

# ★ SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School ★



*We live and learn in the light of Christ!*

Weekly Newsletter to Parents  
Friday 19th October 2018

**Autumn 1 - Week 07**

This week we pray for these special people! - Year 1



## Contact Details

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## BIRMINGHAM TERM DATES

Term	Autumn 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2018
<b>New Term Begins</b>	Monday 3rd Sept	Monday 7th January	Monday 29th April
<b>1st Half-Term Ends</b>	Friday 26th October	Friday 15th February	Friday 24th May
<b>2nd Half-Term Begins</b>	Monday 5th Nov	Monday 25th February	Monday 3rd June
<b>Term Ends</b>	Friday 21st Dec	Friday 12th April	Friday 19th July

## SCHOOL FUND DONATIONS

(now including standing orders)  
Week 07

Reception	N/A
Year 1	£7.00
Year 2	£11.62
Year 3	£17.50
Year 4	£30.75
Year 5	£6.00
Year 6	£3.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£75.87</b>

School Fund can be paid weekly, monthly or termly. The suggested amount is **£1.00** per week. Thank you to all those parents who pay regularly in cash or by standing order. Thank you all for your support.

## School Mobile Phone

Please use for urgent contact out of office hours (3.30 pm - 8.00 am):



**07885 235 496**

## Dear Parents, Staff and Children,

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the SPFA Disco last Friday, it was a great success and raised £634.03 for the SPFA fund. I promise, I am still on the case trying to sort the Infant Playground, please bear with me but thank you to everyone who attended, there were some great costumes on show. Well done to all of those who helped to organise this fantastic social event. Superstars!

A big thank you to Year 6 who led us in worship during the Key Stage 2 Mass yesterday. The children read very well and answered some trick questions from Fr. Joe about St. Luke and the other Gospel writers. Fr. Joe and I were very impressed with the knowledge the children displayed throughout. Well done.

The Academy Consultation closed last week, I thank those of you who raised comments or questions about the process to me directly. I have written these up and include them as an attachment with this newsletter. I am pleased to say that all of the comments I have received have been positive where people can see the benefits of converting to an Academy and any queries raised, once answered, were met with a positive response once the outcome had been explained. The next step is a meeting with our Governing Body next week where the responses will be discussed at length before the final decision to convert is formally agreed. I will keep you informed.

Parents Evening appointments using ParentMail have been a big success, thank you for embracing our new communication tool and persevering when things have been challenging. Please remember to attend your appointment and be mindful of keeping to your 10 min slot. I have used ParentMail to give details of 'Events' in a calendar style but there are still some parents not connected or using the ParentMail App who will not receive these notifications. Please sign up as soon as possible. Thank you.

**God Bless. \*Thanks for supporting today's 'Flossathon!'**



Neil Porter –  
Head Teacher

## NEWS

**We will keep you informed, please read this information carefully.**

- **Secondary Admissions—Year 6 parents** Please remember to submit your application to Birmingham City Council Secondary Admissions team on <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> by midnight on 31st October 2018 in order for you to receive a school offer on 1st March 2019. Applications received after 31st October will be considered as late.
- **Children's School Uniform**—Please can I remind all parents that every item of school uniform should be clearly labelled with your child's name. The number of lost items is growing already! Can I also remind parents that your child's uniform is their own responsibility, not my staffs responsibility.
- **School Open Afternoon**—For those parents looking to send their child here for Reception Class in September 2019, we are holding our annual open afternoon event on Tuesday 23rd October @ 1.30 - 3.00 pm. Please spread the word to anyone you know who has a child the right age and those who are interested in applying for a place here. They will need to fill out our own additional application form which will be available on the day.
- **Parents Evening Dates**—We will be holding our Autumn Term Parents Evenings on Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th October @ 3.30 - 6.00 pm. The appointments is now available for booking via the ParentMail system. If you haven't booked your appointment already, please do so asap, the longer you leave it, the less choice you will have. Please remember to attend your appointment on time and stick to the timings of your 10 minute slot so that we can keep to time for everyone. If you require additional time to discuss your child further you will need to make an appointment with the teacher by contacting the school office. At the end of your appointment, you will be asked to sign a copy of the teacher notes as a record of what has been discussed. You will also receive a copy of these notes for your reference.
- **Swimming**—Y5 will need their kit for the next week on Thursday.
- **SENCO**—Mrs Calvert-Lyons will be holding her next SEN drop in session on Thursday 25th October between 9.30 to 10.00 am. Please phone the school office or e-mail:- [senco@ssptrpl.bham.sch.uk](mailto:senco@ssptrpl.bham.sch.uk), to book a session.
- **Admissions for Reception Class September 2019** — Please be aware the e-admissions online application entry opened up on 3rd September on the Birmingham City Council website. There is **NO** paper application available for 2019, all applications **MUST** be submitted via the website. If parents do not have access to a computer or tablet then you can either visit your local library to use a computer there, or you may pop into school where we will arrange for a computer here to be available.
- **Parent Workshops**—The time when Parents get to come into school and work alongside their child to help and support their education. Please make every effort to attend. See the dates below:
  - ⇒ Reception - Wednesday 14th November @ 9.00 am - Phonics
  - ⇒ Year 3 - Tuesday 20th November @ 9.00 am - Maths
  - ⇒ Year 1 - Thursday 22nd November @ 9.00 am - Phonics
  - ⇒ Year 4 - Wednesday 28th November @ 9.00 am - Maths
  - ⇒ Year 5 - Tuesday 4th December @ 9.00 am - English
  - ⇒ Year 2 - Thursday 6th December @ 9.00 am - Maths
  - ⇒ Year 6 - Wednesday 12th December @ 9.00 am - Maths

## IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

School Open Afternoon  
Tuesday 23rd October @ 1.30 pm

Parents Evening @ 3.30 - 6.00 pm  
Wed 24th & Thurs 25th October

Y3 - KS1 School Mass  
Thursday 25th October @ 9.15 am

SPFA Non-Uniform Day - £1.00  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Break Up for Half-Term Holiday  
Friday 26th October @ 2.00 pm

School Open for Autumn Term 2  
Monday 5th November @ 8.50 am

SPFA Meeting – The Digby Pub  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November @ 6.30 pm

Y5 - KS2 School Mass  
Thursday 8th November @ 9.15 am

School Photographs  
Monday 12th November 2018

Reception Parent Workshop – Phonics  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November @ 9.00 am

Y2 - KS1 School Mass  
Thursday 15th November @ 9.15 am

## TRAINING DAYS

- Monday 3rd September 2018
- Tuesday 4th September 2018
- Monday 7th January 2019
- Monday 29th April 2019
- One To Be Confirmed

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

**Monday** (3.20 - 4.20 pm)  
- Y5&6 Football Club  
-

**Tuesday** (3.20 - 4.20 pm)  
- KS2 Monster Craft Club  
- Y5&6 Multi-Skills

**Wednesday** (3.20 - 4.20 pm)  
-  
-

**Thursday** (3.20 - 4.20 pm)  
- KS1 Monster Craft Club  
-

**Friday** (2.00 - 3.00 pm)  
- Y3&4 Football Club  
-



### SS Peter & Paul School Mass Times

Thursday 25th October 2018 @ 9.15 am  
Key Stage 1 Children & Families - Led by Year 3



The details of our next school Mass will be in this newsletter each week. All parents, family members & Parish are invited to come and join our Mass celebration so please pop in if you have time to spare. See you soon.



### This week in school... Year 4 RE work



Year 4 exploring religious Jewish artefacts.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Copies of the newsletter with a larger font are available in the School Reception for people with visual needs and on the school website.

[www.ssptrpl.bham.sch.uk](http://www.ssptrpl.bham.sch.uk)

**Punctuality** – School starts at 8.50 am & closes at 3.20 pm Monday to Thursday. Every Friday it's open 8.50 am to 2.00 pm. Punctuality is important to ensure a good school day for both children and staff.

**Security** – Once children have been dropped off at school they must not, under any circumstances, leave the school premises for reasons of Safeguarding.

**Pupil absence** – If your child is absent from school please remember to **phone school before 9.30 am.** & send a note in when your child returns.

**Uniform** – Please ensure that **ALL** school uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name.

**Dinner money** – This is **£2.30 per day (£11.50 per week)**. Please remember we are now 'Cashless' so all dinner money payments must be made via **ParentMail**.

**School Dinners** – If your child changes their meal pattern from School dinners to packed lunch or swap from pizza day to packed lunch we must insist on half a terms notice. Thank you.

### Thought for our Diocesan Virtues Autumn 1 - Compassionate & Loving

Our pupils are taught that it is important to be *compassionate* towards others, near and far, especially those less fortunate; and *loving* to all of our neighbours by their just actions and forgiving words.  
We live and learn in the light of Christ.

