** as an online meeting. In attendance will be Ani Magill (CEO of the Xavier Trust), Elizabeth Higgins (Headteacher) and myself in my capacity as Chair of the Governing Body of St Edmund's. We very much hope that you will join us. If you would like to join us, please let us know via email ([info@stedmunds.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@stedmunds.surrey.sch.uk)) by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, that you wish to join. We will then issue an invitation to join the Zoom meeting.

If you are unable to join this meeting but would like to ask any questions or make any comments, please enter these under the 'Additional comments' section of the 'Academy Status and Multi-Academy Trust Consultation Response Form' and return before 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 so that we can ensure that they are raised at the meeting.

We would ask that you respond to this consultation after reading the Question and Answer document attached to this email.

You may also wish to follow the links provided in the Question and Answer document in order to understand more about academy status and the transition process. There are links to information provided by the Diocese, the Department for Education, Parliament and by the Xavier Catholic Education Trust.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Torjussen-Proctor  
Chair of Governors



Mrs E Higgins  
Head Teacher

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