

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Dear parents and carers,

The Sycamore Church of England Trust - St. Stephen's Update

In June 2023, the Regional Director for the North West, approved, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education, a recommendation that St. Stephen's Primary School will convert from a maintained school and become an academy that will be sponsored by the Sycamore Church of England Trust.

You may be aware that the trust has been working with the leadership and staff teams at St. Stephen's for over twelve months, supporting them on their improvement journey following the school's Ofsted inspection in July 2022. School leaders and governors have enjoyed a close working partnership with our trust team throughout this interim period, and we are now looking forward to officially welcoming the school and wider community into our growing trust family. The anticipated date of conversion will be on Friday 1st December 2023.

As a school leader who has worked in Bury for just over twenty-five years in several schools, it is a great privilege for me to now lead The Sycamore Church of England Trust. We have at the centre of our mission and purpose the belief that every child has a right to educational excellence through the provision of high-quality schooling. Our trust maintains a clear focus on collaboration, raising standards, encouraging innovation, and strengthening our distinctive ethos to ensure that we have a positive impact on the young people and in the diverse communities that we serve.

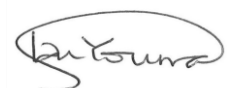
Our trust has a strong and unique identity where the values of inclusion, compassion, aspiration, resilience and excellence lie at the heart of everything we do. These values are embraced by our team of trustees, leaders, teachers, staff, parents, and children alike.

We place great importance on what we do and how we do it. Our values underpin our interactions with each other and strengthen our sense of family. The children are always placed at the heart of everything we do.

I will write to you in mid-November to update you on the conversion process. In the meantime, please be assured that there are no immediate plans to change the colour of the school uniform or the school's name. The published term dates for St. Stephen's will also remain the same.

If you have any other queries or questions, then please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Mrs Denney.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Young, Trust Leader

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