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5 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Stockton Parent-Carers Forum New Project, Diverse Paths

Please see attached a letter from the Stockton Parent-Carers Forum about a new project, Diverse Paths. St Michael's is delighted to be involved in this new project, and we welcome your feedback via the questionnaire sent out today. We will be hosting a meeting which you will all be invited to attend. The date of the meeting will be shared with you as soon as we have confirmation from the Diverse Paths team.

Overview of the DIVERSE PATHS Programme

Meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in mainstream schools is the cornerstone to improving outcomes (across attainment, attendance and wellbeing), parental confidence and delivering the financially sustainable SEND system, as envisaged in the Local Authority's SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan. DIVERSE PATHS will bring health and education specialists and Stockton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) into mainstream settings to:

- Help shape whole school SEND provision.
- Provide early interventions at a whole school level.
- Upskill school staff.
- Support strengthening of partnerships between schools and parent/carers.

We believe that this will have a sustainable impact and that will build evidence on the positive impact of a closer collaboration between education and health, including working collaboratively across professional boundaries. It will focus on strengthening knowledge, skills and improving environments to better meet the needs of our young people. Being part of this programme can help us reframe the focus to how a supportive learning environment and well-equipped school can improve the outcomes for all children. The Local Authority's offer includes the equivalent of five days' worth of specialist support, and this will be take place over the course of the programme.

The pilot programme will run between December 2025 and December 2026 and is available as a pilot programme to 10 mainstream settings, including St Michael's. The programme is funded by the local authority as part of SEND & AP Change Programme funding from the Department for Education (DfE).

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions about the programme.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs V Abbs
SENDCO



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Dear Families,

We are delighted to share with you that your school will be part of the DIVERSE PATHS pilot over the next 12 months which focuses on strengthening inclusion and supporting SEND. This is a partnership pilot between the school, families, Stockton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF), the local authority SEND & AP Service and health colleagues.

St. Michael's Catholic Academy showed a strong interest in being part of this pilot and its whole school approach, which demonstrates their continued commitment to wanting to increase their knowledge and response to supporting a diverse range of children and young people.

The aim of the pilot is to:

- Help shape whole school SEND provision.
- Support strengthening of partnerships between schools and parent carers.
- Provide early interventions at a whole school level.
- Upskill school staff.

It will include:

- Surveys to families, school and governors asking about their views on inclusion in school.
- In school sessions to capture the views of children and young people.
- A pathway of training and support offered to school as a result of survey responses during 2026.
- Parent/Carer sessions in school with Stockton Parent Carer Forum to strengthen collaboration between parents and school.

How can you get involved?

- Below is a QR Code / Link for you to complete a short electronic survey. Your feedback is vital in highlighting the areas of focus for the coming 12 months.



<https://consult.stockton.gov.uk/childrens-services/4e6470ce/>

After survey completion, you will be invited to attend an informal session hosted by SPCF in school to discuss the results, next steps, meet the team and discuss any questions or queries you may have.

Stockton Parent Carer Forum are volunteer parent carers of children (0-25) with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

To learn more or join our community please visit www.stocktonparentcarerforum.co.uk