



Shinfield St. Mary's C.E. (VA) Junior School

Chestnut Crescent, Shinfield, Reading, RG2 9EJ

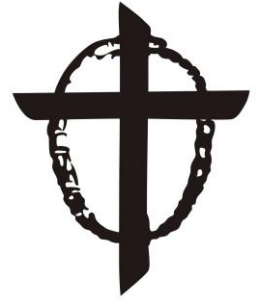
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Headteacher: Mrs. Philippa Chan

'As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' John 13, 34

Love Kindness Trust Patience Hope Perseverance



24th May 2024

Dear Community stakeholders,

The governors of Shinfield St Mary's C E Junior School have always been a positive force in shaping the strategic direction of the school in their quest to ensure the school's effectiveness in providing for the children in our community. Over the last academic year, they, alongside the Leadership team have been investigating whether the school would be strengthened by converting to an academy and joining a multi-academy trust (MAT).

As part of this process, the Governors have researched and met with several MATs and have made the decision to consult on us joining Agape Multi-Academy Trust.

I am writing to you today to inform you that the formal consultation will start on Friday 24th May 2024

Agape trust is made up from the following schools:

- The Piggott School, Wokingham including Charvil Piggott Primary School
- Altwood C of E School, Maidenhead
- Robert Piggott Infants School (joining later this year)
- Robert Piggott Junior School (joining later this year)

They have a strong vision for their trust

Agape MAT Vision

'A collaboration of schools that aims to enhance the educational experiences and outcomes for children aged 4-18; maximizing and sharing the benefits of working together whilst maintaining the individual culture and ethos of each individual school'.

The benefits for the schools in the MAT are support for each other in regards to teaching, learning, educational outcomes, leadership and back office functions.

There were several reasons why Agape was the preferred option:

- Each school in the MAT retains their own individuality, culture and ethos.
- It is a local MAT which supports collaboration between schools
- It is currently a relatively small MAT so we have been offered representation at board level
- Secondary school expertise to support curriculum design
- The MAT model is 'mixed articles' meaning that both church and non-church schools are able to join.



In conclusion our schools will benefit from shared resources, school improvement strategies, procurement, experience and talent.

Consultation with Parents and the community

The parental and community consultation starts today. A parent consultation event will be held on Thursday 13th June at 6.30 pm

A final decision on MAT conversion will be taken by the Governing Body following these consultations, due diligence processes, and final agreement by the Regional Schools Director.

The consultations finish on Friday 12th July 2024

A final decision on MAT conversion will be taken by the Governing Body following these consultations, due diligence processes, and final agreement by the Regional Schools Director.

Please find attached to this letter a MAT executive summary containing information about Agape MAT processes and structure.

If you have questions regarding MAT conversion, the executive summary should provide these, and we would hope to answer any further questions during the consultation meetings. Questions are welcomed in advance by email to our Governance professional Sue Roberts at: sroberts@shinfield-st-marys.wokingham.sch.uk

We hope that you too will be excited by the potential benefits this collaboration can offer our school. We look forward to your contributions to the process.

Yours faithfully

Jessica Dye
Chair of the Governing Body