



Knights Templar Community Church School and Nursery

Work at it with all your heart

Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Weaver, BA Hons QTS

9 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Information About the Future of Our School

We are writing to inform you of an important decision made by the Governing Body regarding the future of our school and nursery.

Over the past few years, our school community has worked incredibly hard to strengthen the quality of education and care we provide for our pupils. Following the school's Ofsted judgement of *Requires Improvement* in 2022, the change in leadership along with the dedication of our staff team, the support of families, and the resilience of our pupils enabled us to make rapid and sustained progress, culminating in our 2024 Ofsted inspection where the school was judged *Good* in all areas. This reflects the high expectations, strong teaching, and positive culture that now underpin our school. It is from this position of strength that the governing body is exploring the opportunity to pursue academisation. This is not a response to failure, but an exciting step that would allow us to build on the progress we have made, collaborate more closely with other strong schools, and continue improving opportunities and outcomes for all our pupils.

As a standalone Local Authority maintained school, we work in close collaboration with other local schools in West Somerset through various networks, however this is not formalised and as custodians of the school we have reviewed a wide range of options over recent years to ensure we are securing the strongest, most sustainable future for our children, staff and wider community.

As you may be aware, the Government's recently published Schools White Paper, *Opportunity for All*, sets out a clear direction of travel for education, with a focus on settings working within strong academy trusts to improve standards and ensure long-term sustainability. Alongside this national context, we must also consider the increasing financial and operational pressures facing schools — particularly smaller schools operating as standalone institutions.

Rising costs, staffing pressures and tightening budgets present ongoing challenges, and governors believe that joining a strong and values-aligned trust will place the school in a more secure position for the future.

Many of you will be aware that schools within Beacon Education alongside West Somerset College are joining the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership Trust and we feel that this trust strongly aligns with our vision and values as both a Methodist and Anglican Church School.

We want to emphasise that this decision is driven by a commitment to protecting and enhancing the education we provide. Academisation can offer a number of potential benefits, including:

- Greater financial resilience and shared services support
- Access to wider professional development opportunities for staff
- Collaboration with other schools to share expertise and best practice
- Increased capacity to support curriculum development and enrichment opportunities

Our priority remains unchanged: to provide the very best education for every child in our care, while preserving the distinctive Christian ethos and community spirit that make Knights Templar Community Church School and Nursery so special.

We recognise that any proposed change can feel concerning. You may have questions about what academisation means in practice, how it may affect your child's experience, and what changes (if any) you might see. Please be assured that the day-to-day life of the school, its values and its commitment to the community will remain at the heart of everything we do.

There will be a formal consultation period in due course. For now, we warmly welcome your comments, questions and reflections. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact myself, or Linda Bulpin, Chair of Governors, who would be very happy to talk things through with you.

We will continue to keep you informed as the process progresses and ensure that there are opportunities for open dialogue along the way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school.

Yours sincerely,



Laura Weaver
Headteacher



Linda Bulpin
Chair of Governors