



Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School

Excellence in how we worship, learn and work together

Curiosity Hope Empathy RESILIENCE CREATIVITY Happiness

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Headteacher: David Winn Deputy Headteacher: Pauline Thomas Assistant Headteacher: Lesley Saddington

Thursday 6th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We write to you with an important update regarding the future of our wonderful school.

As you may be aware, the borough of Lambeth is currently experiencing an unprecedented fall in pupil numbers. This is predicted to continue for at least another ten years, so the local authority has asked every school in Lambeth to reduce the number of children they accept in Reception each year. The reason for this significant drop in pupil numbers is mainly due to lower birth rates, and families moving out of Lambeth. There are simply not enough children to fill the places in our schools.

The impact that this situation has had upon our school is significant. Our school building is designed to hold 420 children, with two classes in every year group. We can now only accept one Reception class (thirty children) every September, and our school now provides for 245 children. This total reduces each year; Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School will now be a one-form entry school for the foreseeable future. The current situation presents a significant challenge for schools across the borough. Our school's income is mainly derived from the number of children we have on roll. Every child is funded by the government, so the more children we have on roll the more funding our school receives. We have worked tirelessly to increase our admissions since I arrived, and interest in joining our school continues to be strong. The great work our staff do every day, and the wonderful children we serve, has ensured our school's reputation has continued to improve and we are now undoubtedly one of the schools of choice in our local area.

In May 2022, the Government released its ['White Paper'](#) for education. It stated that 'by 2030, all children will benefit from being taught in a family of schools, with their school in a strong multi academy trust.' Every school in the country is now tasked with the challenge of planning to join a federation or academy within the next eight years. The objective is to become stronger together, as a family of schools, in the face of significant financial challenge.

As a faith school that is voluntary-aided (supported and overseen by the Southwark Diocese), we have fewer options than community schools in terms of federations and academies that we could or would wish to join. There is one clear option for us, which is the [Southwark Diocesan Board of Education's Multi-Academy Trust](#) (SDBE MAT). The SDBE MAT is an academy trust of schools that has established a culture and context in which schools can grow and flourish and provide an excellent education with Christian values at its heart.

Our priority, as with every decision the Governors and Leadership Team of our school make, is the quality of education and care that we provide for our children and families. We wish to protect and enhance our school's uniqueness and identity, whilst joining a family of schools that shares our ethos and values. The Governing Board and a school staff working party have met with the Chief Operating Officer of the SDBE MAT and held very productive and pleasing question and answer sessions. It is now crucial that our wider community have the opportunity to read, reflect and offer their thoughts, feelings and questions through a period of consultation.

Please click on this link to read the SDBE MAT's information booklet: [SDBE MAT 2022 Prospectus](#)

Please click on this link to offer us your thoughts, feelings and questions: [Holy Trinity & SDBE MAT Community Consultation](#)



The closing date for this consultation period is Tuesday 8th November at 12pm. Please do not underestimate the importance of your contributions. Your opinions are extremely valuable to us.

We would like to summarise the key points for you here, as we understand that there is a great deal of information to digest:

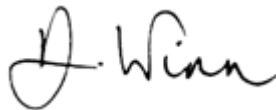
- Holy Trinity C of E Primary School continues to thrive and achieve, but is faced with a significant financial challenge as a result of limited numbers of children in the borough and consequently reducing to a one-form entry school.
- The Government has directed all schools in England to join an academy or trust by 2030.
- As a faith school that is voluntary-aided (supported and overseen by the Southwark Diocese), we have fewer options than community schools in terms of federations and academies that we could or would wish to join.
- There is one clear option for us, which is the [Southwark Diocesan Board of Education's Multi-Academy Trust](#) (SDBE MAT).
- Please take the time to read the SDBE MAT prospectus: [SDBE MAT 2022 Prospectus](#)
- We now enter a period of consultation with our wider community regarding potentially becoming part of the SDBE Multi-Academy Trust.
- The online consultation form can be accessed here: [Holy Trinity & SDBE MAT Community Consultation](#)

On behalf of the staff and Governing Board, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support for our children and school. We are very much looking forward to guiding Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School into the next phase of its educational journey, together as one community.

With kind regards,



Chris Tongeman
Chair of Governors



David Winn
Headteacher

