

## Consultation to convert to join Bosco Catholic Education Trust

Governors, staff and leaders of your child's school are considering joining the Diocesan Trust for Sussex - Bosco Catholic Education Trust. They value your comments and feedback, knowing that great education is all about successful partnerships and working as a community with their wonderful parents and carers.

Children always come first and every decision that we make as Catholic schools must be to their advantage, ensuring in the words of Don Bosco, that they are **'known and loved'**. By default, this also means investing and caring for staff, ensuring they are well-supported, given the very best resources and facilitated to love and care for your child.

You will have received a more detailed letter inviting you to a consultation meeting, followed by a web link or physical survey to respond to.

To summarise some of the reasons why the school are considering joining Bosco CET:

- By working collaboratively, schools already in the Trust have been able to secure additional support for their children. The Trust employs its own Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist and other specialist services that maintained schools have struggled to secure.
- Schools in the Trust work closely together to improve the quality of learning and outcomes. This is particularly helpful for smaller schools where it is harder to network, innovate and develop resources due to limited capacity. All schools in the Trust are either graded as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.
- Greater collaboration between schools has helped to manage workloads, improve sharing of good practice and take away unnecessary administrative tasks which could distract school leaders from their focus on the children. An example of this would be reviewing and maintaining policies which are common to all Catholic schools.
- Staff training and support is a key focus for the Trust and has led to a number of successful training programmes and support networks for subject leaders, Sendcos, Business Managers, Governors and Headteachers.
- The Trust prioritises bringing new teachers into the profession, developing existing staff and supporting schools with their recruitment needs and succession planning.
- The Trust can help schools save money and improve wider support services such as IT development, financial planning and premises management.
- There are specialist staff in the Trust to help school leaders and governors with premise development, estate compliance and financial security.
- Trust schools do not have to pay VAT on building projects, nor fund the first 10% of capital works as maintained VA schools do at present.
- There are additional grants that only Trusts can bid for which benefit the children. This money has been used by the Trust to set up new services.
- As a cross-phase education trust, schools in Bosco can work closely on the transition of children between primary and secondary schooling as well as for these schools to learn from one another.
- By working closely together within one Trust, schools can have a stronger collective and Catholic voice. There is a strong sense of being 'greater than the sum of our individual parts'.
- Bosco CET are not 'top-down' but exists to serve each individual school. Schools have maintained their autonomy and unique identity. They haven't changed their name, uniforms, governance structures or day-to-day practices as a result of joining the Trust. School governors continue to be responsible for the strategic and financial oversight of their schools. Staff continue to be responsible for all aspects of school life, including the curriculum and how it is taught. Employment policies haven't changed, and staff rights and conditions have been protected.
- Having now been operating since 2017, Bosco CET has a proven track record of success and those schools already in the Trust are thriving. These schools have given schools looking to join the Trust a lot of positive feedback and reassurance that the benefits anticipated are being realised in practice.

Extensive due diligence is being undertaken by Governors and the Trust before any commitment is made to join the Trust. This includes seeking the opinion of parents and carers, so we thank you for your input and views.

## Schools currently in the Trust:



Annecy Catholic Primary

Seaford



St Paul's Catholic College

Burgess Hill



Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary

Crawley



St Peter's Catholic Primary

Seaford



St Joseph's Catholic Primary

Hayward's Heath



St Philip Howard Catholic School

Barnham



St Mary's Catholic Primary

Worthing



St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary

Angmering

There are a number of schools in West and East Sussex consulting on joining the Trust. It is expected that between 6-12 schools will join the Trust in the next 18 months, working increasingly together in regional groups to ensure localised provision and collaboration.