### Riddle of the Week!!!

**Q: Why can't you play basketball with pigs?**

(See Mr Porter with your answer to check if you're right!)

**Last weeks answer was:**  
...wet...

### Prayer of the Week!!!

#### **A Prayer for God's Guidance**

Father in Heaven, You made me Your child  
and called me to walk in the Light of Christ.

Free me from darkness  
and keep me in the Light of Your Truth.

The Light of Jesus has scattered  
the darkness of hatred and sin.

Called to that Light, I ask for Your guidance.  
Form my life in Your Truth, my heart in Your Love.

Through the Holy Eucharist,  
give me the power of Your Grace  
that I may walk in the Light of Jesus  
and serve Him faithfully. Amen.

### Parish Events

#### Sue Flynn's Ladies Night

Friday 16th November @ 7.00 - 11.00 pm

Tickets £5.00 each

Contact Sue 07803405248 for details

#### School & Parish Christmas Fair

Saturday 1st December @ 11.00 - 2.00 pm

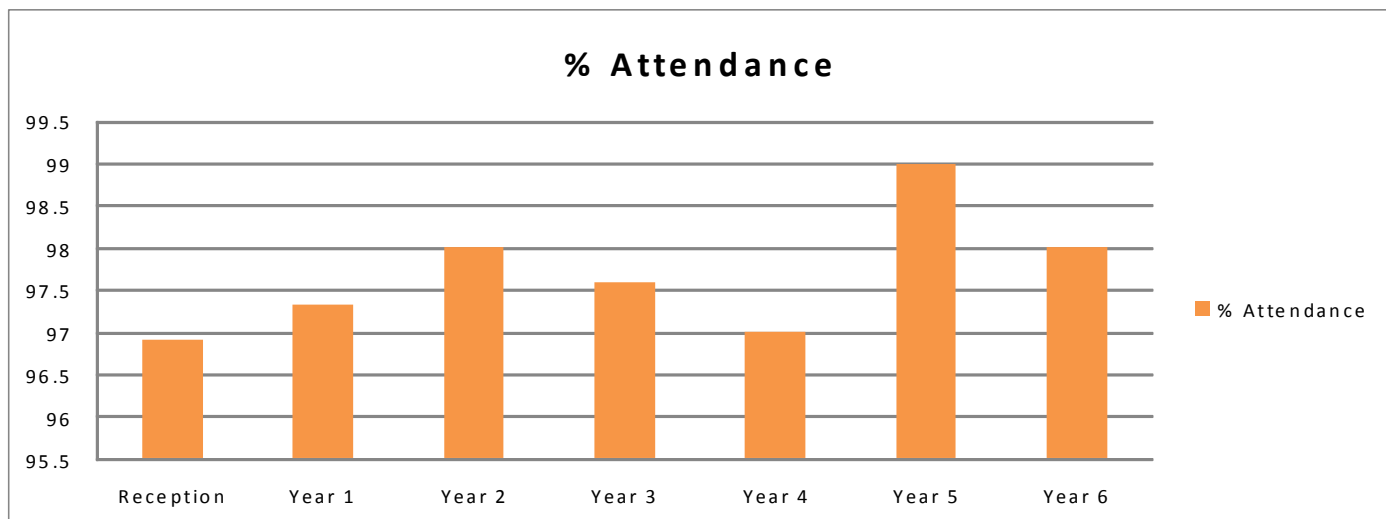
#### Parish Weekend Masses

Saturday @ 5.00 pm & Sunday @ 9.30 am

(All school Sunday Masses will be at 9.30 am)

As a School and Parish community we should be supporting these events to make SS Peter & Paul a lively and thriving Parish, full of joy and community spirit.

**Pupil Attendance September 8th October to 12th October 2018 = 97.69%**



**Congratulations to Year 5 well done for their excellent attendance.**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**We wish the following children a very Happy Birthday:-**

**Julia Baran, Lidia Pulisciano, Jesse Ejiogu, Bryan Mudalige.**



### 'STAR OF THE WEEK'

**Congratulations to these children awarded Star of the Week:-**

- **Reception — Sophia Roe**
- **Year 1 — Erin Toland**
- **Year 2 — Cerian Owen**
- **Year 3 — Ameyamary Biju**
- **Year 4 — Grace Bennett**
- **Year 5 — Ruby Atkins**
- **Year 6 — Sean Smith O'Donnell**



### House Points

Saint Peter 145  
Saint Paul 111  
Our Lady 109  
Saint Joseph 96



Well done to Saint Peter our winners.  
Congratulations!!!

