

St. Anne's Infants' School

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Headteacher: Anna Sutherland



Reach for the stars

9 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing today with news of a hugely exciting new chapter in the story of St Anne's Infants' School.

As you may know, our governors have for some time been carefully considering the future of our school. These considerations have been wholly driven by our ambition to ensure St Anne's continues to offer a high-quality, enriching education which supports all our pupils to fulfil their potential.

This has led us to explore the idea of collaborating with other schools as part of a multi-academy trust. We believe a partnership of this type can bring a number of benefits for our school and its pupils, and we have been looking closely at the trusts operating within our area. This has been a robust process, shaped not only by a desire to find a partner organisation with the established infrastructure to deliver practical benefits, but one which also offers the best match for St Anne's in terms of its values and ethos. I am pleased to say we believe we have identified a suitable potential partner, and we are now looking to begin the process of joining the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF).

The CLF is a secure West Country trust, now in its 16th year, which is home to 35 schools between Gloucestershire and Somerset. There is a successful cluster of both primary and secondary schools here in Bristol where the trust began, including Wicklea Academy which the vast majority of our children go on to attend after Year 2.

An important factor in our considerations is that the CLF has an established track record of delivering significant improvement to its schools, while its ethos of investing in people, building community partnerships and providing truly equitable opportunities for all pupils aligns closely with our own values. We believe that being part of the CLF would give St Anne's access to greater resources and expertise, open doors to peer collaborations throughout the trust, and create new opportunities for personal development and career advancement. It would not, however, mean that our school surrenders its individuality – the CLF explicitly includes in its mission a commitment to serving the community of which it is a member, recognising the unique context of every school. The voices of the staff, pupils and parents/carers of St Anne's will continue to shape and promote our ethos and identity.

There are of course a number of steps ahead of us before any change is formally agreed. This includes a thorough due diligence process on both sides, as well as an opportunity for you to learn more about the CLF and share your own views on the idea. Should all go well, the move would also need formal approval from the Department for Education.

The next step in this process will be a visit from CLF CEO, Steve Taylor, and senior colleagues on **2-3pm on Wednesday 23rd October**, when he will share insights into life with the CLF and answer any questions you might have. We will share details of how to attend this event in due course.



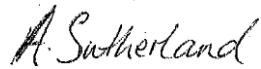
Historic England



In the meantime, you can learn more about the CLF and its values at www.clf.uk. You are also welcome to reach out to me directly if you have questions about our journey ahead.

I would like to close by saying that I believe collaboration with the CLF can deliver substantial long-term benefits for St Anne's Infant School and all staff and children. I look forward to working with you during what I am confident will be an exciting time for all within the St Anne's community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Sutherland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anna Sutherland
Head Teacher