

Wednesday 17th December 2025

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I and the directors of Our Lady and All Saints MAC, would like to extend our thanks for the support you have given to Saint George and St. Teresa Catholic Primary School. The lead-up to Christmas has been wonderfully busy, and I am grateful for the strong partnership between school and home that has made the festive events in the school so special.

I, on behalf of the directors, would now like to share some important updates with you:

1. Consultation on Admissions Policy for 2027–28

With guidance from the diocese, the school will begin a consultation with stakeholders regarding the **Admissions Policy for 2027–28**. The proposal is to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for **Reception intake in September 2027 from 30 places to 15**.

This decision reflects the significant decline in birth rates nationally and locally, particularly in the Dorridge area. Several schools in Solihull are undertaking similar consultations. Our consultation period will run for six weeks, beginning on Wednesday 17th December, in line with Department for Education (DfE) expectations. Further information can be found on a separate letter that has been issued on Wednesday 17th December 2026.

2. Information sharing - School Organisation from September 2026

As previously communicated, the decline in birth rates has led to fewer pupils on roll at St. George and St. Teresa, which directly impacts the school's budget. Since funding is largely based on pupil numbers, we must review class organisation annually.

From September 2026, we anticipate combining smaller classes into mixed-age groups where required. Please be assured that the DfE requirement of a maximum of 30 pupils per class in Key Stage 1 will be fully observed. These changes are necessary to ensure the school remains financially sustainable, and many schools nationally are making similar adjustments.

There are many examples of mixed age classes in schools nationally including in nearby Warwickshire.

We are confident that regardless of the school organisation imposed by finances, your child will continue to thrive and receive an excellent Catholic education. Every child is nurtured, loved and individually valued as part of St. George and St. Teresa's special family.

3. In Year variation for Reception 2026-27

In the new year we intend to liaise with the diocese to seek approval to apply to the DfE for an in-year variation for Reception 2026-27 to cap Reception numbers for 26-27 at 15. As you may be aware, we sought to do this for 25-26 Reception intake, but it was declined by the DfE. We will you informed about this matter.

We hope to provide you with further information about these matters at the beginning of March. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Grice, clerk to directors gricel@olaas.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

P Davis

Mr P. Davis

Catholic Senior Executive Leader/CEO