



# ST. PETER'S C.E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL – BRATTON

*Head Teacher – Mr M Davis*

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To Parents and Carers,

The last twelve-month period has been a year of change as the school, like all of us as individuals, has had to adapt to new ways of working to limit the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. I thank all of you for the support you have given to the staff of the school as they have worked to continue children's education throughout this period in a safe way. I am pleased that the school's greater involvement in the wraparound provision gave it a more stable footing and it was able to continue to provide this service, when permitted.

All children will be welcomed back to a classroom environment next week as we start to move along the government's roadmap to a new normal - a normal that might look a little different to that we knew previously.

I am writing to advise you of another change on the horizon for the school. For some time, the Governors have been considering whether it should remain as a local authority maintained school or whether it should seek to join a Multi Academy Trust ("MAT"). You may be aware that two primary schools covering areas that border with St Peter's have recently joined MATs.

In undertaking due diligence Governors reviewed several MATs that might be suitable and concluded that the St Chad's Multi Academy Trust ("the Trust") was likely to be the one most appropriate. Further due diligence was undertaken by speaking to the head-teacher at a school based in Telford already in the Trust and discussing conversion with Governors from a school in Oswestry that chose to join the St Chad's MAT.

As Governors, we recently confirmed the intention to progress with plans to convert to academy status with the Trust. This trust is the Diocesan Multi Academy Trust for Lichfield - the area covering this part of Shropshire.

The Trust is a charitable company set up in 2014, dedicated to providing excellence in education. It has a focus on primary education. It encourages schools to develop whilst retaining their identity, sharing best practice, and working in support of one another. Schools in the Trust benefit from its central support services. There are currently 19 primary phase academies within the Trust.

As part of the decision-making process, we are carrying out a consultation process with parents, staff and local stakeholders. The period of consultation has begun and will run until

the point of conversion - likely to be September this year. During this time, the school welcomes any questions on the processes involved to convert the school to an academy and the impact this change will have for children and employees.

Post conversion, the academy will remain a central beacon for the children of Bratton and surrounding areas, ensuring that the current ethos and values of our school, which are of paramount importance, are protected and enhanced by working closer with the Academy Trust. Please review the FAQ document that can be found on the school website, which will be regularly updated to provide answers to many of the questions this process may bring about.

The Governors believe this proposed change will provide a greater number of choices as to how the school may develop, will help to meet the ongoing changes in the educational system, allow the school to continue to improve the opportunities provided for children and will support the school in its future development.

In practical terms, academy status would change some things behind the scenes. The governors believe these changes would enhance the running of the school but otherwise the school will operate on a day-to-day basis in a similar way to as now. There would be no impact on the curriculum or admissions policy. The transferring employees will have access to several continued professional development opportunities, networking and quality learning circles. The Trust facilitates learning circles to maximise the networking and development of leaders across its educational settings, which promote the implementation and embedding of best practice.

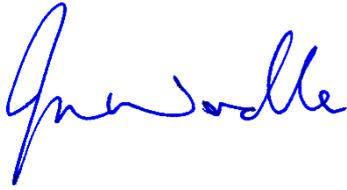
We would continue to work closely with Telford & Wrekin Council and local primary schools. The change would give us more freedom to decide how our funding should be spent and a greater level of stability and support than we currently receive in meeting the ongoing challenge of an ever-changing education system.

We will be holding a meeting for parents, carers and stakeholders once it is possible to do so. It is normal practice for representatives from the Trust to attend and present alongside members of the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team, to answer questions and listen to comments. Unfortunately, given the current restrictions, we may need to arrange this through a virtual platform. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the meeting, both formally and informally. Details of this meeting will be notified once it has been arranged.

In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this process or if you wish to comment on the proposal, please submit them via email to ***stpetersconsultation@gmail.com***.

The Governors and school leadership team believe that conversion with St Chad's MAT will offer many benefits and opportunities and ensure the values of our school are protected.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Wardle', written in a cursive style.

JOHN WARDLE  
Chair of Governors