



St Edmund's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools



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Chair of Governors: Mr I Cameron

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Tuesday 19th May 2026

Dear Parents,

As you know St Edmund's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary schools will become part of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Academy Trust on 1st September 2026. The process is moving along smoothly, and the final statutory actions are almost complete. The TUPE transfer of staff has begun and will be completed as planned on 1st September. Once the two federation schools are part of the trust, it will have reached its capacity and there are no more schools left to join.

Bishop Peter has communicated his vision for the education in the Diocese of East Anglia to the governing bodies and staff of all the Catholic schools now that the academy process which was started in 2016 has reached the final stages. This vision proposes that the two existing academy trusts- Our Lady of Walsingham based in Suffolk and Cambridge; and St John the Baptist based in Norfolk and Peterborough; should join to form one trust across the whole of the Diocese. By working together as one trust, he believes the mission of Catholic education will be served more successfully.

This decision has been taken after careful consideration by the Diocesan Schools' Commission, Executive Leaders or the two trusts and the trustees of the Diocese of East Anglia. Since the academy process began in 2016, there have been many changes in education nationally and factors which have impacted on the success of trusts. Research has shown that trusts now need to have between 7,500 - 10,000 pupils to enable the economies of scale envisioned at the start of the academy programme. Also, the ratio of secondary to primary schools required to demonstrate benefits is 1 secondary to 5 primary schools. By joining the two trusts, these criteria will be met making the trust more sustainable and increasing the ability to collaborate for the benefit of our children and staff.

Bishop Peter has made it clear that he expects St Edmund's and St Joseph's to continue with the original timescale of joining the Our Lady of Walsingham Trust in Sept 2026. In this way we will be part of the planning and discussions regarding the formation of the new trust which will be established in Sept 2027. These plans are still at a very early stage, and we will communicate further details when they are available.

If you do have questions or comments, please speak to Mrs Kemble or send to the office marked for the Chair of Governors.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Cameron
Chair of Governors

"We learn together in God's love by encouraging and supporting one another."

