



**Recruitment to Schools and Academies with the Diocese of Hallam – update February 2021**

Thank you for your interest in applying for a post at Notre Dame High School Sheffield. This is an exciting time to be joining a school or academy in the Diocese as we work together on Bishop Ralph's vision to bring all schools into one of two large multi academy trusts. We share with you below an extract from a letter sent by the Bishop to all Diocesan schools in January 2021 setting out his intention and rationale. We hope you find this helpful.

*“Our Catholic schools are a vital part of the Diocese of Hallam’s mission. Our schools are crucial to the life of the Diocese in announcing the Gospel to the world and are able to do this in ways that parishes alone cannot. They are places where everyone is valued as a child of God, where every individual is enabled to mature towards their full growth in Christ and achieve their full potential. They teach a holistic understanding of the human person and society in which all are included so that humanity can flourish. Our schools enable each pupil to develop their God-given gifts in order to engage in building a better society which is characterised by justice, truth and love. Our schools are central to fulfilling our mission, and to our parish communities. They actively promote social cohesion, engendering a sense of belonging for all. They are places where every child matters and where safety, well-being, enjoyment, tolerance, respect and dignity are reflected in all aspects of school life. Pupils are cherished for who they are, as much as for what they achieve, and all achievement is recognised and celebrated.*

*It is vitally important therefore that the Catholic education system in the Diocese of Hallam is secured, protected and developed further for the benefit of future generations of children and young people, that our schools continue to flourish and that every child who attends one of our schools receives the best possible Catholic education. However, the present situation within the Diocese with a number of stand-alone academies and one third of schools still to academise does not provide the best means of achieving our aims. We also need to ensure that we have the capacity and resources within our own structures to provide support to any of our schools that encounter significant challenges. After a great deal of work, and examination by the Diocesan Trustees, I have come to believe that the long-term future of our schools and Catholic education in the Diocese is best served by all diocesan schools becoming equal partners in a Catholic multi-academy trust (MAT). It is my intention, therefore, that as outlined last year we now move to establish two new multi- academy trusts within the Diocese with all Diocesan schools and academies, including all remaining voluntary aided schools, becoming part of one of them.*

*A Catholic Multi-Academy Trust model throughout the Diocese will mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulnerable in this rapidly changing educational environment. The new Trusts will enable our schools to work even more closely together in a spirit of mutual support, cooperation and respect. There will be greater opportunities for career progression and the development of future leaders for our Catholic schools. As financial austerity becomes more of a reality for many schools, these Trusts will be in a position to take advantage of economies of scale and to procure services on behalf of our schools enabling all to benefit from increased efficiencies.”*