



Clifford
ALL SAINTS

C of E Primary School

Head teacher: Mrs Cathy Rowland
Email: headteacher@cliffordallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk
Assistant Head teacher: Ms Hannah Wood
Email: hwood@cliffordallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk
Chair of Governors: Prof Rob Coleman
chair@cliffordallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk

108 Psalter Lane Ringinglow Road
Sheffield Sheffield
S11 8YU S11 7PQ
Tel: 0114 2662977
Option 1 Psalter Lane Option 2 Ringinglow
E-mail: enquiries@cliffordallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk
Website: www.cliffordallsaints.sheffield.sch.uk

14th September 2021

Dear parents,

We hope your child/children have settled back well into new classes and the school routine. As you know, the Interim Executive Board of Governors (IEB) has been working closely with the Senior Leadership Team at the school to bring about a range of improvements to the curriculum as well as ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all children. As part of this, the IEB have been considering how the excellent steps already taken over the past two terms can best be built upon. We also wish to ensure the long-term future and enhance the performance of the school while protecting its unique Christian focus, identity and ethos. As part of this, we wanted to inform you at the earliest opportunity of some important potential developments at the school.

Whilst no final decision has been made, the IEB as part of a full review of options, is strongly in favour of Clifford All Saints School joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). The IEB has kept up to date with the developments of Academies nationally, across Sheffield, and within the Diocese and feel it has become increasingly challenging to remain a 'stand alone' organisation. The significant difficulties all schools have faced over the last 18 months as a result of COVID, has further strengthened our belief that it could be beneficial for our school to join a Trust with proven success in supporting its schools. We have considered the range of options available to us as a Church of England School. Discussions with the Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust (DSAT) have been particularly encouraging. DSAT is comprised of 15 primary schools in the Sheffield area, with almost all being Church of England Primary Schools like Clifford All Saints. We are confident that partnering with DSAT would ensure that the school retains its identity, to reflect parent and community aspirations. Additionally, staff would be protected and benefit from the increased support that a MAT can provide and, most importantly, pupils

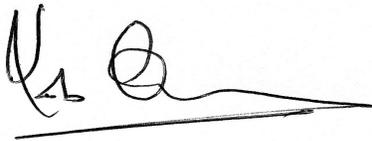
would benefit from the schools wider and instant access to a greater range and depth of educational expertise. Joining DSAT would also enhance the school's financial stability, allowing greater future investment into the classroom experience.

We wish to stress that, at this point in time no formal application to join DSAT has been made. However, we are interested in any initial views you may have on the proposal. Should the IEB and DSAT decide over the coming weeks or months that a formal application to the Department of Education is in the best interests of the school, there will be a formal period of consultation during which you as parents will be offered the opportunity to attend question and answer sessions with the leadership team of DSAT and the IEB.

As we explore the implications of this proposal further over the coming weeks to both the school and DSAT, a greater understanding of the advantages and possible challenges ahead will emerge and I will write again once we have a clearer picture of the best way forward.

Further information on DSAT can be found at <https://www.dsat.education>

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Coleman', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Coleman
Chair of Interim Executive Board of Governors, Clifford All Saints Primary School

Cathy Rowland
Executive Head Teacher

Cc Rev Mark Brown, All Saints Ecclesall; Rev Gareth Thomas, St. Andrew's Psalter Lane