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St. Mary's Catholic Primary
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'Loved and Inspired by Mary
We shine and learn as a family of God'

25.2.25

Notification of consultation period

All the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lancaster have been invited by our bishop, Rev Paul Swarbrick to consider converting to an academy and join a Catholic Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

There are three MATs in the diocese (which stretches from Preston to the Scottish Borders). Our MAT will be the Mater Ecclesiae (Mother of the Church) and will eventually be made up of the 23 Catholic primary and secondary schools in the greater Preston area. Bishop Paul has requested everyone to join one of the MATs by 2026.

The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School are considering being in Wave 3 of the schools converting to an Academy. This process will take place this school year in readiness for a potential September 2025 conversion.

As part of the conversion process the Governors will consult all school stakeholders, which includes:

- Parents/ Carers
- Staff members
- Lancashire County Council
- Trade unions
- Parish

The consultation period commences on Tuesday 25th of March 2025 and finishes at 12 noon on Tuesday 25th of March.

Please see the additional information on our website for parents/ Carers (other stakeholders have been contacted directly). This includes a letter outlining the process and a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Please note the FAQs will be updated a couple of times during the consultation period.

Any questions or feedback can be sent to head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

Following the close of the consultation period the Governing Board of St Mary's Catholic Primary School will consider all the responses received and make a final decision as to whether they wish to start the Academisation conversion process this school year. I will keep stakeholders updated of the Governors' decision and next steps.

The views of all stakeholders are important to us and will help to inform the final decision which will be made by Governors on Friday 28th of March 2025.

If we can support you with any questions or queries please feel free to contact myself or any staff member.

Kind Regards

Mrs A. Brogden

Headteacher

Mrs J Fitzpatrick

Acting Chair of Governors