



Stratford-sub-Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Justine Watkins BEd (Hons)



*Life in all its fullness*

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Dear Parents,

I am writing to you today to share our Governing Board Annual Report, and to inform you of an important decision regarding the future of our school.

### **Annual Report**

The Annual Report is a very timely follow-up to the recent Ofsted inspection, which allows us to provide additional information about the work that has been undertaken in the last year and recognise the efforts of all the staff and Governors to help achieve the 'Good' outcome.

As a Governing Board we too have undertaken some changes in the past year and I hope the report will be useful in helping you to understand our role and the journey we have been on.

### **Governing Board Decision**

In recent months the Governing Board have been considering how to ensure the school is best placed for the future, not only with regards to the direct provision of education, but also the wider infrastructure and support needed to run a successful school.

Our ultimate priority is to ensure that this school remains the amazing nurturing and educational establishment that it is today. The Governing Board have taken advice from the Diocese Board of Education, the school leadership team and other local governors. As a result, I can confirm that the Governing Board have voted for Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School to join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

### What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

Academies are publicly funded schools, independent of the local authority, held accountable through a legally binding funding agreement with the Department for Education (DfE). Staff are employed by the academy trust. Multi-academy trusts (MATs) are groups of academies that have come together to form a charitable company, with a single group of 'members' (who have an overview of the governance arrangements) and a single board of trustees.

Importantly, the decision as to which MAT the school will join has not yet been made, only that the future of the school is best within a MAT. The Governing Body and school staff will now undertake a robust programme of assessment of various suitable MAT's before making a final decision about which MAT it will join.

The key reasons for this decision are as follows:

- Ensuring our key educators are able to focus on education.
- Working collaboratively allows for economies of scale and sharing of best practice.
- All schools will be required to join a Trust by 2030, taking this decision allows the school to be in charge of its own destiny.
- The Diocesan Board of Education recommends this course of action for its schools.

Our priority is to find the right MAT to fit our school, supporting and enhancing the school's existing vision and values and retaining all that makes Stratford the unique place it is.

We will keep you informed of our progress and provide an FAQ in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Mintram

*For and on behalf of the Governing Board*