



Interim Executive Headteacher – Mrs Charlotte Whyte
Chair of Governors – Sally Richards
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11th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all the feedback that you have shared with us following the MAT consultation event on 3rd February. The governing board has now had an opportunity to meet and discuss what our next steps should be.

We would like to explain how we have come to where we are now. As governors are volunteers, we seek advice from education professionals both at the Local Authority and the Diocese and are guided by them. The advice we were given put us under pressure to make a decision about the MAT before recruiting a new Executive Head Teacher. Whilst governors put in many hours of work to inform this decision, and with the best of intentions, we fully acknowledge now that this did not allow sufficient time for full consultation with you, our staff and our local community. We believe that difficulties in communication between the governing board and our federation community were increased due to Covid-19 restrictions and not having a permanent Executive Head Teacher in place.

Whilst we have received some positive parent and carer responses to joining the MAT, it has become clear that there is strong feeling that the process has been unclear, and too fast. We are sorry for any distress that this has created amongst our federation community. The governing board has listened and reflected on actions so far. We have learned from them and hope to do better moving forward.

We need to consider balancing all the interests of our federation and we are conscious that waiting too long to make a decision regarding the MAT increases uncertainty for our staff, parents and carers.

Following our Full Governing Board Meeting on 10th February 2022, governors agreed that we are not yet in the right place to make such an important decision. We want further opportunity to communicate with staff, parents and carers, and the wider community, through surveys and a face-to-face meeting over the next half term. Our new Executive Headteacher, Mr Callum Richards will take part in these communications. Mr Richards joins us after Easter and will be fully involved in the decision on joining the MAT, which will be made at the Full Governing Board meeting on 19th May 2022.

We, like you, want the best possible outcomes for our children and this means considering everyone's well-being as well as having the best resources and quality of education. Delaying our decision until 19th May will allow us to fully include your views. We have done this in recognition that your voice and opinions are a valued part of the governing board's decision-making process.

We know that our parents and carers have felt anxious as a result of not being able to walk into their child's school, walk to their peg, see their work and talk to their teachers in person. Some of our parents and carers have hardly had any opportunity at all to come into our schools and this requires a great deal of trust on their part. We are very much hoping that we will soon be able to welcome our parents and carers back into our schools and we look forward to rebuilding our community after so



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much disruption. We hope that you and your families have a happy, healthy, holiday and we will be in touch with you after half-term with survey and meeting details.

Yours faithfully,

Sally Richards
Chair of Governors,
On behalf of the Governing Board of Carleton Rode and Forncett St Peter CEVA Primary Federation