

23 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Retirement of Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

I am writing to inform you that Dr Sarah Clark has taken the decision to retire from her role as Chief Executive Officer of the Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT) from February 2027.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Sarah for her outstanding leadership, commitment, and dedicated service to DDAT. Since joining the Trust in May 2023, she has played a pivotal role in shaping and developing our family of schools, always placing the education, wellbeing and opportunities of children and young people at the heart of her work.

Sarah's leadership has helped strengthen our schools, support our staff, and build a Trust that is committed to enabling every child to experience life in all its fullness. We are deeply grateful for her contribution and closer to her departure, there will be an opportunity to formally recognise and celebrate her achievements and service.

The Board of Trustees has begun planning for the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer. As the recruitment process progresses, a wider range of stakeholders will be involved to ensure appropriate representation, transparency, and a robust selection process. Our priority is to appoint a leader who will build upon DDAT's strong foundations and continue to deliver the very best outcomes for children and young people across all our schools.

Please be assured that this announcement does not affect the day-to-day running of our schools. DDAT remains in a strong position, and we will work carefully to ensure a smooth and well-planned transition.

We will keep our school communities informed of key developments and timelines as the recruitment process progresses.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and the Trust.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Sarah Charles

Chair of the Board of Trustees
Derby Diocesan Academy Trust

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