

# St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



23rd April 2021

## THE NEXT STAGE OF THE JOURNEY FOR ST MATTHEW ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers

The world of education continues to evolve and none so more than in the development of Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) with more and more schools coming together to form partnerships. This is the direction of travel for national government and one which we need to be fully aware of.

Of course as a Catholic school we primarily come under the direction of the Archbishop, and in his vision document for education in the Diocese, he too would like to see strong Catholic MATs established that protect the unique ethos and characters of schools like ours.

The Diocese are therefore planning to create the South East London Catholic Academies Trust (SELCA) and have invited St Matthew Academy as one of its sponsored academies to become one of the founding schools. We are pleased to be approached in this way as it offers the school the opportunity of building a MAT from the ground up but also to do so in an environment that cares strongly about protecting the individual ethos and identity of its schools. St Matthew Academy will remain as St Matthew Academy, retaining its unique character and identity under the new structure but will benefit from being in a Trust that has schools with shared values and ideas.

As with any change there will undoubtedly be questions and therefore the Governing Board are running a consultation exercise with all our stakeholders to give everyone the opportunity to find out more about this development. To start things off we have included some further information in the accompanying pages which we hope you will find useful.

We believe that this is a great opportunity for us to continue to secure the future of our great school.

The consultation will run for 4 weeks from 23rd April until 21 May. If you would like to comment, please do so by emailing the Headteacher's PA, Rebecca Jones ([RJO@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:RJO@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)). We look forward to receiving your comments.

With best wishes,

**Ms M Baldwin**  
Headteacher

## What is SELCAT?

The South East London Catholic Academy Trust (SELCAT) is a Multi-Academy trust developing in South East London as part of the Strategic plan of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

## What is a Multi Academy Trust?

A Multi Academy Trust is a group of Academies working together within a newly constituted company. The Trust works for the good of all pupils, staff and academies within its remit and takes on the responsibility for standards, finance, and compliance. The Trust becomes the employer of all staff and provides central services to its academies as decided by them. The Multi Academy Trust takes a percentage from each school budget to fund these services.

## Why is the Education commission proposing the development of a Multi Academy Trust?

The development of a Multi Academy Trust is part of the Diocesan strategy for its schools, looking to group schools into geographically sensible clusters of schools, either in MATs or in self-sustaining clusters of voluntary-aided schools.

The development of this Trust is part of the wider strategy for Southwark Archdiocese. The highest concentration of Single Academy Trusts within the Archdiocese is in South East London boroughs. The DfE pilot, of which, this project is a part, will therefore be centred on academies and schools in the boroughs of Lewisham, Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich. The name of the new trust is SELCAT (South East London Catholic Academy Trust) and will oversee schools offering education to pupils from 3 to 19. It will be a multi-phase MAT.

**The SELCAT Board are therefore, committed to working with their Founding partners to create a remarkable Multi Academy Trust that enhances the work of the schools and the life chances of young people.**

To do this SELCAT is committed to adding value by;

- Investing in staff development and school improvement
- Facilitating collaborative developments and activities between its schools
- Realising the power of economies of scale in procurement of supplies and services
- Reducing administrative burdens on Headteachers and Local Governing Boards to enable them to concentrate on the needs of their pupils and staff.

The impact of these activities will be to raise standards through

- Greater accountability
- Improved strategic planning
- Funding targeted activities to improve the quality of teaching and learning and raising standards of achievement of all young people within the Trust, regardless of background, race, home language and prior attainment.

Building on the high aspirations and expectations, strong quality of teaching and outcomes within the SELCAT founding Academies to work, over time with less successful schools outside SELCAT for the common good of all.

## Which schools will be joining SELCAT?

The first four schools considering joining SELCAT in September are

- **St Matthew Academy, Lewisham**
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Eltham
- St Thomas More Secondary, Eltham
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bromley

4 more schools are considering joining in March 2022

## Who is sponsoring SELCAT?

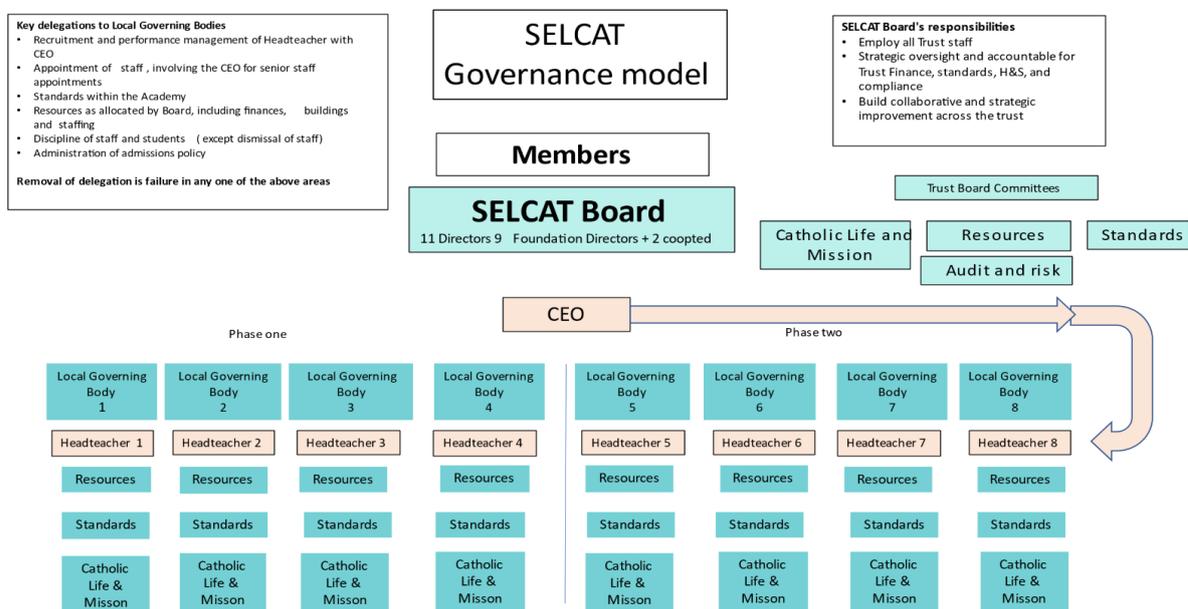
SELCAT is sponsored by a 'Company' owned by the members and provide a direct line of sight from the Archbishop John Wilson through to pupils in schools.

