



# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

*'Prepare the Way'*

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

## **Consultation on change in religious designation for Sacred Heart Primary School, Swaffham**

Dear Parishioners,

You are warmly invited to respond to the consultation set out below with respect to a change in religious designation for Sacred Heart Primary School. The details of this proposal are set out in the press release below.

We understand that for many parishioners there may be long and cherished memories of the school and that it will have been an important part of the lives of many families in the town. The decision to seek a new path for the school is not one taken lightly but is one we believe to be in the best interest of the children and the wider community.

### **1.0 Purpose of the consultation**

Responding to the direction from Bishop Peter Collins, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia, the Directors of the St John the Baptist Catholic Multi Academy Trust are proposing to remove the designation 'Roman Catholic' from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School.

Through this consultation you are invited to share your views on this proposal.

### **2.0 Background**

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, it was announced that Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School would transfer from a Catholic school to a non-denominational school to help ensure its future success for children in the town. You can read more about the announcement and the reasons for this decision here: [Press Release - Sacred Heart School](#).

For the school to transfer to a new Academy Trust and to change the designation to a non-denominational school, a formal consultation is required.



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It is expected that the school will transfer to a new Academy Trust with a new designation on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026. Should the transfer take place later, the designation will remain in place until such time as the transfer is complete.

### 3.0 Who will be consulted?

In line with the guidance from the Department for Education, the Trust is seeking views from the following stakeholders:

- the local authority
- parents of children who attend the academy
- staff who work at the academy
- the parish community, reaching parents and carers in the area affected by the change in designation
- the Daughters of Divine Charity who own the school site
- primary, secondary, AP and special schools and sixth form and further education (FE) colleges in the area (as relevant), including those in neighbouring local authority areas where relevant
- the admissions authorities in the local area
- the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

### 4.0 How to respond?



To submit your views, please either click the link below or scan the QR code: [Sacred Heart - change in designation consultation – Fill in form](#). The consultation will run for a period of three weeks:

- Start: Thursday 23rd April
- End: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Yours faithfully,

*Joe Richardson*

Mr Joe Richardson, CEO