## Stay Safe Online

E-Safety is very important! Do you know what your child is watching or doing on the internet?

### Top Tips for staying safe online

You can report anyone who is being abusive to you online or via social media by contacting the police on [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)

## Spanish Word of the Week

(Palabra de la semana)

"Quiero un café con leche"

means... I want a white coffee.



### Leading Light Club

#### Contact Details

07885 235 488

07885 235 491

[leadinglightclub@ssptrpl.bham.sch.uk](mailto:leadinglightclub@ssptrpl.bham.sch.uk)





# S.P.F.A Page

**Our SPFA will trial an 'Advertising Page' in each weeks school newsletter. Anyone with a small business or service to promote can pay the SPFA to put their advert on this page.**

**For more information please contact:**

**Kristina Moore on 07950815868 or Kelly Thompson on 07938638541**

## SPFA SCHOOL UNIFORM

See the attached order form for any new uniform, especially the

**'Winter Uniform'**

for after half-term.

Get your order in asap to avoid disappointment.

Order forms are available from the Entrance Hall or SPFA Page  
[www.pta-events.co.uk/spfa](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/spfa)



# SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School Uniform



Place your order by completing this form and returning it either to Kristina Moore at school or [katie@admerchandise.co.uk](mailto:katie@admerchandise.co.uk) – Mobile: 07748 685 998 or 07415 360 558.

Forms must be completed or you can also e-mail: [katie@admerchandise.co.uk](mailto:katie@admerchandise.co.uk) – we are not able to accept orders through text, social media or messenger.

You can also place your order and pay online if you prefer at: [www.pta-events.co.uk](http://www.pta-events.co.uk) – if you click on uniform and merchandise this shows a full list of all the uniform available.

We have uniform samples available in all sizes. If you are unsure of which size your child will need, please contact Kristina Moore: 07415 360 558 to arrange a fitting.

Please note that a donation from each order you place will go back to the SPFA to be used towards funds for the school.

Your order should be ready to collect/delivered to school within 2 weeks, during busy summer periods orders may take 2/3 weeks.

Please make sure all orders are accompanied with payment. You can pay using cash, bank transfer direct to the SPFA or with a cheque. Cheques should be made payable to SPFA. If you choose to order through [www.pta-events.co.uk](http://www.pta-events.co.uk) you can also pay through the website.

Any returned cheques due to insufficient funds will incur a charge.

## PLEASE SEND A SEPARATE ORDER FORM FOR EACH CHILD

Parent Name & Mobile Number .....

Address .....

CHILD'S NAME (Please print clearly) ..... Date of Order .....

(Please tick the relevant box below)

Deliver items to school: ☐




Collect from Katie: ☐

Deliver items to home: ☐






Payment Method: Cash: ☐

SPFA Bank Transfer: ☐

(see next page for bank account details)

GARMENT:	QUANTITY:	SIZE:	Sizes available:	PRICE:	TOTAL:
 <b>Banner Twin Pack Long Sleeve Boys shirt</b> Colour: Tussore	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Collar: 11", 11.5", 12", 12.5", 13", 13.5", 14"	<b>£15.00</b> per pack	£ <input type="text"/>
 <b>Banner Twin Pack Long Sleeve Girls shirt</b> Colour: Tussore	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Chest: 22", 24", 26", 28", 30", 32", 34"	<b>£15.00</b> per pack	£ <input type="text"/>
 <b>Woodbank Polo Shirt</b> Colour: Gold	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12	<b>£9.00</b> Each	£ <input type="text"/>

