

Coastal Learning Partnership
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Friday 26th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to update you on the consultation regarding the future of St George's CE Primary School and Pre-school and St Mark's CE Primary School.

Following careful consideration, the Board of Trustees of Coastal Learning Partnership has decided to **stop the current consultation with immediate effect.**

This decision has not been taken lightly. Since the consultation began, we have received significant feedback from parents, staff and other community stakeholders. We are grateful to everyone who has engaged with the process, attended meetings, submitted responses and shared their views.

Having reviewed the feedback, we believe we have gathered sufficient information to understand the range of perspectives within our communities and inform our future thinking. We have therefore concluded that continuing this consultation in its current form would not provide additional benefit and could risk extending concern and speculation around the current proposals.

The level of engagement has demonstrated how deeply both schools are valued. We recognise that the proposals have prompted strong feelings and constructive debate, reflecting the importance of these schools to the communities they serve.

While this consultation is now being brought to a close, the underlying challenges that led us to begin this process remain. We are not alone in facing the serious implications of declining pupil numbers due to population changes. Like many schools around the country, particularly those serving rural communities, St George's and St Mark's continue to face the significant impact of declining pupil numbers and the pressures this creates for both financial sustainability and the delivery of high-quality education.

As a trust, we have a responsibility to ensure that every child has access to a high-quality education, both now and in the future, and that staff are supported by an effective working environment. The reality is that both schools are facing substantial and ongoing challenges, which are recognised by staff in both schools, the Diocese and the local authority. We must therefore continue to consider how best to secure a strong and sustainable future for both school communities, while taking proper account of the feedback we have received.

As this consultation is now closed, we will monitor the mergeconsult@coastalpartnership.co.uk inbox until the end of term and then close that email.

We remain fully committed to both St George's and St Mark's and to supporting the pupils, staff and families of both school communities. There are no plans for structural changes between the two schools in either the 2026/27 or 2027/28 academic years as a result of this decision. Both schools will continue to operate separately under their existing shared leadership arrangements. Each school will

continue managing staffing, class organisation and other operational matters in line with pupil numbers and educational need. Our immediate priority is to provide stability for pupils, families and staff, while ensuring both schools continue to provide a positive educational experience.

For now, Trustees will take time to reflect on the feedback received and consider a range of possible options for the future. Any future proposals would be subject to appropriate engagement and consultation with those affected. We are committed to keeping our parents and other key stakeholders informed and will provide further updates as our work progresses.

Thank you once again for your engagement, your patience and your continued support for our schools.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Howieson
Chief Executive Officer
Coastal Learning Partnership



Martin Copsey
Chair of Trustees
Coastal Learning Partnership