



EMMAUS



Catholic and Church of England Academy

'Walking with Jesus as we learn'

Southend Road, Sheffield, S2 5FT Tel:0114 2766474

Email: enquiries@emmaus.sheffield.sch.uk Website: <http://www.emmaus.sheffield.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Helen Simmerson

21st March 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

I understand there is some upset about the Easter holiday arrangements this year. It is important to note that the decision about term dates is taken by the governing body, and therefore concerns should be raised with the governing body and not with staff.

Obviously these decisions are made well in advance and we first agreed these arrangements at the governing body meeting in March 2024, of course in consultation with senior members of staff. We also discussed these arrangements, and confirmed the decision, at our September 2024 meeting. These dates were published in the information sheet at the start of the academic year in September and in the weekly newsletters since.

Often these decisions are quite straightforward and we are able to fulfil the many competing priorities we have to consider fairly easily, this year Easter is very late and the Sheffield holidays were totally removed from the Feast day. Emmaus is a Catholic and Church of England school so all decisions have to take account of the faith basis of the school. Governors are appointed by both the Diocese of Sheffield and the Diocese of Hallam specifically to protect the foundation (faith basis) of the school. Easter is, of course, the most important Christian Feast because it celebrates the foundation events of Christianity - the

We are proud to belong to:



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, so it was important to the governors that the holidays were associated with the reason for the celebration. It wasn't a decision we made lightly, or unaware of the consequences, but it was a decision we all agreed.

I appreciate that having children in different schools with unsynchronised holidays adds challenges to family life, which is already difficult. However each school's governing body is responsible for the term dates at their schools and make these decisions in isolation, so it is never guaranteed that holidays will be the same in different schools, in particular there are other things such as public examination dates influencing the decision in secondary school. I am sorry that this year the differences are so marked, and for the difficulties that might cause. It is worth noting that Easter follows an 11 year cycle so these extreme circumstances do not occur very often.

Margaret Helliwell Chair of the Local Academy Committee Emmaus