

Priory CE Primary School

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"Be the best that you can be"

7th February 2023

Dear Member of our Community,

You may well be aware that there is a significant ambition from Government to have all schools across the UK join academy trusts in the future. As a school, Priory wants to decide its own future and we feel it's important that we are approaching the academisation agenda proactively. We have considered many options and investigated a range of possibilities over a number of years. The Governing Board of the school and the leadership team put high importance on the relationships with our families and community and for that reason, we wanted to involve you in the conversation as soon as possible.

As a result, we have decided to consult with you about joining an Academy Trust that operates across Stoke-on-Trent and other areas. The Trust which are interested in joining is called St Bart's Academy Trust. Currently, they operate 19 academies in their family of schools. This offers the pupils within the Trust access to learning opportunities in environments, which no other primary school would have access to. The Trust also has an ethos which aligns with our own; they are committed to provide the best education and curriculum in all of their schools, enabling every child to realise their full potential. Their core values are PEACE (Passion, Encouragement, Ambition, Collaboration, Enjoyment) with you will recognise stand well alongside our TOGETHER values.

St. Barts Academy Trust seek to ensure its schools are firmly embedded within their communities, rather than imposing centralised brands or ways of working. Unlike many other Trusts, its schools retain a tremendous amount of autonomy, with Governors and senior leaders empowered to continue delivering a great education for your child or children, but with less of the administrative challenges we face. Our name, uniform and vision would not change. I would encourage you to find out more about the St. Bart's Academy Trust by visiting their website (sbmat.org) and the websites of the other Primary Schools who belong to the Trust.

We believe that St. Bart's Trust is the right Multi Academy Trust for our school and would like all of you to also get the opportunity to find out more about this Trust. We will be working in partnership with all parents and carers and other members of our school's community to undergo a full consultation into academisation and joining St Bart's Trust. The consultation period will run from 6th February to 10th March, during which time you will have a chance to ask questions and gather information to help to decide if this is the right step for our school. We would like to know what you think about these proposals. You can let us know by emailing priory@prioryceprimary.org or attending one of two consultation drop in sessions on Thursday 16th February between 8:15 am and 9:15 am and Wednesday 1st March between 2:45 pm and 3:45pm. The closing date for responses to this consultation is 10th March at 9:00am. In the interests of openness and transparency, we will keep you regularly informed throughout the consultation period via our school website.

The Governing Board hope you will share our view that converting to an academy with St. Bart's Trust will allow us further to improve the education we offer. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

V. Dutton

Mrs V. Dutton (Chair of the Governing Board)

