



'Living life to the full'

## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mossy Lea Road, Wroughtington,

Wigan, Lancashire, WN6 9RE

Telephone 01257 423092

Headteacher – Miss V Gleeson

Email: [school.info@st-josephs-wroughtington.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:school.info@st-josephs-wroughtington.lancs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.st-josephs-wroughtington.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs-wroughtington.lancs.sch.uk)

Dear parents,

Yesterday you may have seen an article in *Wigan Today* regarding the future of Catholic education and the proposal for Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of Liverpool to move towards academisation. Following this coverage, I wanted to take the opportunity to provide some context and reassurance about what this means for St Joseph's.

The Archdiocese of Liverpool has announced a new strategy which proposes that all Catholic schools across the Archdiocese eventually become part of one of three Catholic Multi Academy Trusts (CMATs). This forms part of the Archbishop's vision for the future of Catholic education.

At the launch of the strategy, Archbishop Sherrington said:

*"Our Catholic schools are vital to the educational mission of the Church. They bring the Gospel alive to young people, staff and parents with Catholic Social Teaching at the heart. Together, we are a constellation of stars offering hope in our Archdiocese."*

Joan McCarthy, Director of Education for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, added:

*"This strategy has been developed to help our schools support one another and flourish together, ensuring that every child across the Archdiocese has access to a high-quality Catholic education."*

*It ensures all our schools can benefit from excellent resources and outstanding learning opportunities for both pupils and staff, while building on the Archdiocese's long-established tradition of educational excellence.*

*Our approach is firmly rooted in preserving the local identity of schools within their Catholic communities. A hub-based leadership model will allow us to achieve this balance.*

*We are also committed to maintaining our excellent relationships with key stakeholders and partners, particularly local authorities. At the heart of this process is working in collaboration with others."*

The proposal to create this academy framework is intended to protect and strengthen Catholic education for future generations while preserving the unique identity and character of each school.

Earlier this year, school leaders and governors attended a meeting led by the Archbishop regarding *The Future of Catholic Education in the Liverpool Archdiocese*. At this meeting, the proposed structure was shared.

Three CMATs have been identified:

- **Pope Francis CMAT (already established)** – Sefton and Lancashire
- **St Joseph CMAT (already established)** – Liverpool and St Helens
- **Our Lady of Lourdes North West CMAT** – a new trust which will include schools in Wigan, Halton, Warrington and Knowsley



While the article may suggest that change is imminent, I would like to reassure families that this is a very long-term process. Some schools within the Archdiocese, such as those in Skelmersdale, are likely to move sooner because they are joining trusts that are already established and operational.

Our situation is very different. The trust that we have been invited to join (Our Lady of Lourdes North West), alongside our feeder high schools and neighbouring Catholic schools, is only at the very beginning of its development and has only recently been registered. There are currently no confirmed timescales for schools joining, and a significant amount of planning, governance work and consultation must take place before any changes could occur.

In reality, this process is not expected to happen any time soon.

For this reason, information had not previously been shared with parents/carers. At this stage there is very little practical information available, and it was felt more appropriate to communicate once there was something meaningful to report. The recent media coverage has understandably raised questions, and therefore I wanted to ensure that our school community received accurate information directly from us.

Most importantly, when formal proposals are brought forward, there will be full consultation with all stakeholders, including parents, carers, staff, governors and parish communities. Your views will be welcomed and valued throughout the process.

Please be assured that:

- There are no immediate changes to St Joseph's.
- There are currently no confirmed dates for academisation.
- The Catholic ethos, values and identity of our school will remain central to everything we do.
- Any future developments will be communicated openly and regularly.
- It is anticipated that most of the changes will relate to organisational and administrative processes behind the scenes rather than the day-to-day experience of pupils and families.

Ultimately, it is hoped that parents and children would notice very little difference in their experience of school. St Joseph's will continue to provide the caring, high-quality Catholic education that our families value so highly. I hope this information provides some reassurance. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

With warm regards,

*Miss Gleeson*

Miss Vicki Gleeson  
Headteacher

