



ST. BERNADETTE'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

A MEMBER OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

15th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. I am writing with regard to an Open Morning we are holding at the academy next Monday, 20th November, from 9.30 – 11.00 a.m. Many of you will no doubt have received a flyer through the post at home advertising the event, or may even have seen a short YouTube video campaign regarding the school.

Nationally, the birth rate has been falling since 2013. Following the pandemic, there was a further significant drop in the birth rate in 2021, and future projections estimate this trend to continue. Based on current figures, pupil numbers nationally in nursery and primary schools are expected to fall by 412,000 by 2028.

Typically, St. Bernadette's is a school that has been oversubscribed most years, but the reduction in the birth rate is beginning to be seen through a drop in admission numbers to Nursery and Reception, and to other schools locally as well, and across our Trust. In response, the Trust have therefore tasked their Marketing Team to coordinate an advertising campaign across many of their schools to try to boost admission numbers.

In that regard, our upcoming Open Morning is therefore aimed at attracting new families to the school, and particularly those parents whose children are due to start Nursery or Reception in September 2024 and **who do not currently have an association with our school**. The Open Morning will provide an opportunity for these parents to view our school for the first time and to find out more about us.

Therefore, for any of our existing parents, you do not need to attend this event.

If you already have children at our school and have a further child who you would like to start school with us in Nursery or Reception next year, please complete an application in the usual way (see the Admissions page of our website for details). If your child is allocated a place at Nursery or Reception next year please be assured that the school will be holding our usual welcome meetings for parents later in the year for you to attend and those events will include a look round the school at that time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M. Strong, Headteacher

Striving for excellence in all that we do, reflecting the Light of Christ to the world

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