



5th September 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, and Parish community,

Academisation Consultation

On 11th July 2024, Archbishop Bernard Longley outlined a new plan for our Catholic schools. The goal is to move from collaboration to shared responsibility by bringing all Catholic schools into a smaller number of stronger, flourishing Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts (CMATs). After consulting widely, the Trustees approved the formation of the first CMAT, **St Gabriel the Archangel**, merging some existing academies and voluntary aided schools.

What is being proposed?

The St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi Academy Trust was established on 1st September 2025, in the north of the Archdiocese. It has merged 6 MACs, and 7 VA schools as follows:

St Gabriel the Archangel CMAT	Number of Schools	Secondary	Primary
MACs:			
All Saints Catholic Collegiate	5	1	4
Christ The King Catholic Collegiate	6	1	5
Newman Catholic Collegiate	9	1	8
Painsley MAC	16	3	13
St Francis and St Clare MAC	12	2	10
St John Bosco MAC	8	2	6
Voluntary Aided (VA) Schools:			
Holy Name, Great Barr St Bernadette's, Wombourne St Mary's, Cannock St Joseph's, Hednesford St Joseph's, Rugeley St Joseph's and St Theresa's, Chasetown St Thomas More, Gt Wyrley	7	0	7
Total	63	10	53

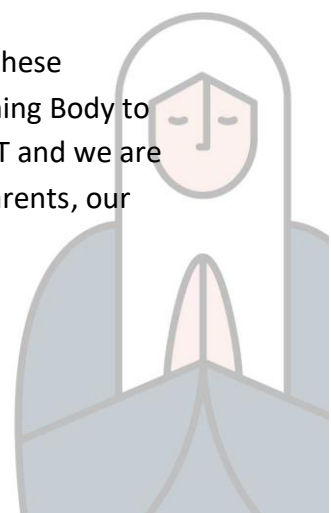
Our school has built links with trust leaders and trust schools over several years and these relationships along with the commitment to the diocesan vision, have led our Governing Body to the unanimous decision to sign a resolution to join the St Gabriel the Archangel CMAT and we are now required to enter a period of formal consultation to consider the views of our parents, our parish and school communities (reference Next steps below).

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Why merge schools into a larger Trust?

By combining schools into a bigger Trust, schools can focus on delivering high-quality Catholic education, staff workload can be reduced, and resources can be shared. This setup can also create cost savings, which will benefit all schools involved.

How will a larger Trust benefit the schools?

Large, well-managed trusts have several advantages for the pupils, staff, parishes and communities: Catholic mission and values: The Trust will maintain and develop a strong focus on our Catholic mission and values including outstanding chaplaincy across all schools.

More resources: Larger Trusts can access more funding and manage it more efficiently. This can mean new buildings, better teaching resources, and more support for pupils and staff.

Support for school communities: Strong Trusts can quickly provide extra staff or resources to schools that need them.

Career development for staff: Teachers and staff will have more opportunities for growth without leaving the classroom.

How have the schools been allocated to the new CMAT?

DES officers, working with Archdiocesan Trustees and the Department for Education, have considered a range of factors including Local Authority, parishes, number and phase of schools and pupils, finances and current academy and voluntary aided status.

How will we be able to influence decisions in such a large Trust? Will we lose our identity?

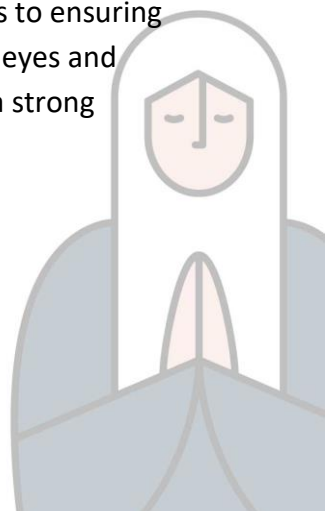
No. Schools remain deeply connected to their communities, and the Trust ensures that each school's individuality is respected and celebrated. Local governing bodies will continue to play a key role in making sure the school's needs and voices are heard.

Will our school feel lost in the larger organisation?

To the contrary, successful Trusts are rooted in the communities that they serve. CMAT leaders will engage with school communities.

What will be the role of the local governing body?

As stated above, successful Trusts and schools are rooted in their communities. In the larger CMAT, the role of the local governing body becomes even more important as a means to ensuring the local community are represented and listened to. Local governing bodies are the eyes and ears of the Board in ensuring the school and CMAT are meeting the requirements of a strong CMAT.





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Will there be more money for my school?

Significant economies of scale will result in more effective use of funds across the Academy Trust leading to additional resources for schools and pupils where required. This support can be provided in different ways: SEND, pupil premium, education performance, estates management, administration support, parish and community engagement, and will vary depending on need.

Next steps

We are now consulting with our parents, parishes, and school community for the period 5th September 2025 to 3rd October 2025. If you would like to make a comment about the proposal, we invite you to submit these through this link to the [Comments Form](#) by 12 noon on 3rd October 2025.

As we look forward, we pray for the success of St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, so that we can all work together for diocesan schools, their pupils and communities to flourish.

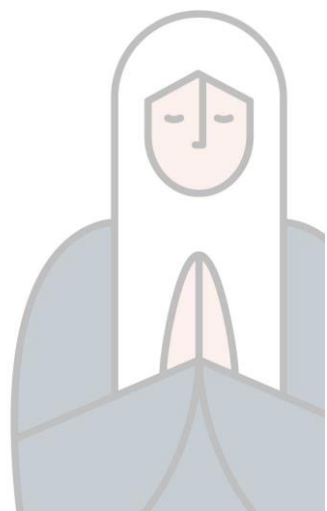
Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Emery

Chair of Governors

Mrs. A. Sherratt

Headteacher



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