CONTINUED OVER

GARMENT:	QUANTITY:	SIZE:	Sizes available:	PRICE:	TOTAL:
 <b>Amber A Line Junior Skirt</b> Colour: Brown	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 9-10, 11-12, 13	<b>£12.00</b> per pack	£ <input type="text"/>
 <b>Tenby Double Box Pleat Pinafore</b> Colour: Brown	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 9-10, 11-12	<b>£19.00</b> Each	£ <input type="text"/>
 <b>Avon Zip-Fronted Corded Gingham Dress</b> Colour: Yellow	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 9-10, 11-12	<b>£13.50</b> Each	£ <input type="text"/>
 <b>Rowlinson Courtelle Acrylic V-Neck Jumper</b> Colour: Brown	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Chest: 24", 26", 28", 30" <hr/> Chest: 32", 34", 36", 38"	<b>£16.00</b> Each <hr/> <b>£19.00</b> Each	£ <input type="text"/>
 <b>Rowlinson Courtelle Acrylic Cardigan</b> Colour: Brown	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Chest: 24", 26", 28", 30" <hr/> Chest: 32", 34", 36", 38"	<b>£17.00</b> Each <hr/> <b>£20.00</b> Each	£ <input type="text"/>
<b>NOTES:</b>					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div>					
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT TO PAY:</b>					£ <input type="text"/>

**PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE UNABLE TO PROCESS ORDERS WITHOUT PRIOR PAYMENT**

**SPFA Bank Details for Bank Transfer:**  
 Sort Code: 77-85-41    Bank Account: 41677660

**Signature:** .....

**SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School**  
 Kingsbury Road, Erdington  
 Birmingham B24 9ND





**SS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARENTS MEETING REGARDING ACADEMY CONVERSION.**  
**Held at 5.00pm on Thursday 27th September 2018 in the School Hall**

Present: Neil Porter (HT), Emma Calvert-Lyons DHT, John Farrell (John Paul II Academy), Emma Samuel (John Paul II Academy)

In attendance was Wendy Wright Minute taker.

**Welcome and introductions**

- NP opened the meeting to remind the parents that the consultation process for conversion to Multi Academy opened on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Consultation has taken place with staff, Union Reps and parent stakeholders and the wider stakeholders i.e., the Erdington MP and local businesses and other local schools.
- NP will be putting an anonymous box in the school entrance hall if any parents have any questions that they would like to ask regarding the academisation conversion.
- NP stated that the Governing Body decision to join a Multi Academy was made at the right time and with the right Multi Academy. The primary reason for conversion is to protect the future of Catholic Education as directed by the Diocese. We would like to ensure that we protect the Catholic Schools now and in the future and maintain standards in growth and development. At the moment there are many services that we have to pay for example, school nurses, Pupil School Support, Payroll, HR, ICT etc. As an academy we will be in charge of our own destiny and be able to purchase services as a group at reasonable prices.
- NP shared a presentation with the parents at the meeting on the vision for the future upon joining the Multi Academy. This will be made available for all parents to see and will be sent out attached to the newsletter this week.

**Items Discussed:-**

- The Board of Directors shared vision for the Catholic ethos of the Academy. NP explained the Board of Directors set up which is 14 Directors, 8 Foundation, 2 Staff and 2 Parents. They all offer accountability and support.
- Funding – Savings can be made on purchases of services and will be more cost effective, which in turn will allow money to be spent on teaching and learning.
- The Mission statement was discussed and the continual path for pupils through Primary to Secondary. Best practice and the sharing of ideas and support specialists. Whole Multi Academy training for staff will also take place. Staff will also have the opportunity for development, help and support, and secondment placement opportunities if they arise.
- School term dates will be in line with the Academy dates. There will be no change in the admissions procedure to either Primary or Secondary Schools. The budget will remain the same but will come from Central Government instead of Local Government.
- The conversion date will be 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018.



NP asked the parents if they had any questions following the presentation, there is an e-mail address set up for any questions that parents wish to ask. NP stated the closing date for any questions will be 12<sup>th</sup> October at 5 pm. There will be a Governors meeting to discuss the questions to which they will be answered before we convert to Academy:-

