



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Nova Lane, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF17 9LQ

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15.10.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Multi-Academy Trust – A Diocesan Family of Schools

I wanted to bring you up to date with the process of joining the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust. The process has taken much longer than was expected due to the COVID19 pandemic but we now have our academy order and should finally be academising and joining the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Multi-Academy Trust on December 1st 2021.

The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, one of five Academy Trusts in the Diocese of Leeds now has the following schools that have already joined, many of whom in the past few months:

- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary Academy, Sowerby Bridge
- St Malachy's Catholic Primary Academy, Halifax
- St. John Fisher Catholic Secondary Academy, Dewsbury
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary Academy, Huddersfield (Joined July 2021)
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary Academy, Huddersfield (Joined July 2021)
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary Academy, Brighouse (Joined July 2021)
- St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy, Halifax (Joined July 2021)
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary Academy, Dewsbury (Joined October 2021)
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary Academy, Huddersfield (Joined October 2021)

The next two schools to join will be ourselves and Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, Heckmondwike on 1st December 2021. Over the next few months the final schools will also join, which will include St Paulinus Catholic Primary School, Dewsbury, St Mary's Catholic Primary, Batley and All Saints Catholic College, Huddersfield. Once all the schools have joined there will be a total of fourteen Catholic Primaries and two Catholic Secondary schools working together in partnership to ensure we provide the very best Catholic education to all the pupils in our joint care.

Since the consultation with staff and parents took place just before the pandemic began in 2020, the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Multi-Academy Trust has made a lot of developments. These include the appointment of a CEO - Mr Richard Williams, a Director of Education – Mrs Rachel McEnvoy, a Director of Safeguarding – Mrs Clare Kernan and the continued work of the Finance team led by Mr Nawaid Aurangzeb, the Director of Finance. Over the eighteen months we have been working very closely with the Trust, along with all the other schools, Governing Bodies and Headteachers shaping it so that it functions in a way which will support us and all other schools to work closely together, with the aim that the education we provide to our pupils is the very best it can be. Sharing areas of expertise,





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supporting each other with developments and working effectively in partnership, which I know is only going to further improve as all schools join. You can read more about the Trust on the website at www.bpstrust.org.uk.

Can I please take this opportunity to remind you of some information that was shared previously, particularly for our new school family members, that our family of schools led by the Trust Board and Diocese share a vision of unity NOT uniformity. The Academy Trust will be a company by law but NOT a business and it will serve the growth of our schools and our Mission. The conversion to be part of the Trust is a natural next step for us to formalise the work we already do within our Catholic family of schools. We will also continue to work with our local non- catholic schools as we move out of the pandemic.

Where it began:

In October 2011 the Diocese of Leeds published its guidance to governors "Building the Future: Considering Multi-Academy trusts". The document presented a very clear description of how schools could convert to academy status. It proposed a framework of how five multi academy trusts could be structured to offer parents a provision of Catholic education from 3-19 years. Since then, and over the course of the past few years, some Catholic Primary and Secondary schools have joined their assigned Catholic multi academy trust. Following on from this document, last year, Bishop Marcus instructed all of our schools to begin the process of joining their local Catholic multi academy trust within their defined geographical area. The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (BPSCMAT) is our local trust and includes all the Catholic schools in Kirklees and Calderdale.

On our school website we continue to have a section on the academy conversion, under the "Our School" tab with the 'Frequently Asked Questions' document, the PowerPoint that I shared during the consultation process and the initial letter that was sent to parents/carers.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership working.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Moulding
Headteacher

Mrs Claire Wiles
Chair of Governors

