

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF

COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

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17<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Nick Batchelar  
Director of Education & Lifelong Learning  
Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Dear Nick,

Thank you for your letter of 21<sup>st</sup> March concerning St. Alban's Catholic Primary School.

As you are aware from a number of discussions with you and your colleagues we have been concerned for some time about the continued viability of St. Alban's as a Catholic school.

Overall pupil numbers at the School have been falling over the past few years, and within that figure the demand from Catholic families has dropped to around 23%, with no indication that this downward trend is likely to be reversed. Coupled with this reduction in pupil numbers, is the continued instability of the leadership of the School. It has proved extremely difficult over a period stretching back nearly 10 years for the Governors at the school to appoint a substantive Headteacher.

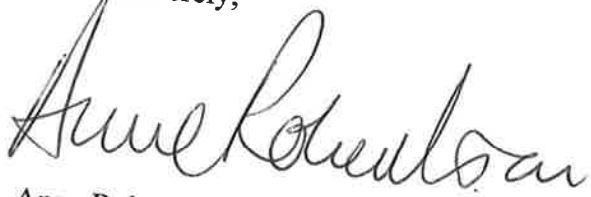
We are grateful to the various dedicated individuals who have come from other schools to help run St. Alban's in recent years, but none have been able to commit to the School for the long-term. Inevitably, this has caused uncertainty and worry for teachers and support staff about the future of the School.

Other Catholic schools in Cardiff have the capacity to admit Catholic pupils from the St. Alban's catchment area so, with regret, the Archdiocese has concluded that it can no longer sustain St. Alban's Primary as a Catholic School. Legally we are not the decision making body for any proposal to discontinue a Catholic school. Therefore we are asking Cardiff Council to include a proposal in co-operation with ourselves to discontinue St. Alban's as part of its wider schools plans for that particular area of Cardiff.

Cont/....

Comments on the list of aspects to be addressed in a Cabinet Report in relation to St. Alban's are attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Robertson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Anne Robertson  
Director of Schools & Colleges