The members are

- Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark
- Monsignor Matthew Dickens, Vicar General,
- Paul McCallum Chief Operating Officer for the Archdiocese,
- Dr Simon Hughes, Education Commissioner
- Mrs Pat Barber, Lay member.

## Who are the Directors of SELCAT?

The Trust Board will have 11 Directors, 9 Foundation Directors and 2 co-opted Directors. An Interim Trust Board has been constituted with 5 Interim trustees, Mrs Pat Barber, Chair, Bill Farren, Vice Chair, Evelyn Holdsworth, Janet Nelms and Nick Tildesley, Geraldine Davies has been appointed as MAT\_Development Executive



## The role of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

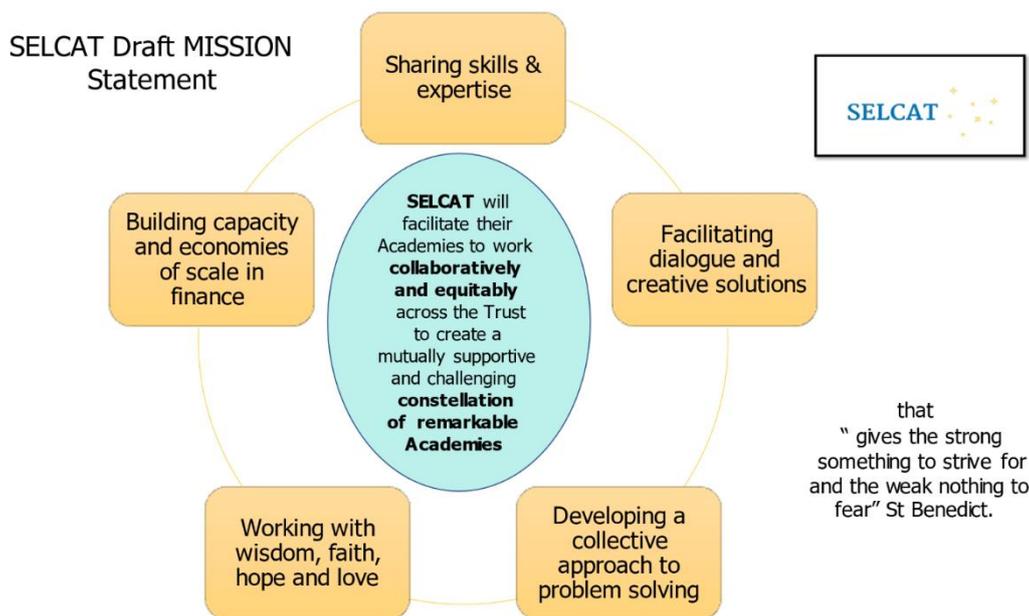
The CEO has the delegated responsibility for the day-to-day operation of SELCAT including the performance of the Academy Trust Company's academies. SELCAT are in the process of appointing their Founding CEO.

## SELCAT's Vision and Mission

### SELCAT's vision statement

*With Christ at the Centre, SELCAT will create a constellation of Catholic Academies that work equitably, collaboratively and in communion to serve the children, families and staff in our care. Together, through shared support and challenge, we will strive to provide an authentic Catholic education for all who want it, in settings where all children will flourish. We will aim for excellence to become remarkable places of learning and love.*

### Mission Statement



### What are the opportunities offered by joining SELCAT?

- Cross phase co-operation-the opportunity for Catholic Primary and Secondary schools to work together, sharing ideas and experience,
- Increased training and development opportunities for all staff including leadership development at all levels,
- The opportunity to be involved, from the start, in an exciting new Diocesan development,
- The opportunity to shape the development of the MAT
- The protection for smaller schools resulting from membership of a larger organization
- Economies of scale
- Enabling school staff and governors to concentrate on their core business of teaching and learning and welfare of staff and pupils
- Possibly, reduction of some repetitive administrative tasks

### What will change for staff?

- SELCAT become the employer, but all staff are TUPEd across, therefore their terms and conditions are protected. SELCAT are committed to the Burgundy book and STRB and will continue to use the CES and Diocesan policies.
- Positive impact of improved training and development opportunities
- Working with staff across schools in the Trust and sharing practice

### What will change for pupils?

- On a day to day basis, quite simply nothing. Everything that pupils know and love about the school will remain exactly the same.

### Where do I find out more about SELCAT?

- The website can be found at [www.selcat.org.uk](http://www.selcat.org.uk)



SELCAT

South East London Catholic Academy Trust