- The parents felt that the presentation NP gave was very informative. NP will arrange to attach a copy of the presentation to the weekly newsletter so that all the parents can see it.
- A parent asked how many schools will be in the Multi Academy – JF stated one secondary at the moment although another may be joining next year, we will have five primary schools and another one may join next year. JF stated that by all working together we could provide a stronger and richer school community offering support to each other. We want the children to be happy. SS Mary & John School has made good progress, they have been fully supported by the Multi Academy and are now in a stronger position. NP commented that we will benefit from joining the MAC, we are all equal partners.
- Parent asked about fundraising and the School & Parent, Family Association, will the fundraising be for SS Peter & Paul School or will it go elsewhere? NP confirmed that the fundraising will still be used for the benefit of SS Peter & Paul School. The school budget is still for our school.
- Parent asked if we could purchase goods outside of the market. ES commented that we could, the MAC are currently working with the Department for Education in looking for quotes for certain services. So we do have purchasing power. JF stated that the MAC had already saved money on photo copying by negotiating a contract for all the schools with a saving of £30,000.
- Parent asked about the amount of pupils and funding. JF stated that once we get over 3,000 pupils we have access to extra capital funding in which we will then have a strategic plan to spend the money. Each school will have the opportunity to submit a bid. JF stated that Bishop Walsh School have recently received funds for roofing. Parent asked how many pupils the MAC have so far, JF stated that they have 1,800 at the moment, when the Primary schools join and St Edmund Campion we will have over 3,000 pupils.
- Parent asked, how soon will we see savings made? NP commented that all contracts will be looked at for services to see if we can stop them or replace them with a better deal. JF stated that we need best for all the schools and better control of services that we use.
- Parent asked if the staff would be TUPED over and would the pension etc remain the same. NP stated that it would remain the same. Parent commented that they noticed on the MAC Annual Report showed a pension deficit. JF stated that that would be the Local Government pension scheme; we currently pay a top slice to Birmingham City Council. This would go to the MAC instead who then guarantees £27,000 per year for twenty one years. The MAC have put plans in place, the amount will be re calculated every 3 years, it is effectively like a mortgage debt that needs to be repaid over time. SS Peter & Paul School will be calculated, some schools may have a difference if they have long term staff in place.
- Parent asked JF and ES what their work background was. JF stated that he has a History Degree, has taught at Bishop Walsh School then taught for eight years at St Edmund Campion School. Then went back to Bishop Walsh where he was appointed as Head Teacher and has now been seconded for one year to help with the MAC changes and growth. ES stated that she has set up a Multi Academy in Sparkhill, then employed as Head of Operations at John Paul II Academy, previously worked in HR and for the Ministry of Justice.

NP asked the parents if there were any further questions. As there were no further questions the meeting was closed. Thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes signed by:-



**Neil Porter**  
**Head Teacher**

### **E-mail from Parent 1:**

Hello - I'm not going to be able to attend tonight's consultation so here are some of my thoughts and questions. This Academy subject has been spoken about for a while and I am not sure that this is a genuine consultation.

1. What are the reasons for forming/joining an Academy ? Is it primarily to protect our existence as a group of Catholic schools against future attempts to undermine or water down our raison d'être? What are the dangers in not forming/joining an Academy?
2. Are we forming an Academy or joining an existing one?
3. I've read that on joining an Academy the school becomes liable for pension contributions for support staff, maternity, long term sickness, etc,... and also becomes liable for the fabric of the buildings, buildings insurance, emergency repairs, capital replacement and the cost of this could be considerable. Are we ready for this?
4. I am concerned that decisions to enter into commercial contracts e.g. for IT equipment will lead to expensive mistakes. Are we going to need a Business Manager?
5. Are there plans to have a commercial sponsor for the Academy? If so how will they be chosen? What would you give them in return?
6. How are the school's management and governors going to be able to deal with all the new commercial and regulatory demands which will sit with them as an Academy member?
7. How/where are we going to access expert advice e.g. HR/legal-will it come at a cost?
8. Apparently Academy schools can recruit unqualified teachers-can you advise your thoughts on this?
9. Academy schools can set their own hours and school holidays-would you envisage any major changes
10. How will this affect the feeder school system? Say if too many parents want to send their children to the same secondary school?
11. Is there a danger that parents' concerns and needs won't be addressed by a business minded Academy? How can we ensure that parents know where responsibility lies and we won't see a lot of passing the buck?
12. I am wary that fund raising will become the entire focus of the Academy- can you reassure us that the focus will be on the education and well-being of our children in a Catholic school and not merely dealing with business activities?

Thanks.

### **My Response:**

Thank you for this e-mail, I will attempt to answer your questions to the best of my knowledge and will confirm anything I am unsure of with either the Diocese or the Academy we are joining. I have provided copies of the slides from the consultation meeting you missed in the newsletter (I've also attached them to this e-mail) which should address and answer most of the questions you have asked. Copies of the minutes will follow to parents today.

