

### **Proposal to expand the Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust**

To the children, parents, carers, staff, governors and wider communities of St Bernard's, St Francis' and St Teresa's,

As you know, the Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust (Newman Catholic Trust) opened in March 2022 with a mission to secure the future of high-quality catholic education, in our diocese. The future plan for our Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is to expand in line with the Bishops' vision. This means, over time, admitting more catholic schools to the MAT (in a controlled manner) to secure financial stability, raise educational standards and provide greater support and strength.

In line with that vision, we are writing to you with details of a proposal to move St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Primary School into the Multi-Academy Trust in 2023.

St Nicholas of Tolentine is a catholic school that needs urgent support, following a recent Ofsted "Inadequate" judgement. The Boards of St Nicholas and The Newman Catholic Trust have suggested a plan for the school to remain open, grow and improve.

The proposed plan is for St Nicholas to move into the Newman Catholic Trust. The Bishop, Department for Education (DFE) and the Regional Schools' Commission (RSC) are also in support of this plan which is why an application has been submitted for the transfer.

The application and details from a due diligence process will be considered by an external committee on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 when they will review the viability and sustainability of the proposal. A decision will be made to either approve the application or reject it.

If approval is granted, there will be a second stage of due diligence examining the legal and formal frameworks surrounding any move. Should any concerns or issues be raised during this process, both St Nicholas and the Newman Catholic Trust will have the option of stopping the planned move.

As some of you may already know, the Trust is working directly and closely with St Nicholas in a supportive capacity and the DFE has provided funding for this. We wish to continue supporting a fellow catholic school whilst also learning and benefitting from the skills and expertise that St Nicholas has to offer.

If St. Nicholas joins the Newman MAT, they will be covered by our existing policies agreements and Articles of Association and there should be minimal change for our existing employees and schools. However, we will ensure that all stakeholders are kept up-to-date with developments and that our community is consulted during this process.

We hope that you are able to support our joint aims of working together to support St Nicholas and the Newman Catholic Trust.

Kind regards,

Anne Rolls  
Anne Rolls  
Chair of Board  
Newman Catholic Trust



Dr. Daniel Doyle  
CEO  
Newman Catholic Trust