



**St Andrew's CE VC Primary School**  
Church Lane, Cromhall, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos, GL12 8AL  
Tel & Fax: 01454 294498  
Email: [StAndrewsPrimary@sgmail.org.uk](mailto:StAndrewsPrimary@sgmail.org.uk)  
Head Teacher: Mr Graham Pike

January 9th, 2026

**Consultation on St Andrew's Church of England Primary School  
converting to an Academy and joining Severn Federation Academy Trust.**

Dear Parents, Carers and Stakeholders

During the last 18 months, the Governing Board of St Andrew's CE Primary School has been reviewing its options to become an Academy and join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). Academies are state schools which are separate from the Local Authority. They were first introduced in 2000, primarily to raise standards in inner city schools. Successive governments have encouraged all schools to consider becoming an academy and today 50% of Primary schools and 80% of Secondary schools are Academies.

As Local Authority services to schools have gradually been reduced and more, highly successful Academy Trusts have emerged, joining an Academy Trust has become a more attractive option. We want St Andrew's school to be as successful as possible and our children and staff to continue to flourish in a supportive, caring environment based on the Christian ethos of a Church of England school. We believe that joining the right Academy Trust will be in the long-term best interests of St Andrew's CE VC Primary School.

The St Andrew's Governing Body first identified Trusts in our immediate local area as potential Trusts to join. We wanted to join a Trust where our Headteacher and staff could have strong links with local schools in similar circumstances to St Andrew's, where we could share ideas and resources with to ensure we provide the best education for all our children. We then contacted and discussed with the Chief Education Officer of each Trust how they would work with St Andrew's to protect our unique identity and help us to achieve the best for our children. A detailed report comparing each of the five identified Multi-Academy Trusts was then considered by the Governing Body and on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Governing Body chose Severn Federation Academy Trust from these shortlisted Trusts. Following this decision, our Headteacher, Mr Pike made a visit to several schools in the Severn Federation Academy Trust, and the Governing Body had further discussions with senior staff from the Trust.

The following key factors were instrumental in our decision to apply to join Severn Federation Academy Trust:

- A clear and very strong focus on and proven track record in school improvement.
- A very strong focus on inclusion and every child matters.
- Values and ethos align with our Christian vision and values.
- Focus on St Andrew's as a unique school as part of a close family of schools.
- Geographical proximity to enable effective collaboration and learning with the schools in the Trust.
- An established record of financial prudence.

Severn Federation Academy Trust was established in 2021 with schools in the Forest of Dean area and has expanded in South Gloucestershire and has several schools in our immediate area: Rangeworthy; Old Sodbury; Iron Acton; Hawkesbury Upton. Other local schools are also considering joining the Trust, many of whom we already work in partnership with.

St Andrew's Governing Body has agreed to apply to both the Diocese of Gloucester and the Department of Education for conditional consent for us to join Severn Federation Academy Trust.

Before doing so we will enter a consultation process with you. We would like to go forward with your support, and we understand that you may have questions about what joining a Trust will mean. Therefore, we are inviting you to attend a presentation where you will have the opportunity to meet the school governors and the CEO of Severn Federation Academy Trust. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have and look forward to hearing your responses.

This consultation meeting will take place in the school hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February from 7pm to 8pm at St Andrew's. Should you be unable to attend this meeting, from the date of this letter until the 19<sup>th</sup> of February our consultation letter, will be available on our school website, together with FAQs (also attached to this letter) giving you information about Severn Federation Academy Trust. We welcome written responses and comments, which should be addressed to the Board of Governors and sent to the school business manager (Mrs Massey) via the school email address: [standrewsprimary@sgmail.org.uk](mailto:standrewsprimary@sgmail.org.uk)

This is an important decision and an exciting opportunity to shape our future and bring about positive change in the way we run St Andrew's. It will enable us to protect our unique character and values and continue to provide the best educational outcomes for our pupils into the future.

Looking forward to seeing as many you who are able attend on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm.

With very best wishes

Mr Tony Parker  
Chair of Governors

Mr Graham Pike  
Headteacher