



Holy Family Catholic High School

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Tuesday, May 05, 2026

RE: Academisation update

Dear parents and carers,

I am taking this opportunity to update you all about the Liverpool Archdiocese's plans for their family of schools to academise.

Margaret Evans (chair of governors) and I attended a schools meeting on Tuesday 28th April with a keynote address from Archbishop John Sherrington. The message regarding academisation was clear - we are all going to be academised under the archdiocese and there will be five waves. Each wave is anticipated to take 12 - 18 months. We have been assigned into Wave 2 to join Pope Francis Multi-Academy Trust with other local schools that we have close links with here in Sefton.

You will undoubtedly have many questions - some of these frequently asked questions are included with this letter. We have been reassured that there will be a seamless transition, contracts will TUPE across and that for staff and children here at Holy Family, school life will continue as it does right now.

So what happens now? For the time being, we will continue to work hard at providing the best possible opportunities for your children and their education. I also want to reassure you all that when our time to join the trust arrives, the process and implications for school will be clearly communicated to you all by myself and the governors. In the meantime, if you wish to find out more information about this, please refer to the Liverpool Archdiocese website below:

<https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/education/academies>

Yours faithfully,

Mr Symes
Headteacher

Frequently Asked Questions by parents

(Source: <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/education/academies>)

What will this change mean for my child's education?

Being part of a larger Catholic multi-academy trust (CMAT) will allow schools to work collaboratively to secure and enhance future Catholic education in the archdiocese. It is a means of protecting our schools for the future to ensure that we can continue to offer excellent Catholic education to the future generations. We don't expect that you or your child will see any visible changes day to day, the identity of the school will very much remain the same.

When will this change happen?

As the strategy is for 217 schools across the archdiocese, the process will happen in waves. The suggested waves (which is subject to change if schools want to change waves) can be found here. It is predicted that each wave will take around 12-18 months, however, these timeframes are subject to change.

Will I be consulted about the process?

Parents will be consulted about the process in a timeframe that fits with their school's wave.

Why is this happening now?

The archdiocese launched its academisation strategy a few years ago, but the strategy was impacted by the government withdrawing funding. Since then, we have taken time to observe other Catholic dioceses across England and Wales to see what works well, what didn't work well and we developed a strategy that was the right fit for the archdiocese.

Will any staff at my school leave?

We hope not. Joining academies will enhance career opportunities for staff and we hope that staff see this as a positive transition. All staff will be TUPE'd over and will receive the same salary and terms and conditions as they have now.

Will a new school uniform be needed?

No, every school will keep their current uniform and identity.

Will school times change?

No, there are no plans to change school times.