1. Our reasons for becoming an Academy came initially from a Diocesan directive back in 2016 where the Archdiocese of Birmingham issued a directive for all Catholic schools in the Diocese to join together in Academy groups to protect the future of Catholic Education in this country. This remains the plan for all Catholic schools and we made the decision as a school and governing body to follow this directive in the best interests of our children and our families, with the ability to do this on our own terms at a time of our choice without being forced by the DfE if we were ever to have a poor Ofsted experience. The point is, there is strength in collaboration, working closely with other Catholic Schools on a more formal basis provides great opportunities for development which we wouldn't get if we stay as a stand alone school. If we do not join an Academy, we run the risk of being left on our own which I feel is a very vulnerable position.
2. We are joining an existing Academy; St. John Paul II Multi-Academy Company. This consists of 4 schools currently (Bishop Walsh, Holy Cross, St. Joseph's & St. Nicholas) but will be expanding to include SS Mary & John, Abbey Catholic Primary, St. Edmund Campion and ourselves.
3. All of those things are things we are accountable for anyway as a stand alone school so nothing would change there!
4. There is a business manager in place for all of the Academy schools which will be a massive relief for me as currently all of those financial decisions with contracts fall on me, I will be very glad of the professional and specialised support.
5. There are no plans for a commercial sponsor, that is not the idea of the Catholic MAC model.
6. The school leaders, myself, my deputy and my senior leadership team and the governing body are looking

7. Expert advice like HR will all be a part of the Academy structure, this is something we currently pay for individually but will hopefully experience a saving due to the fact we are part of a larger organisation through economies of scale. All professional services will still be in place through the Academy and everything comes at a cost but we should benefit being part of a larger group.
8. All schools can recruit unqualified teachers, not just Academies. My thoughts are that this is an unwise move and not something that I have considered in the past nor will I going forward. The possibility of training and moulding your own staff has an appeal but there would be a qualification structure behind it, not just having unqualified teachers instead of qualified ones because they're cheaper!
9. I don't envisage any major changes to school timings or holidays, so far the Academy has always stuck with Birmingham's dates.
10. Nothing changes with regards to 'feeder school' criteria nor secondary admissions criteria, all the usual rules still apply. There is no need for anything to change there. We are still officially a feeder for St. Edmund Campion not Bishop Walsh, that will not change.
11. Parents concerns about SS Peter & Paul will still be my responsibility so there should be no 'passing the buck', this school, it's children, staff and parents are still my responsibility and I still expect to be held accountable for it.
12. Any fundraising that takes place with regards to our school will be solely for the benefit of our school and our children. The SPFA will still remain specific to our school. My reasons for joining the Academy are nothing to do with money, it is not a business as far as I'm concerned. I can see there will be some financial costs but also some financial benefits but that is not why we are doing this. As a school standing on our own, it is a very vulnerable position to be in. Joining with others as part of something bigger will ensure collaboration and development for my staff which in turn benefits the children. The standards of attainment in all of the current Academy schools is high and so is ours but there are still many things we can work on to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children. That is my primary goal, improved outcomes for children, that is what is important to me and that will not change by converting to an Academy.

I hope I have managed to answer your questions. Thank you for taking such a vested interest in the process, it is always good to know that the parents are active participants in their children's education, so thank you. I hope I have allayed any fears or apprehensions you have about our conversion to Academy and that you can see that the benefits far out-weigh any negatives that may exist in this process. As a parent, from the outside looking in, my hope is that you will not notice any differences in the day to day running of the school and you will notice improvements to your child's education which will ultimately lead to better outcomes and attainment for our pupils. If there is anything else you need, please feel free to ask.

#### **Response from Parent:**

Thank you for taking your time to give me such a considered response-you have addressed all my concerns. We would be stronger together.

#### **E-mail from Parent 2:**

Hello, please accept my apologies but I am not able to attend today's meeting due to other commitments. However, I would like to express that I feel like conversion to Academy status sounds a good choice for our school. Therefore I'm in full support for this. My question: Does status conversion have any impact on secondary school admissions criteria for schools in the same Multi-Academy Company? Is there a chance for our school to become 'feeder school' for particular secondary school? I look forward to hear from you.

#### **My Response:**

Thank you for your e-mail and thank you for your support over our impending conversion to Academy. Sorry you couldn't attend the meeting but I hope you have managed to see a copy of the slides which I put in the school newsletter, I will attach another copy to this e-mail. The minutes from the parents meeting will be available to parents later today. In the mean time, I will answer your question to the best of my ability.

A) Our conversion to Academy, joining the St. John Paul II Multi-Academy Company, will not affect the admissions criteria with regards to Secondary School applications. We are officially a feeder for St. Edmund