

11 July 2023

Dear Parents,

You may be aware that nationally, schools are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit senior staff. Mrs Hulme has been fulfilling the role of Executive Headteacher since January 2021, for which we are grateful. Her Executive leadership, alongside the other senior leaders in the school have helped St Chad's to be the school it is today.

Mrs Hulme is now needed to return as full time Executive Headteacher at St Mary's Federation in Carshalton.

In the context of national recruitment challenges the Archdiocese of Southwark has been working with the directors to identify an experienced primary leader to take over as Executive Headteacher.

Mrs Isobel Vassallo, the Headteacher at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Beckenham, has agreed to take up the role of Executive Headteacher here at St Chad's in September 2023. She will be in school for half the working week. Our two Deputy Headteachers, Mrs Mooney and Mrs Mitchener, will be deputising for Mrs Vassallo whilst she is off site, with the rest of the senior leadership team supporting them.

As a Catholic educational community, we are called to practise the virtue of solidarity by being willing to work with and assist other institutions within that community. In addition, this arrangement will offer staff, at both schools, good opportunities to further develop their skills and we believe that the whole school will benefit accordingly.

We thank the governors at St Mary's, Beckenham, for allowing Mrs Vassallo to take up the opportunity to lead our school team.

The directors have complete confidence in Mrs Vassallo's ability to manage both roles, secure in the knowledge that we have an excellent teaching and support staff team; who collectively remain committed to maintaining the excellent standards at St Chad's.

Mrs Vassallo looks forward to meeting you early in the Autumn term.

Therefore, we hope that you will welcome this arrangement in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching, enabling us to share the gifts we have received from God in this school.





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Thank you for your support of Catholic education in South Norwood. May God grant you a safe, happy summer until you return to us in September.

Yours sincerely

Dr Yvonne Ndifor
Chair of Directors

