

Coastal Learning Partnership

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Thursday 9th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers and others within the communities of St. George's and St. Mark's,

Since writing to you to confirm the decision to stop the recent consultation regarding St George's CE Primary School & Pre-school and St Mark's CE Primary School, we know that many families have continued to have questions about what this means for the future of both schools.

We have listened carefully to those questions and wanted to provide a further update before the end of the academic year.

First and foremost, we want to reassure families that we will not simply return to the proposal that formed the basis of the recent consultation. The feedback received, alongside subsequent discussions with key partners, has reinforced the need to take time to consider the position afresh and identify alternative ways forward for both St George's and St Mark's. For the avoidance of doubt, that means we do not anticipate consulting in the future on the same proposal.

Rather than pursuing the proposal that was consulted upon, we will now continue to work closely with Dorset Council, Salisbury Diocese and other key partners (including the Department for Education) to gather further information, as informed by the recent consultation, to enable us to review future options to preserve quality primary education for local children. We will also continue positive discussions with other formal stakeholders (such as with Lloyd Hatton MP) who share our commitment to securing the strongest possible future for primary education in our communities.

This work will take time. We appreciate that many families would like certainty about what the future holds, but it would not be right to speculate or pre-empt the outcome of that work before it has been completed. Any future proposals would not be the same as those recently consulted on. They would be developed in partnership with our key stakeholders and subject to appropriate engagement with our school communities and based on renewed evidence.

In the meantime, both St George's and St Mark's remain warm and welcoming school communities, providing high-quality education and care for their pupils. Our focus is firmly on supporting both schools, continuing to promote everything they have to offer and ensuring that current and prospective families can have confidence in the education and pastoral care they provide.

We are sorry that recent weeks have been unsettling for some pupils, families and staff. Their wellbeing remains incredibly important to us. We are grateful to our dedicated staff teams, who continue to provide outstanding care and support throughout this period, and we would encourage any parent with concerns about their child's wellbeing to speak directly to their school so that appropriate support can be provided.

As we bring this academic year to a close, we wanted to thank you for the thoughtful way in which so many of you have engaged with us. Although there is further work ahead, our commitment as a Trust is unchanged: to deliver the best quality of education to all the children and families we serve.

We will share further information when there are meaningful updates to provide.

We wish all our pupils, families and staff a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Howieson
Chief Executive Officer
Coastal Learning Partnership



Martin Copsey
Chair of Trustees
Coastal Learning Partnership