Vision for Education: Building and Sustaining Catholic Education in the Diocese of Leeds

One of the principal ecclesial and canonical duties of a diocesan Bishop is to safeguard the provision of Catholic education and Catholic schools in his Diocese, and to take the strategic decisions necessary to secure this.

In the attached communication, you will see that I have made the decision to move from our current model of five Multi-Academy Trusts to two larger Catholic Education Trusts. It has become apparent to the Trustees, the Education Sub-committee and the Vicarate for Education that while our current trust model has many strengths, we also need to ensure that we are well placed to meet both the current challenges and future opportunities.

In my role as the Chair of the Catholic Education Service, I am acutely aware of the pressures right across the education sector. I believe that with the formation of two larger Catholic Education Trusts, we will be able to build even greater resilience in our school system and significantly strengthen the provision and quality of Catholic education in the Diocese of Leeds.

We are fortunate to have Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College, St John's Catholic Specialist School and Leeds Trinity University within our Diocese, all of which have specific expertise in areas that can support the work of our Diocesan schools and colleges. With two large Catholic Education Trusts we will have the opportunity to develop a more strategic approach to these key partnerships.

I am immensely grateful to all of you, our clergy, directors, governors, leaders, staff and communities for the work which you do and the service that you give, to the mission of the Catholic Church in education. I thank you for your collaboration with me and I ask you to continue to support our Vicariate for Education as its members work to realise the next stage in the vision for Catholic education within our Diocese.

Through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are guided by His light and sustained with His grace as we make the next stage in our journey together. I ask you to make these plans the subject of your prayers and to seek the Lord's blessing on all our endeavours.

✠ Marcus
Bishop of Leeds
June 2024