



# 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

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Holy Trinity Community,

I am writing to confirm that the period of consultation for parents and carers regarding our school's potential move to the SDBE Multi-Academy Trust is now closed. Thank you to those that took the time to complete the online consultation form. Your thoughts and opinions are extremely important to us.

Attached to this email is the SDBE MAT's 'Frequently Asked Questions' document. Here you will find answers to all the questions raised in your consultation, and some answers to questions you may not have thought of yet. Please take the time to read through the document; it is very helpful and covers everything clearly and in good detail.

I would like to take the opportunity to address the questions or concerns that have been raised to me directly over the past few weeks:

- Every school in the UK has been directed by the Government to join a federation or academy trust by 2030. This is in response to the Government's Education White Paper, released earlier this year.
- Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School is a voluntary aided school, which means we are not able to join a federation or academy trust with any non-faith schools at this time. The SDBE MAT is a family of Christian schools across the Diocese of Southwark.
- The current financial plight of our schools, and the fact that our numbers on roll are reducing each year, means that Holy Trinity must find a solution to secure the future sustainability of our school.
- Our school would continue to look and feel exactly the same if we were to join the SDBE MAT. The Governing Board and I have been clear on this from the outset; our distinctive ethos and values will not be compromised, and in fact would be protected further by joining the SDBE MAT.
- There would be no change to school uniform, teaching and learning or our curriculum as a result of joining the SDBE MAT.

Our staff have also been consulted and a working party will be holding their second meeting with the SDBE MAT Chief Operating Officer, Mark Burnett, this evening. At this time the staff working party, along with three of our Governing Board, have held positive talks with the SDBE MAT and discussed a wide range of topics. The working party have been reassured that joining the SDBE MAT would be a positive thing to do, for the future sustainability of our school.

I recently consulted with the Parish Church Council, who have confirmed that they support the application to join the SDBE MAT. If this is confirmed by the Full Governing Body in an extraordinary meeting this evening, we will submit our application to join the SDBE MAT. This process can take up to four months, and I will of course keep you informed throughout.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our wonderful school.

Yours sincerely,

David Winn

