

A Family in Christ: Our Future Together

In April 2026, Archbishop John Sherrington launched his vision for Catholic Education for all schools across the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

The new academisation strategy, under the strapline: “*A Family in Christ: Our Future Together*”, set out plans to develop families of schools that will work collaboratively to secure and enhance future Catholic education in the archdiocese.

Schools in the archdiocese will be invited to join three Catholic Multi Academy Trusts (CMATs):

- St Joseph Catholic Multi Academy Trust
- Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust
- Our Lady of Lourdes North West Catholic Academy Trust – a new CMAT scheduled to be established in 2027

Schools belonging to a religious order will make their own decision about joining a CMAT.

The education model will reflect the emerging structures of parish life, after families of parishes were introduced across the archdiocese and are now flourishing.

The strategy is inspired by Pope Leo XIV’s words in his drawing new maps of hope Apostolic Letter.

“In every renewal of educational structures, the Church is called not to preserve buildings but to animate hearts; not to defend systems but to open paths where communion, formation, and mission meet. The school, in all its forms, must remain a living sign of the Church’s maternal wisdom- able to reform itself so that the Gospel may reach every generation.”

Details of the roll out can be found in the resources section below, please note, these are subject to change following consultations with schools.

For further questions, please complete our form below.

[The Future of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Liverpool](#)

Process for academisation

1. Starting with wave 1 schools, meetings will be held with school governors, the school's SLT, the archdiocese and the trust
2. Schools are welcome to discuss their waves and whether they want to change their allocated wave- the archdiocese will work to the needs of the schools
3. We encourage schools to contact us with any questions or concerns by emailing: academyconsultation@rcaol.org.uk
4. The timeline for every wave is predicted to last around 12-18 months, but are subject to change.
5. Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT is scheduled for launch in September 2027.