



St Mary's C of E Primary School
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25 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Partnership between St Mary's CofE Primary School and St Paul's CofE School

Further to our letter of 29 January, I am writing to keep you updated with our developments to further support leadership at St Mary's CofE Primary School.

The Interim Executive Board (IEB) at St Mary's have been working with the governors at St Paul's CofE Primary, Hook. We have agreed to enter a partnership between the two schools. The partnership has the full support of the Local Authority and the Dioceses of both Guildford and Southwark.

The partnership will start on 13 April 2026, immediately after the Easter break. The initial partnership will be in place until August 2027 and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that a plan from September 2027 can be made and shared with both communities in a timely manner.

Both schools are 1-form entry primary schools in the Chessington area. As two schools similar in character, due to their size, location and Christian distinctiveness, we have benefited from joint working a number of times in recent years. This partnership now offers an opportunity for us to do this on a wider scale, to learn from one another and to strengthen the offer for all families and staff.

This partnership will see Mrs Evans, the current headteacher at St Paul's, take on the role as headteacher for both St Mary's and St Paul's Primary schools. She will oversee the day-to-day running of both schools. There will be a joint leadership team with Mrs Evans, made up of Mrs Quinn, Mrs Griffin and Mrs Gnanasri. Mrs Griffin has already been working with some children and families at St Mary's, since Christmas, providing advice and expertise in relation to special educational needs. Mrs Evans will bring together the joint leadership team, considering areas where each member can have impact across both school communities. As the partnership progresses, there will be opportunities for staff and pupils to build strong relationships across both schools.

These are the key principles that have guided our thinking in constructing the partnership plan:

1. Creating a partnership anchored by each school's individual values and its joint Christian Distinctiveness.
2. Sharing best practice to provide consistently high-quality teaching and learning experiences for all pupils.
3. Fostering strong positive relationships between pupils to provide learning and enrichment experiences within a wider peer group.
4. Providing opportunities for growth and development within our staff teams to support retention.
5. Ensuring clear communication structures with visible leadership on both school sites, to build strong transparent relationships between the leadership team and communities.

6. Developing a sustainable model for both schools in the current financial climate, to reduce the risk of significant restructuring.

We will regularly return to these principles over the next four terms, as we evaluate the progress of the partnership and its impact. We will use them as a guide to keep you updated about the progress that we are making.

What does this mean day-to-day?

Even though we are working together, each school will still feel like "your" school. Each school will keep its own name, its own uniform, its own budget, and its own teachers and support staff. We are simply becoming a stronger team! Mrs Evans will be splitting her time across both schools and will be supported by the joint leadership team.

What happens next?

After Easter, Mrs Evans will be available on the gate at both St Mary's and St Paul's to get to know families and to answer any questions that families at both schools may have.

We are working on our communication flowchart which will be shared with both communities before the end of term to give clarity around who you should contact for certain enquiries or concerns, and hope that this will provide some reassurance for our families.

We believe that this partnership is great news for our community. Our children will have more friends to learn with. Our staff will have a larger team to work with, and learn from. Our schools will be stable for the future.

We are very proud of both of our schools and can't wait to see what we can achieve together.

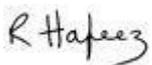
Yours sincerely



Clare Quinn
Acting Headteacher



Emily Evans
Headteacher



Rosemary Hafeez
Chair of the Interim Executive Board
St Mary's CofE Primary School



Tom Athayde
Chair of Governors
St Paul's Cof E Primary School

Cc Charis Penfold, Director of Education, Achieving for Children
Alex Tear, Director of Education, Diocese of Guildford
Roz Cordner, Director of Education, Southwark Diocese Board of Education
Revd Jen Houghton, Vicar of St Paul's Church, Hook
Revd Nicholas Pye, Vicar of St Mary's Church, Chessington