



Birmingham City Council Education Department
St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher
Mrs. D. Linley
Almond Croft, Great Barr, Birmingham B42 1NU



13th December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Move towards Academisation

I am writing to inform you of the changes to current educational policy that will not only affect us at St. Mark's Catholic Primary School and all Voluntary Aided Catholic Schools within the Archdiocese of Birmingham but all Catholic schools nationally.

As Headteacher, I am accountable to the Bishop, Diocesan Trustees and the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service; as are the Governing Body. The Birmingham Diocesan Education Service (BDES), who along with the Bishop and Diocesan Trustees are responsible for leading and securing Catholic Education in all its Voluntary Aided Catholic Schools, have formally requested that all of its Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools take steps to become 'academy ready' this academic year. The reasoning behind this is to secure, protect and work towards the improvement of Catholic education as we move into the future; ensuring that no Catholic school in the Archdiocese is left in isolation and vulnerable.

Recently, members of St. Mark's Governing Body met with leaders from the St. John Bosco Catholic Academy from Dudley. This is an existing Multi Academy Company (MAC) that strongly supports the mission, vision and values of St. Mark's Catholic Primary School. Currently, the governors of St. Mark's are in discussions about joining this MAC in the interests of strengthening Catholic education, provision and outcomes for our children through strong collaboration.

I am sure that many of you will have questions in relation to St. Mark's Catholic Primary School becoming an academy and joining a MAC. However, please be assured that we will keep you up to date with future developments and that information will be shared with you throughout the process. I will ensure you will be given the opportunity to ask questions and receive responses in relation to your questions. It is important that you know that nothing drastic will change at St. Mark's in becoming an academy, we will still retain our unique individual identity and the important qualities that make our school special.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. Linley
Headteacher

Mrs. M. Naughton
Chair of Governors

