

A Message from the Chair of Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust

Thank you for your interest in the role of Headteacher of St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, which belongs to Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust. Our Trust is a fellowship of Catholic schools, whose collective purpose is to deliver exceptional Catholic education to all in our communities. Our story began in April 2013, when Saint Paul's Catholic High School joined with St Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Ss John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School to form the Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust. The three schools had already been working closely together for a number of years and the creation of the Trust formalised the relationship. In December 2013, St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School joined the Trust. In September 2022 we became Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust. We are now excited to be entering into a period of growth, and joined with All Saints Catholic College on 1st December 2022, who are a welcome addition to our Trust.

In more recent years, the Trust has established a Trust Central Team to provide core business functions to ensure that we comply with our statutory responsibilities and support the operations and educational performance of our academies. By developing an efficient and effective infrastructure across the Trust, we enable our schools to focus on their core purpose of providing an exceptional Catholic education. In doing so, we believe we open doors of opportunity and fulfil our mission as educators by drawing "young people to what is good, beautiful and true" (Pope Francis).

Our key priorities are as follows:

- To grow the faith of pupils and parents and staff across the Trust
- To become the employer of choice in education
- To provide an outstanding Catholic education to all pupils irrespective of their background and starting points
- To be a growing, outward facing Trust with an excellent reputation within the local community and beyond
- To develop an efficient and effective infrastructure across the Trust which enables schools to focus on their core purpose of providing an outstanding Catholic Education

Our centralised back office support enables leaders to focus more on delivering education and less on day-to-day operational matters. As we employ specialists in the key areas of

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finance and HR, it means that these functions can be managed in a smoother and more efficient way than possible at an individual school level. It's also good to know there is always someone at the end of the phone with whom you can discuss any worries or concerns, in confidence, and always in a supportive manner.

In terms of workforce, there are many benefits to belonging to our Trust. We have a strong history of deploying staff from one school to another when the need arises. For example, we have supported school business managers who are new to post, covered absent caretakers and provided executive headteachers in schools whilst they recruit a substantive head. As well as covering absences, staff have been deployed in other schools within the Trust to provide professional support, including across different phases. These deployments not only support leaders during times of difficulty, but they also provide fantastic development opportunities to staff members. One staff member said the following when asked why they liked to work for the Trust, "The growing school-to-school support where the forming of relations leads to the sharing of resources freely... they are acts of kindness which serve and promote the common good".

Our headteachers and local governing bodies do have accountability to the Trust board, but retain significant autonomy to make their own decisions at a local level in line with the scheme of delegation. If a school were to find itself in difficulty, our overarching principle is that we adopt a supportive approach where direct input is given, but the ultimate aim is to develop existing leaders to raise standards and to ensure they have appropriate external support where this cannot be provided from within the Trust. We have a track record of providing financial support from Trust reserves to fund school improvement work to ensure that our resources are deployed where the need is greatest.

I see this role as an important step in the journey of St Elizabeth's and the Trust to provide outstanding education to the children of Wythenshawe. To achieve this we need to find a Headteacher who shares our Catholic faith and has a passion to allow the children of Wythenshawe to achieve excellence in some aspect of their life so they can leave school with confidence and an aspiration to succeed in life. To achieve this, we need a Headteacher who has a desire to work collaboratively, and who is inspirational and innovative with a passion for education and working with people.

I wish you all the best in your application and hope I have the opportunity of meeting you as part of this process.

Yours sincerely

Nick Johnson

Chair of Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust