



# 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](mailto:admin@stsrcp.co.uk)

[www.stsrcp.school](http://www.stsrcp.school)

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Dear families of St Stephen's,

**RE: Formal Consultation Period**

I hope you are well.

As you are aware, the Governing Board have made the decision to join the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust. We are now entering a period of consultation with all stake holders. This period of consultation will run from **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May** to **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**. During this period, you will have the opportunity to share your views, and these will be presented to the Governing Board when the final decision to join the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust will be made.

## **Background Information**

The Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust has been identified by the Diocese of Salford as a suitable Trust to take forward Bishop John's 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
- St Kentigern's RC Primary School
- Holy Family 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

# 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](mailto:admin@stsrcp.co.uk)

[www.stsrcp.school](http://www.stsrcp.school)

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.

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.

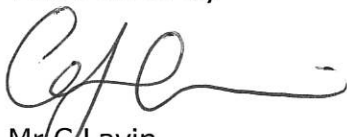
We have now been granted our Academy Order, and are working towards a conversion date of **1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**. I have attached a "Frequently asked questions" sheet which hopefully will answer many of your questions. I have also added a page to our school website which provides more information about Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust for you to read.

Should you have any questions, having read the information provided, please feel free to join me for a drop-in session on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 3:30-4:15pm in the school hall where you can share your views. You can also email [admin@stsrcp.co.uk](mailto:admin@stsrcp.co.uk)

All views are valid and will be presented to the Governing Board before the final decision is made.

This is an exciting time for our school,

Yours sincerely



Mr C Lavin  
Headteacher

Mr J Hawksworth  
Chair of Governors

