

16 July 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

**RE: Governance at St Catherine's Bridport**

I am sure you are aware that St Catherine's was judged by Ofsted to require improvement in January 2017. When this judgement is given, Ofsted typically re-inspects the school within two years. This means that the school is due for re-inspection next term.

At the recent section 48 inspection, which evaluates the Catholic life of the school, leadership and management was found to require improvement. Although this judgement specifically relates to the Catholicity of the school, there are other elements of leadership and management, which includes leadership at all levels, that are not yet good.

The governing body have demonstrated great commitment and effort to move the school forward, however, with so many members having been appointed within the last twelve months, the governors do not yet have the necessary skills and expertise to drive improvement at the rapid rate that is required.

In the best interests of the school, I have consulted with Raymond Friel, the new Chief Executive Officer of CAST, who joined the trust at the beginning of this month, and with Father Mark O'Keefe, the Bishop's representative. Following those conversations, I have taken the difficult decision to replace the governing body with an interim academy board (IAB), whose role it is to focus solely on driving rapid improvement to get the school to good.

For continuity, Chris Addis and Georgina Coombs have kindly agree to continue to support the school as members of the new IAB, which will meet in September. I do recognize that, in the event of an inspection taking place early next term, it is unlikely that they will have been able to bring significant impact. However, by making the decision to focus solely on school improvement, we are making the right decision for the school and pupils.

I want to thank the governors who have given so generously of their time to support the school. I can only apologise for the disappointment that this decision has caused and assure you that it was not taken lightly. Sadly, at this time, a more intense level of governance is needed.

I trust that you will join me in supporting all at St Catherine's on their continuing journey to get to good. I know the Headteacher and her hard-working staff are doing everything they can to ensure that your children receive the high quality education they deserve.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Adams', with a stylized, cursive script.

Louise Adams  
Director of Education and Standards  
Plymouth CAST