



Diocese of Middlesbrough



# ALL SAINTS RC SCHOOL

Diocese of Middlesbrough  
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Our Ref: SKE/KDO/JM3/Consultation-NPCAT

16/05/2022

Dear Parents/Carers

## **RE: Consultation to convert to Academy status and join Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust**

In April 2021, the Bishop commissioned an independent review of the current Regional Catholic Academy Trust structure to seek to secure and sustain Catholic education in the Diocese for the future.

The review highlighted that our school was yet to convert to Academy status and be part of a strong, successful Catholic Academy Trust. In creating the diocesan academies' programme, Bishop Draineo proposed that no school would be left behind or face the day-to-day challenges of delivering high-quality Catholic education alone.

Underpinning the Diocesan Academy Policy is the desire and need to ensure the promotion, preservation, protection and future development of Catholic education within the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The Catholic Trust Model will ensure that the uniqueness of each individual school is celebrated and the unique contribution of each is recognised and appreciated. It will also mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulnerable in a rapidly changing and complex environment. The aim is also to facilitate greater sharing, adding strength and capacity to the system and ensuring that all schools are supported.

Our Governing Body's priority remains to enable the school to deliver an outstanding Catholic education for our children, whilst continuing to be at the heart of our community.

Therefore, in line with Diocesan policy, our Governing Body has decided to consult with parents, carers, staff and other stakeholders, on whether All Saints Roman Catholic School, York should become an academy and join the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust.

We are therefore commencing formal consultation today, Monday 16 May 2022 for a period of three school term weeks. Consultation will therefore end at 3pm on Friday 10 June 2022.



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## What is an Academy?

Academies are state schools, funded directly from central government, no longer under the control of the Local Authority. Academy status gives schools more freedom to be innovative and creative with the curriculum, timetabling, staffing and governance. However Catholic Academies continue to be accountable to the Bishop of Middlesbrough Diocese as well as the local community. All academies continue to be inspected by Ofsted and comply with the same rules as other schools on special educational needs, exclusions and admissions.

An academy is part of a charitable trust run by a board of Directors. Academies are rightly expected to work with and support other schools, including lower-performing schools. Should you wish to know more about the Government's policy, the Department for Education has its own academies bookmark

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/convert-to-an-academy-information-for-schools>

## What is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?

A MAT is formed when two or more academies legally come together in partnership. Each school keeps its own name and it is possible for other academies to join the Trust in the future. The partnership ensures that the schools can share skills and best practice and make optimum use of resources ensuring best value for money for each school.

In many ways our students will not notice any immediate difference, they will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. However, in time they will perhaps notice changes and improvements in the way that they learn for example and have greater links with each school within the Trust.

## How can we find out more about Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust?

Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust is a family of 27 schools, a sixth form and a teaching school. As a Trust, we work to ensure that the missionary work of Blessed Nicholas Postgate continues to bear witness. All of our schools are making a significant and positive impact on our pupils and our staff devote time, energy and resources to develop the schools and colleges in our parishes.

## Vision, Values and Ethos

As a Catholic Multi-Academy Trust for the Diocese of Middlesbrough, we have clear strategic aims built on our mission and values.

- We celebrate and share the practice of our outstanding schools, leaders and teachers.
- We are committed to excellent governance that challenges, supports and holds to account.
- We have strong leadership at all levels, with staff continually being developed.
- Our pupils receive outstanding teaching and educational knowledge.



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- Pupils within the Trust access a sound education with deep spiritual engagement and learning that inspires curiosity.
- Our schools offer a rich range of curricular and extra-curricular experiences that challenge and enhance skills and talents.
- We seek to develop parents/carers as active partners in their child's progress.

Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust celebrates achievement and encourages high aspirations. Our pupils grow in nurturing, caring and loving environments where spirituality and Catholic ethos and faith permeate everything we do.

Every child, every opportunity is the foundation on which the Trust is built.

As a Trust, we value close working support and relations with parents and carers.

### **What are the main benefits for schools within the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust?**

- Access to top quality staff, including an "outstanding" Trust leadership team who are sharply focussed on securing excellence.
- Moderation of standards across the partnership of schools to ensure the highest quality provision
- Greater control over finances and the money due to schools.
- Educational benefits for students as a result of additional freedoms available to academies in terms of the curriculum we offer, and how we prioritise resources.
- The opportunity to work in close and formalised partnership with other schools and share expertise and services that will benefit all of our students and staff.
- Sharing resources and expertise, allows us to target funding towards improving front line teaching and learning.
- Joining up provision to remove barriers to learning.
- Develop our own solutions collaboratively.
- Building on Catholic ethos and protecting Catholic education.

More information on NPCAT can be found at:

<https://npcat.org.uk>

### **What additional responsibilities will Academy status bring?**

- Additional financial and legal responsibilities - however as Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust is a well-established Trust, arrangements are already fully in place to deal with these responsibilities.
- Currently the Governing Body employs our staff - going forward the Academy Trust would be the employer rather than the Governing Body.
- The Academy Trust would be responsible for admissions rather than the Governing Body (although the Local Authority would still co-ordinate and ensure the Trust adopts clear and fair admission arrangements in line with the admissions law and the School Admissions Code).



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- The Academy Trust would enter into a 125-year lease for the land, usually owned by the Local Authority. We already have responsibility for the cost of maintaining the land and buildings.

### How do I learn more, and how do I respond to the consultation?

Our Governing Body would very much like to hear your opinion. A parental drop in session will take place on Thursday 9 June from 3pm until 7pm and a google document will be shared after the half term holiday with times slots available. The Headteacher and the CEO of the MAT will be available. We will continue to update the FAQ's with any new questions, please let us know if you have any questions you would like adding to the list.

Please email [consultation@allsaints.york.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@allsaints.york.sch.uk) by the deadline of Friday 10 June 2020. When responding to the consultation, please provide your name and contact details along with your email address.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Keelan-Beardsley  
**HEADTEACHER**



Huw Kane  
**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**



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