



**The Interim Academy Board (IAB)
Information for parents/carers
September 2019**

Welcome back to school, I hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer break and your children are settling into the new term and pleased to be back with their friends. A warm welcome to the new children that have joined St Catherine's as well, especially those that have started school for the very first time this year.

For parents that are new to the school, St Catherine's is part of the Plymouth Catholic and Anglican School Trust (CAST). Information relating to the governance of the Trust and the school which currently has an Interim Academy Board (IAB), will be available on the new school website.

As you know from the school newsletter, the position of Head Teacher for St Catherine's is being advertised. The recruitment process is being managed by the HR team at Plymouth CAST and as chair of the IAB I am involved in the interviews. I will share information of any appointment with you as soon as I am able to.

We have our first IAB meeting at St Catherine's school on Wednesday 25th September. Parents expressed an interest in the work of the IAB at the post- Ofsted meeting last term. I have shared with you a few key agenda items to give you a better understanding of what we do.

IAB Monitoring Role

At our monthly meetings we receive updates from the safeguarding lead and reports/documents prepared by the senior leadership team (SLT). These are sent out in advance by email so that we have time to digest and prepare relevant questions for the SLT. This month a key document will be the Plymouth CAST Leadership Report for last term which provides data on pupil progress and outcomes for all year groups including children with special educational needs and disadvantaged pupils. It is important to consider this in context of attendance, behaviour and staffing so this is a comprehensive document that needs to be looked at in detail. We will discuss and agree how the IAB will monitor the School Improvement Plan (SIP) this term, a summary for you is attached. This will involve making pre-arranged visits during the school day so that we can see for ourselves how the SIP is taking shape and take the time to speak to pupils and meet with staff. The school has regular visits from the Trust's Educational Standards Manager, Mrs Helen Brown, and the visit reports are shared at our meetings. We also have access to external information compiled by the Department for Education on St Catherine's published results for Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. This data is analysed in greater depth and supports the information we receive from the school.

Evaluation of Local Governance

We have a document to complete for Plymouth CAST which is an annual reflection of Local Governance, RE and Catholic Life of the school.

Local Governing Body

The IAB need to consider the timeline for establishing a Local Governing Body for St Catherine's and put a plan of action into place.

Communications

I am delighted to see that the website is up and running and hope you agree that in these early stages, it is looking brilliant – many thanks to all involved. This will be the place for you to get up-to-date information about the school and be a showcase for the children's work. The governors' page will be updated with pen portraits and information relating to any governance matters for the school and Plymouth CAST.