



The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Learning Communities, Inspired by Faith

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Letter to Parents/Carers

23rd September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Closure Proposal: The Holy Family Catholic High School, Longhedge Lane, Carlton, DN14 9NS

I am writing to you as valued members of our school community, to provide some important information about the future of The Holy Family Catholic High School, Carlton.

Since joining the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust (BKCAT) in March 2021, Holy Family School Leaders and Trust Directors have worked tirelessly to improve the school's education provision and financial position.

As you may be aware, pupil numbers have been declining over the past 5 years and despite the best efforts of the school, Trust and its current and previous governing bodies, there are now only 298 children on roll out of an expected 425.

Following considerable intervention and mitigation to improve the financial position of the school following its Academy conversion to the Trust, the Trust Directors in conjunction with the school's Trust Intervention Board and the Diocese of Leeds have had to reluctantly consider the closure of the school on grounds of financial viability.

We have reached the difficult decision to close the school at the end of the summer term next year (31st August 2025). Please know that your children are at the heart of this decision, and we have spent 12 months discussing all possible solutions with the Diocese, Department for Education (DfE), Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Local Authorities.

We know that this news will come as a shock to many of you, and we understand and appreciate the concerns and questions it will raise. However, we want to assure you that the school, Trust teams and all relevant authorities are committed to supporting you and your child/children through this period of transition.

Process and Procedure

We have put plans and processes in place to support the entire school community throughout this period, and there will be plenty of opportunities for you to seek individual information and guidance.

Listening Period

As you may know, the closure of a school must follow strict procedures as laid out by the DfE, which you can find via this link: [DfE Guidance: Closure of an academy by mutual agreement](#).

As part of the procedure, we have begun a 'Listening Period' from 23rd September 2024 until 18th October 2024. During this time, there is an opportunity for you to submit your comments on the school closure.

The school website has a webpage [Closure Information - Holy Family Carlton](#) dedicated to the proposed school closure. Correspondence, updates, FAQs, relevant information, links, and methods of providing comments on this matter are available via the link above. Feedback will be provided on the website after the Listening Period.

Transitioning to a New School

North Yorkshire Council and East Riding Council will be writing separately to all parents/carers who reside in their areas to advise you of the next steps when applying for a school place. For those who do not reside in either of these areas, both East Riding and North Yorkshire will be writing to other Local Authorities so that they can provide support for you. We are also liaising with the Catholic Diocese for families who wish to seek places at an alternative Catholic school and with other high schools in our area.

Parent/Carer Information Meeting – All Year Groups

We will be holding meetings for parents/carers to relay important information, some of which will be specific to your child's year group. Representatives from the North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Authorities, responsible for providing a new school place for your child, will also be in attendance. They will be providing information about what you need to do next.

Due to specific year group information that needs to be shared, we will be holding three meetings. Please note, due to limited capacity in the school hall the meetings are for parents and carers only.

To aid the Q&A session which will take place during the meeting, please send questions by Wednesday 25th September 2024 via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/hrSpTyNAVH>

Parent/Carer Information Meeting – Y10

A face-to-face Open Evening event will be held in school for Year 10 pupils and parents only, to provide information about alternative school options. There will be representation from alternative schools' staff and the Local Authorities.

Pupil Support

Your children will always be at the heart of everything we do, and their well-being is our upmost priority. Initially, we will be holding age-appropriate assemblies to announce this news to pupils on 24th September 2024, where they will be informed of the closure.

For parents/carers who have a child/children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place, or are currently going through assessments or the application process, the school will be in touch with you to arrange interim review meetings.

To help parents avoid additional cost, you will be supported by the Trust to purchase new school uniforms. Further details will be shared at a later date.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding as we navigate this challenging situation together. We will remain committed to delivering the highest standard of education at The Holy Family Catholic High School and support your child through this transition so that they continue to flourish.

Yours sincerely

H Utting

Helen Utting
Chair of Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust Board

