



St Edmund's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools



Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds,
IP33 1QG. 01284 755141
office@st-edmunds.suffolk.sch.uk
www.st-edmunds.suffolk.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Maria Kemble
Chair of Governors: Mr I Cameron

Beaconsfield Road, Sudbury,
CO10 1JP. 01787 373365
admin@st-josephs.suffolk.sch.uk
www.st-josephs.suffolk.sch.uk

Odrive/letters/letters24-25/StEds/MAT04.04.25

4th April 2025

Dear Parents

I am writing on behalf of the governing body to inform you of a significant matter affecting the future of the Federation of St Edmund's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools which the governors are actively discussing.

On Education Sunday in September 2023 and 2024, Bishop Peter wrote to all parishes to outline the vision for Catholic education in the diocese. This confirmed the expectation, originally begun by his predecessor, that all Catholic schools be part of a Catholic Multi-academy trust by Sept 2025. For our Federation, this means joining the Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust which already includes St Benedict's High School (Bury St Edmunds), as well as schools in Ipswich and Cambridge. Our Federation and a primary school in Ipswich are the only schools yet to join the trust.

The governing body has begun the initial stages of joining the trust. This has included passing a resolution to join, applying for an academy order from the DfE and a meeting with the CEO of the trust, Flavio Vettese. A working party of governors has been assembled consisting of parent governors from both federation schools. The working party will be responsible for carrying out the process of due diligence which will begin next term. It is expected that the federation will become part of the trust in November 2025.

We recognise that the joining of a multi-academy trust will be a significant step and that as parents you will have questions about what this will mean for the schools and your child's education in the future. You will be invited to meet with members of the trust as part of the formal consultation process on Wednesday 7th May at 9am or 2.30pm. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and hear more about the Our Lady of Walsingham Trust.

Yours sincerely

Ian Cameron
Chair of Governors

Maria Kemble
Executive Head

"We learn together in God's love by encouraging and supporting one another."

