St Catherine's Catholic Primary School
Vale Drive, Barnet, Herts EN52ED

Tel: 020 8440 4946
Email: office@stcatherines.barnetmail.net
Headteacher: Miss M. Kelly

28th April 2025

Dear Parent and Carers,

Re: Catholic Academy Trust Consultation

As you may be aware, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has encouraged Catholic Schools to join a Catholic Academy Trust to protect, secure, and develop Catholic Education. The Governors of St Catherine's Primary School have been diligently responding to this request. Over the past two years, we have been researching various Catholic Academy Trusts that share a vision, values, and ethos in line with those upheld at St Catherine's. Our aim has been to identify an Academy that is forward-thinking and pioneering, much like our own institution, and that is willing to adopt innovative approaches to Primary Education.

After several meetings and informative discussions, the Governors of St Catherine's Catholic Primary School have concluded that All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT) would be the most suitable partner for St Catherine's Primary School, marking its first inclusion as a Barnet Catholic Primary School.

This letter serves to inform you that we are initiating the consultation process regarding the potential acquisition of academy status and our proposed joining of ASCAT. The consultation will commence on **28th April 2025 and will close on 2nd June 2025**.

Please note that this consultation does not signify a final decision to convert to an Academy; rather, it provides an opportunity for our entire community to express their views, which will be considered when making the final decision. To assist you in understanding the implications of becoming an academy, we have prepared a consultation leaflet with a series of questions and answers, which is available on the St Catherine's School website at https://st-catherines.barnet.sch.uk/academy-consultation/.

To support your engagement in the consultation, we invite you to attend an information meeting at St Catherine's School, where the Governing Body and the Headteacher will provide information about what joining the Catholic Academy Trust would entail for St Catherine's. In addition, we will be joined by Stephen Wheatley, CEO of ASCAT, who will be available to address any questions you may have.

The meeting is scheduled to last approximately 60 minutes and will commence at **6:30 pm on Tuesday 13th May 2025.**

If you wish to participate in the consultation meeting but prefer to submit your questions or queries in advance, please email the school office at office@stcatherines.barnetmail.net with the subject heading "ACADEMY CONSULTATION MEETING" before 13th May 2025.

We strongly encourage you to share your opinions as part of the consultation process, by completing the online Academy Consultation Questionnaire by 2nd June 2025. Should you prefer a hard copy of the consultation leaflet or the consultation questionnaire, please collect hard copies from the school office.

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We look forward to engaging with you at the meeting and are eager to receive your feedback in this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Dr A. Errico
Chair of Governors

Miss M. Kelly
Headteacher