



The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools



**"As the Family of Jesus, we learn and love
together"**

21st April 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

General Election - School Closure

As we are sure you are already aware, a General Election is taking place on Thursday 8th June 2017 and the school building will be open to the general public for voting from 7am up to 10pm. Every year when there is an election taking place in the area, we are asked by the Local authority to accommodate the requirements of the *Representation of the People Act, 1983*, Chapter 2, Schedule 1, Part III, paragraph 22. This Act empowers the Returning Officer to make use of any school as a polling station, including academies, voluntary aided schools and local authority nursery schools.

We have asked previously that an alternative site for polling sessions be found, but the St Helens Returning officer has advised "whilst I acknowledge your concerns in relation to the inability of the school to plan for the General Election date, I am obliged to make arrangements across the Borough in various locations for 93 polling stations and must do so taking into consideration a significant number of issues. It is not my intention to move the polling station which has been based at the school for many years."

In order to safeguard our pupils we have no choice but to close the Infant site on this day.

Please note that it is only the Infant site which is closed, the Junior Site is open. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but we are sure you will understand that the reason for this closure is beyond our control.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Dean
Executive Head teacher

Executive Headteacher, Mrs Rebecca Dean. B.Ed (Hons) Dip. HE. NPQH
Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Lisa Cunliffe, NPQH

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