



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to update you on an important development regarding the membership of Elsecar Holy Trinity Primary Academy within St Marys Academy Trust (SMAT).

The Department for Education (DfE) has decided that the nine academies within SMAT will be transferred to alternative Multi Academy Trusts. This decision has been taken to ensure the continued success, support and development of education delivered within the SMAT academies and the achievement of all pupils within them. The decision has been made that Elsecar Holy Trinity Primary Academy will be joining the Diocese of Sheffield Academy Trust (DSAT).

You may be aware that Church schools are only able to join Multi Academy Trusts with Church Articles due to their Christian denomination. The diocese of Leeds and Sheffield were consulted on the potential trusts for SMAT church academies. This was taken into account by DfE when determining the destination trust for each academy.

Under arrangements made by SMAT Trustees the academy has been working closely with HCAT since September. You may be aware of and have experienced some improvements delivered this school year. This collaboration has laid a solid foundation to enable a smooth transition to DSAT, expected to be completed in readiness for the new academic year in September 2025. HCAT will work closely with the new Trust over the next two terms. The HCAT Executive Leadership will remain in place to provide necessary stability until the end of the school year.

We are committed to keeping you informed throughout this process. We understand that this may bring about questions and concerns which you may wish to raise with your headteacher or directly with us. Alternatively you may wish to contact your Local Governing Body which will continue to be part of the governance of our academies and involve the new Trust. Views are always welcomed.

SMAT Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank HCAT for all their support to date and their ongoing commitment to all St Mary's' academies during the transition process.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Lesley Bailey

Ian Hauge-Brown

Chair of Trust

Trustee