



Friday 20th March 2026

Subject: Retirement of Executive Headteacher St Cross

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share some important news about our school community. After many years of exceptional service, dedication, and leadership, Mrs Walsh has decided she will be retiring at the end of this academic year and will therefore leave the school at the end of the Summer Term.

I would like to pay tribute to her leadership, especially how under her guidance our pupils have continued to flourish, our staff have been supported to grow and innovate, and our school has strengthened its reputation as a warm, ambitious, and thriving community.

Mrs Walsh has served at St Cross for twelve years across two periods — firstly as a Year 6 teacher and for the past six years as Headteacher and then Executive Headteacher. Mrs Walsh has thoroughly enjoyed leading St Cross and St Augustine's School over these last two years, and we are immensely proud of the progress she has achieved for our schools together. This includes three successful inspections within three months, most notably leading St Cross through the new Catholic Schools Inspectorate framework and securing Outstanding judgements in nine areas — a first for the school under a Section 48 Inspection. Mrs Walsh's commitment, vision, and unwavering belief in every child has left a lasting legacy that we will always value. We know that many of you will join us in expressing both our gratitude and our very best wishes as she begins this new chapter in her life.

We will, of course, find an opportunity later in the year to celebrate her contributions more formally.

The Trust and Governing Body, with the support of the Diocese of Westminster, have already begun working together to discuss the next steps for recruitment of a replacement for Mrs Walsh. The Governing Body will meet in the first two weeks of the summer term to finalise our plans and we will write to you immediately thereafter to update you on advertisement and appointment processes.

Meanwhile, Mrs Walsh will continue her work along with the Local Governing body and the Trust to ensure a smooth and effective transition, and a stable and well-led future leadership recruitment outcome. If you have any questions at all in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Trust Deputy CEO, Mrs O'Connor at b.o'connor@stfrancistrust.net.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Bennett

**Acting Chair of Governors
St Cross Catholic Primary School**