

Greenhill, Alveston BS35 2QX

Tel: 01454 866530

sthelensprimary@gmail.org.uk



Church Road, Yate BS37 5BG

01454 867155

office@stmarysyate.org.uk

22nd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Exciting News: St Helen's School seeking to Join the Severn Federation Academy Trust

Over the past 12 months, the governing body and senior leadership teams of both schools have been reviewing the long-term strategy for our federation to ensure we are well placed to continue thriving in the years ahead. This process has included reviewing national and local education policy, alongside an evaluation of the strengths and opportunities within both schools.

Following this in-depth work, the governing body is unanimous in its view that both schools will have a stronger and more secure future as part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

After carefully considering all available options, we are delighted to announce that St Helen's School will be seeking to join the **Severn Federation Academy Trust (SFAT)**. SFAT is a well-established MAT made up of primary church schools and one community school and is growing in the South Gloucestershire area with 5 other local primary schools also joining in the next 6 months. This will be subject to approval of both the DfE Advisory Board and the Diocese of Bristol following a due diligence process and consultation period.

This decision reflects our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality education for every child. Joining the Trust will enable us to collaborate more closely with other schools, share best practice, and access additional expertise and resources that will benefit our pupils, staff, and wider community.

Importantly, becoming part of this Trust will not change the distinctive identity, values, or ethos of St Helen's. The school will continue to be the warm, nurturing, and inclusive environment that our children and families know so well. Our staff, leadership team, and governors remain wholly committed to ensuring that every child thrives academically, socially, and emotionally.

Over the coming months, we will keep you informed as the transition progresses. There will be a formal consultation period during which you will be invited to meet with representatives from the Severn Federation Academy Trust and our governing body.

If you would like to find out more about the Severn Federation Academy Trust, please visit their website at www.sfat.uk, or contact us directly with any questions.

Yours sincerely

David Gordon

Chair of the Governing Body

Julie Simpson

Executive Head Teacher

Kelvin Chappell

Head of School