



# ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

"Together we will give our children  
the roots to grow, and the wings to fly"

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**Headteachers: Mrs Teresa Gilbert  
Mrs Nicole Simenton**

January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Governing Board to share an important update regarding the future of St John's First School.

After a thorough period of strategic review, research, and due diligence, the Governing Board has voted to apply for St John's to become an academy and join the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust (B&WMAT).

Why are we making this change?

Our priority has always been to ensure that St John's remains a thriving, successful, and nurturing environment for our pupils. As the educational landscape evolves, we believe that joining a family of schools is the best way to secure our long-term future.

We have chosen the B&WMAT specifically because their values align perfectly with our own. As a Diocesan Trust, they have a proven track record of supporting Church of England schools while celebrating the unique character and "distinctiveness" that makes St John's so special.

What does this mean for our pupils and the school?

We want to reassure you that for the children, very little will change on a day-to-day basis.

- Our Identity: Our name, our uniform, and our inclusive Christian ethos will remain the same.
- Our Staff: Our dedicated teachers and support staff will continue to be at the heart of your child's education.
- The Benefits: Joining the Trust will give our staff access to wider professional development and resources, which will directly enhance the learning experiences and opportunities available to our pupils.

The Consultation Process

We are now entering a formal period of consultation, and we value the views of our entire school community. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions and share your thoughts on this proposal. We welcome any feedback you may wish to share. If you have any comments or questions, please do contact me directly via email.

Contact details:

Jack Hill (Chair of Governors) [jack.hill@stjohnsfrome.co.uk](mailto:jack.hill@stjohnsfrome.co.uk)

Following the consultation, the Governing Board will meet to review all feedback before making a final decision on whether to proceed with the conversion.

Thank you for your continued support of St John's First School and for being such a vital part of our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Hill,

Chair of Governors

St John's CE VA First School



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority.  
We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.